



**YORK  
MINSTER**

The Cathedral & Metropolitan Church of St Peter in York

**CHORAL EVENSONG  
on the Sunday next before Advent**

**including J S Bach's Cantata BWV 140  
*Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme***

**Sunday 26 November 2023  
at 4.00 pm**

**W**ELCOME to York Minster for this service of Choral Evensong which includes, as the anthem, J S Bach's Cantata *Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme*.

*Wachet auf* is one of Bach's best-known church cantatas, composed originally for the 27th Sunday after Trinity, probably in 1731. It is based around Philipp Nicolai's hymn, familiar in its English translation as *Sleepers wake*, with three movements constructed around the chorale melody. The remaining movements set, in recitative and aria (duet), texts by Nicolai which draw heavily on Biblical 'bridegroom' imagery, which in places paraphrase verses from the Song of Songs. The Cantata's main Biblical focus, though, is the parable of the Wise and Foolish Virgins (Matthew 25.1–13) in which the reader is warned of the need to be watchful for the Second Coming of the Lord. Hence the work provides an admirable preparation for the approaching season of Advent, and there is a long-standing custom that *Wachet auf* is sung in York Minster on the afternoon of the Sunday Next before Advent.

The Choir of York Minster is joined this afternoon by an ensemble of York-based instrumentalists.

# Order of Service

*At 4.00 pm, a bell is rung, and prayers are sung in the South Quire Aisle.*

## Introit

Exultate justi in Domino; rectos decet collaudatio. Confitemini Domino in cythara; in psalterio decem chordarum psallite illi. Cantate ei canticum novum; bene psallite ei in vociferatione.

*Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous, for it becometh well the just to be thankful. Praise the Lord with harp, sing praises unto him with the lute, and instrument of ten strings. Sing unto the Lord a new song, sing praises lustily unto him with a good courage.*

*Words* Psalm 33.1-3 ♦ *Music* Lodovico Viadana (c 1560-1627)

*Please stand as the procession enters the Quire.*

## Preces and Responses

O Lord, open thou our lips ♦ 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.

*Music* Thomas Tomkins (1572-1656)

*Please sit as the choir sings the Psalm, but stand for the Gloria at the end.*

## Psalm 93

The Lord is King, and hath put on glorious apparel ♦ the Lord hath put on his apparel, and girded himself with strength.

He hath made the round world so sure ♦ that it cannot be moved.

Ever since the world began hath thy seat been prepared ♦ thou art from everlasting.

The floods are risen, O Lord, the floods have lift up their voice ♦ the floods lift up their waves.

The waves of the sea are mighty, and rage horribly ♦ but yet the Lord, who dwelleth on high, is mightier.

Thy testimonies, O Lord, are very sure ♦ holiness becometh thine house for ever.

*Please stand.*

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.

*Please sit.*

## First Lesson

The First Lesson is from the Second Book of Samuel.

Now these are the last words of David:

The oracle of David, son of Jesse,  
the oracle of the man whom God exalted,  
the anointed of the God of Jacob,  
the favourite of the Strong One of Israel:

The spirit of the Lord speaks through me,  
his word is upon my tongue.

The God of Israel has spoken,  
the Rock of Israel has said to me:

One who rules over people justly,  
ruling in the fear of God,  
is like the light of morning,  
like the sun rising on a cloudless morning,  
gleaming from the rain on the grassy land.

Is not my house like this with God?  
For he has made with me an everlasting covenant,  
ordered in all things and secure.  
Will he not cause to prosper  
all my help and my desire?  
But the godless are all like thorns that are thrown away;  
for they cannot be picked up with the hand;  
to touch them one uses an iron bar  
or the shaft of a spear.  
And they are entirely consumed in fire on the spot.

Here ends the First Lesson.

2 SAMUEL 23.1-7

*Please stand.*

## **Magnificat**

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 shewed 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.  
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.

*Words* Luke 1. 46-55 ♦ *Music* THE SECOND SERVICE, William Byrd (c 1540-1623)

*Please sit.*

## Second Lesson

The Second Lesson is from the Gospel of Matthew.

Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. When they saw him, they worshipped him; but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.'

Here ends the Second Lesson.

MATTHEW 28.16–end

*Please stand.*

## Nunc Dimittis

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.  
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.

*Words* Luke 2.29–32 ♦ *Music* THE SECOND SERVICE, William Byrd

*Please remain standing and turn east.*

## 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 catholic Church;  
the communion of saints;  
the forgiveness of sins;  
the resurrection of the body;  
and the life everlasting.  
Amen.

## The Lesser Litany, Responses and Collects

*The Acting Precentor and Choir sing:*

The Lord be with you ♦ and with thy spirit.

Let us pray.

*Please kneel or sit.*

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.

O Lord, shew thy mercy upon us ♦ And grant us thy salvation.  
O Lord, save the King ♦ And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.  
Endue thy ministers with righteousness ♦ And make thy chosen people joyful.  
O Lord, save thy people ♦ And bless thine inheritance.  
Give peace in our time, O Lord ♦ Because there is none other that fighteth for  
us, but only thou, O God.  
O God, make clean our hearts within us ♦ And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.

Stir up, we beseech thee, O Lord, the wills of thy faithful people; that they,  
plenteously bringing forth the fruit of good works, may of thee be plenteously  
rewarded; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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.

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.

*Music* Thomas Tomkins

*Please sit.*



## Anthem

### *Cantata: Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme (J S Bach)*

#### *Chorus*

Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme  
der Wächter sehr hoch auf der Zinne,  
wach auf, du Stadt Jerusalem!  
Mitternacht heißt diese Stunde;  
sie rufen uns mit hellem Munde:  
Wo seid ihr klugen Jungfrauen?  
Wohlauf, der Bräutigam kommt;  
steht auf, die Lampen nehmt!

Alleluja!

Macht euch bereit zu der Hochzeit,  
ihr müsset ihm entgegen gehn!

*Wake up, cries the watchmen's voice  
high up on the battlements,  
wake up, city of Jerusalem!  
This is the midnight hour;  
they call to us with ringing voices:  
Where are you, wise virgins?  
Make haste, the bridegroom comes;  
rise up, and take your lamps!*

*Alleluia!*

*Prepare yourselves for the wedding,  
you must set out to meet him.*

#### *Recitative (Tenor)*

Er kommt, der Bräut'gam kommt!  
Ihr Töchter Zions, kommt heraus,  
sein Ausgang eilet aus der Höhe  
in euer Mutter Haus.  
Der Bräut'gam kommt, der einem Rehe  
und jungen Hirschen gleich  
auf denen Hügeln springt  
und euch das Mahl der Hochzeit bringt.  
Wacht auf, ermuntert euch!  
den Bräut'gam zu empfangen!  
Dort, sehet, kommt er hergegangen.

*He comes, the bridegroom comes!  
Go forth, O daughters of Zion,  
the daystar hastens from on high  
into your mother's house.  
The bridegroom comes, like a roe  
or a young hart  
skipping upon the hills  
and bringing you the wedding feast.  
Awaken, be of good cheer,  
to welcome the bridegroom here!  
There, see, behold him coming!*

#### *Aria (Duet: Soprano and Bass)*

SEELE: Wann kommst du, mein Heil?  
JESUS: Ich komme, dein Teil.  
SEELE: Ich warte mit brennendem Öle.  
JESUS: Ich öffne den Saal,  
SEELE: eröffne den Saal—  
BEIDE: zum himmlischen Mahl!  
SEELE: Komm, Jesu!  
JESUS: Ich komme, liebliche Seele.

SOUL: *When wilt thou come, my salvation?*  
JESUS: *I am coming, [to be] a part of you.*  
SOUL: *I wait, my lamp lit with burning oil.*  
JESUS: *I open the hall,*  
SOUL: *open the hall—*  
BOTH: *for the heavenly feast!*  
SOUL: *Come, Jesus!*  
JESUS: *I come, beloved soul!*

## Chorale

Zion hört die Wächter singen,  
das Herz tut ihr vor Freuden springen,  
sie wachet und steht eilend auf.  
Ihr Freund kommt vom Himmel prächtig,

von Gnaden stark, von Wahrheit mächtig,  
ihr Licht wird hell, ihr Stern geht auf.  
Nun komm, du werthe Kron',  
Herr Jesu, Gottes Sohn.

Hosianna!

Wir folgen all zum Freudensaal  
und halten mit das Abendmahl.

*Zion hears the watchmen singing,  
her heart leaps for joy,  
she wakens and rises with haste.*

*Her friend descends from heaven  
in splendour,  
strong in mercy, mighty in truth,  
her light grows bright, her star ascends.  
Come, now, thou worthy crown,  
Lord Jesus, the Son of God!*

*Hosanna!*

*We shall all follow to the hall of rejoicing  
and join the Lord's Supper.*

## Recitative (Bass)

So geh herein zu mir,  
du mir erwählte Braut!  
Ich habe mich mit dir  
von Ewigkeit vertraut.  
Dich will ich auf mein Herz,  
auf meinen Arm gleich wie ein Siegel setzen  
und dein betrübtes Aug' ergötzen.  
Vergiß, o Seele, nun  
die Angst, den Schmerz,  
den du erdulden müssen;  
auf meiner Linken sollst du ruhn,  
und meine Rechte soll dich küssen.

*So, enter in to me,  
You, my chosen bride!  
I have wedded myself to you  
for all eternity.  
I would set you on my heart  
and on my arm as a seal  
and gladden once more your troubled eye.  
Forget now, O soul  
the fear and grief  
you have had to bear;  
on my left hand shall you rest,  
and my right hand shall embrace you.*

## Aria (Duet: Soprano and Bass)

SEELE: Mein Freund ist mein!  
JESUS: Und ich bin dein!  
BEIDE: Die Liebe soll nichts scheiden.  
SEELE: Ich will mit dir,  
JESUS: Du sollst mit mir,  
BOTH: in Himmels Rosen weiden,  
da Freude die Fülle,  
da Wonne wird sein.

SOUL: *My friend is mine,*  
JESUS: *and I am his!*  
BOTH: *Nothing shall divide this love.*  
SOUL: *You shall partake with me*  
JESUS: *I shall partake with thee*  
BOTH: *of heaven's rosy pastures,  
where there will be joy in abundance,  
and bliss.*

## Chorale

Gloria sei dir gesungen  
mit Menschen und mit englischen Zungen,  
mit Harfen und mit Zymbeln schon.  
Von zwölf Perlen sind die Pforten  
an deiner Stadt; wir sind mit Konsorten  
der Engel hoch um deinen Thron.  
Kein Aug' hat je gespürt,  
kein Ohr hat je gehört solche Freude.  
Des sind wir froh, i-o, i-o!  
Ewig in dulci jubilo.

*Glory now be sung to thee  
with tongues of angels and mankind,  
with harps and with cymbals.  
The portals are made of twelve pearls,  
in thy city we are consorts  
of the angels high about thy throne.  
No eye has ever seen,  
no ear has ever heard such joy.  
Therefore we are glad, io, io!  
Eternally in dulci jubilo.*

*Please kneel.*

## Prayers of Intercession

*After the prayers, please stand to sing the hymn.*

## Hymn



1. Lo, he comes with clouds descending,  
once for favoured sinners slain;  
thousand thousand saints attending  
swell the triumph of his train:  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Christ appears, on earth to reign.
2. Every eye shall now behold him  
robed in dreadful majesty;  
those who set at nought and sold him,  
pierced and nailed him to the tree,  
deeply wailing, deeply wailing, deeply wailing,  
shall the true Messiah see.

3. Those dear tokens of his Passion  
still his dazzling body bears,  
cause of endless exultation  
to his ransomed worshippers:  
with what rapture, with what rapture,  
with what rapture,  
gaze we on those glorious scars!

4. Yea, Amen! let all adore thee,  
high on thine eternal throne;  
Saviour, take the power and glory;  
claim the kingdom for thine own:  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Thou shalt reign, and thou alone.

*Words* NEH 9, Charles Wesley (1707–1788)

*Tune* HELMSLEY, NEH 9, melody noted by Thomas Olivers (1725–99)  
included in Wesley's *Select Hymns* (1765)

## Blessing

*The Dean pronounces the Blessing.*

*Please remain standing as the procession leaves the Quire.*

*Prayers are sung in the South Quire Aisle.*

## Orchestral Voluntary

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