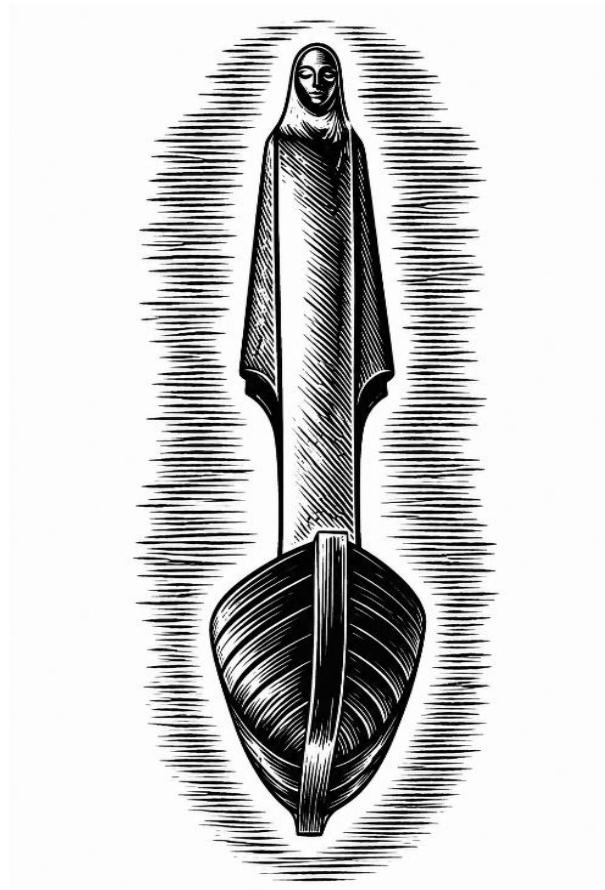


Liverpool Parish Church
Our Lady & St Nicholas
CHORAL EVENSONG

The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary
6 September 2026



Welcome to Liverpool Parish Church. All are welcome to take part as they feel called in the service of Evensong, which combines the ancient monastic services of Vespers and Compline (evening and night prayer).

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Organ: Slow Air no. 1 – Herbert Howells (1892-1983)

*Please stand, as you are able, as the clergy enter and the choir sings the Introit:
Ave Maria, gratia plena, Dominus tecum. Benedicta tu in mulieribus, Et benedictus
fructus ventris tui, Jesus Christus.*

*Sancta Maria, Mater Dei, ora pro nobis peccatoribus, nunc et in hora mortis nostrae.
Amen.*

[Hail Mary, Full of grace, the Lord is with you. Blessed are you among women,
and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray
for us now and in the hour of our death. Amen.]

Words: Luke 1.28 and Luke 1.42

Music: Tomas Luis de Victoria (1548-1611)

*Priest: Beloved, we are come together in the presence of Almighty God and of
the whole company of heaven to offer unto him through our Lord Jesus Christ
our worship and praise and thanksgiving; to make confession of our sins; to
pray, as well for others as for ourselves, that we may know more truly the
greatness of God's love and shew forth in our lives the fruits of his grace; and
to ask on behalf of all such things as their well-being doth require. Wherefore
let us kneel in silence, and remember God's presence with us now.*

**Almighty and most merciful Father; We have erred, and strayed from
thy ways like lost sheep. We have followed too much the devices and
desires of our own hearts. We have offended against thy holy laws. We
have left undone those things which we ought to have done; And we
have done those things which we ought not to have done; And there
is no health in us. But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us, miserable
offenders. Spare thou them, O God, which confess their faults.
Restore thou them that are penitent; According to thy promises
declared unto mankind in Christ Jesu our Lord. And grant, O most
merciful Father, for his sake; That we may hereafter live a godly,
righteous, and sober life, To the glory of thy holy name. Amen.**

*Priest: May the Almighty and merciful Lord grant unto you + pardon and
remission of all your sins, time for amendment of life, and the grace and
comfort of the Holy Spirit. Amen.*

The preces and responses are sung to a setting by *Herbert Sumsion (1899-1995)*

Priest O Lord, open thou our lips.

Choir And our mouth shall shew forth thy praise.

O God, make speed to save us.

O Lord, make haste to help us.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen.
Praise ye the Lord.
The Lord's Name be praised.

Office hymn:

**The Lord whom earth and sea and sky
Adore and praise and magnify,
Who o'er their threefold fabric reigns,
The Virgin's spotless womb contains.**

**And he whose will is ever done
By moon and seas, by stars and sun,
Is borne upon a maiden's breast,
Whom God's foreseeing grace possessed.**

**How blest that Mother, in whose shrine
The very Word of God divine,
The maker of the earth and sky,
Was pleased in fleshly form to lie.**

**Blest in the message Gabriel brought,
Blest in the work the Spirit wrought,
Blest evermore, who brought to birth
The long-Desired of all the earth.**

**O Jesu, Virgin-born, to thee
Eternal praise and glory be,
Whom with the Father we adore
And Holy Spirit, evermore. Amen**

Words: Latin, Venantius Fortunatus (c530-c609)

Music: 'Puer Nobis Nascitur' Moosburg Gradual (1360) Piae Cantiones (1582) Harmony George Ratcliffe Woodward (1848-1934)

Please sit as the choir sings Psalm 9.1-10

1 Will give thanks unto thee, O Lord, with my whole heart : I will speak of all thy marvellous works.

2 I will be glad and rejoice in thee : yea, my songs will I make of thy Name, O thou most Highest.

3 While mine enemies are driven back : they shall fall and perish at thy presence.

4 For thou hast maintained my right and my cause : thou art set in the throne that judgest right.

5 Thou hast rebuked the heathen, and destroyed the ungodly : thou hast put out their name for ever and ever.

6 O thou enemy, destructions are come to a perpetual end : even as the cities which thou hast destroyed, their memorial is perished with them.

7 But the Lord shall endure for ever : he hath also prepared his seat for judgement.

8 For he shall judge the world in righteousness : and minister true judgement unto the people.

9 The Lord also will be a defence for the oppressed : even a refuge in due time of trouble.

10 And they that know thy Name will put their trust in thee : for thou, Lord, hast never failed them that seek thee.

[we stand for the Gloria Patri]

Glory be to the Father : and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost:

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be : world without end. Amen

The First Lesson is written in the Prophet Zechariah (Zechariah 6.9-end)

The word of the Lord came to me: Collect silver and gold from the exiles—from Heldai, Tobijah, and Jedaiah—who have arrived from Babylon; and go the same day to the house of Josiah son of Zephaniah. Take the silver and gold and make a crown, and set it on the head of the high priest Joshua son of Jehozadak; say to him: Thus says the Lord of hosts: Here is a man whose name is Branch: for he shall branch out in his place, and he shall build the temple of the Lord. It is he that shall build the temple of the Lord; he shall bear royal honour, and shall sit and rule on his throne. There shall be a priest by his throne, with peaceful understanding between the two of them. And the crown shall be in the care of Heldai, Tobijah, Jedaiah, and Josiah son of Zephaniah, as a memorial in the temple of the Lord. Those who are far off shall come and help to build the temple of the Lord; and you shall know that the Lord of hosts has sent me to you. This will happen if you diligently obey the voice of the Lord your God.

Here ends the First Lesson.

The choir sings the Magnificat (Luke 1.46-55)

My soul doth magnify the Lord : and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.

For he hath regarded : the lowliness of his hand-maiden.

For behold, from henceforth : all generations shall call me blessed.

For he that is mighty hath magnified me : and holy is his Name.

And his mercy is on them that fear him : throughout all generations.

He hath showed strength with his arm : he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.

He hath put down the mighty from their seat : and hath exalted the humble and meek.

He hath filled the hungry with good things : and the rich he hath sent empty away.

He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel : as he promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed, for ever.

[we stand for the Gloria Patri]

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son : and to the Holy Ghost;

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be : world without end. Amen.

Music: Evening Service in A major—Herbert Sumsion (1899-1995)

The Second Lesson is written in the Gospel according to S. Mark (Mark 10.1-6)

Jesus went to the region of Judea and beyond the Jordan. And crowds again gathered around him; and, as was his custom, he again taught them. Some Pharisees came, and to test him they asked, 'Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?' He answered them, 'What did Moses command you?' They said, 'Moses allowed a man to write a certificate of dismissal and to divorce her.' But Jesus said to them, 'Because of your hardness of heart he wrote this commandment for you. But from the beginning of creation, "God made them male and female." "For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate.'

Then in the house the disciples asked him again about this matter. He said to them, 'Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her; and if she divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery.'

People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, 'Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it.' And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.

Here ends the Second Lesson.

The choir sings Nunc Dimittis (Luke 2.29-32)

Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace : according to thy word.

For mine eyes have seen : thy salvation;

Which thou hast prepared : before the face of all people;

To be a light to lighten the Gentiles : and to be the glory of thy people

Israel.

[we stand for the Gloria Patri]

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son : and to the Holy Ghost;

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be : world without end. Amen.

Music: Evening Service in A major—Herbert Sumsion (1899-1995)

Please remain standing to say the Apostles' Creed:

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth:
And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord, Who was conceived by the
Holy Ghost, Born of the Virgin Mary, Suffered under Pontius Pilate,
Was crucified, dead, and buried: He descended into hell; The third day
he rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on
the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall
come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost;
The holy Catholick Church; The Communion of Saints; The
Forgiveness of sins; The Resurrection of the body, And the Life
everlasting. Amen.**

Priest The Lord be with you

Choir And with thy spirit

Priest Let us pray.

[please kneel or sit]

Choir Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Our Father, which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name, Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done, in earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread;
And forgive us our trespasses, As we forgive them that trespass against us; And
lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil. Amen.

Priest O Lord, shew thy mercy upon us.

Choir And grant us thy salvation.

Priest O Lord, save the King

Choir And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.

Priest Endue thy Ministers with righteousness.

Choir And make thy chosen people joyful.

Priest O Lord, save thy people.

Choir And bless thine inheritance.

Priest Give peace in our time, O Lord.

Choir Because there is none other that fighteth for us,
but only thou, O God.

Priest O God, make clean our hearts within us.

Choir And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.

The Collect of the Day:

O merciful God, hear the prayers of thy servants who commemorate the Nativity of the Mother of the Lord; and grant that by the incarnation of thy dear Son we may indeed be made nigh unto him; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, one God, world without end. Amen.

The Second Collect, for Peace:

O God, from whom all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works do proceed: Give unto thy servants that peace which the world cannot give; that both our hearts may be set to obey thy commandments, and also that by thee we being defended from the fear of our enemies may pass our time in rest and quietness; through the merits of Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.

The Third Collect, for Aid against all Perils:

Lighten our darkness, we beseech thee, O Lord; and by thy great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night; for the love of thy only Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

The choir sings the Anthem:

*Ave maris stella, Dei Mater alma, Atque semper Virgo, Felix coeli porta.
Sumens illud Ave Gabrlelis ore, Funda nos in pace, Mutans Hevae nomen.
Solve vincleis, Profer lumen caecis, Mala nostra pelle, Bona cuncta posce.
Ave maris stella!*

*Monstra teesse matrem, Sumat per te preces, Qui pro nobis natus, tulit esse tuus.
Virgo singu la ris, Inter omnes mitis, Nos culpis solutos, Mites fac et castos.
Vitam praesta puram, Iter para tuum, Ut videntes Jesum, Semper collaetemur.
Sit laus Deo Patri, Summo Christo decus, Spiritui Sancto, Tribus honor unus. Amen.
Ave maris stella!*

[Hail, star of the sea, bountiful mother of God and ever Virgin, happy gate of heaven. Taking that Ave from the mouth of Gabriel, preserve us in peace, giving Eve a new name. Loose the chains of the bound, bring light to the blind, drive out our ills, invoke all things good. Show thyself to be a mother, may he who was born for us receive our prayers through thee.

Singular virgin, more gentle than all, absolve us from sin and make us gentle and pure. Grant us a pure life, prepare a safe way, that in seeing Jesus we may rejoice for ever. Praise be to God the Father, glory to Christ on high, and with the Holy Spirit honour to the three in one. Amen.]

Words: 8th or 9th century

Music: Edward Elgar (1857-1934)

Sermon—The Revd Professor Steven Shakespeare

Please kneel for the prayers:

The Grace: **The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
And the love of God,
And the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
Be with us all evermore. Amen.**

Please stand to sing the hymn:

**Virgin-born, we bow before thee;
Blessèd was the womb that bore thee;
Mary, mother meek and mild,
Blessèd was she in her child.
Blessèd was the breast that fed thee;
Blessèd was the hand that led thee;
Blessèd was the parent's eye
that watched thy slumbering infancy.**

**Blessèd she by all creation,
Who brought forth the world's Salvation,
Blessèd they for ever blest,
Who love thee most and serve thee best.
Virgin-born we bow before thee;
Blessèd was the womb that bore thee;
Mary, mother meek and mild,
Blessèd was she in her child**

Words: Bishop Reginald Herber (1783-1826)

Music: 'Mon Dieu, Prete Moi L'Oreille' Melody Loys Bourgeois (c1510-c1559)

French Psalter (1542) Harmony Gustav Holst (1874-1934)

The Blessing:

... and the + blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. Amen.

Organ: Tuba Tune in D major – Craig Stellar Lang (1891-1971)

Refreshments are served in the Narthex.

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