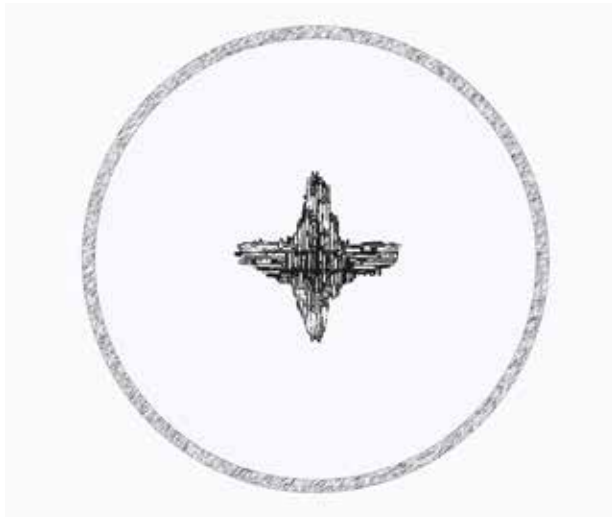


St Laurence Church, Catford

**Choral Evensong
the Second Sunday of Easter**



**Sunday April 27th 2025
6pm**

Please stand at the entry of choir and clergy.

The Introit

O taste and see how gracious the Lord is:
blest is the man that trusteth in him.

R Vaughan Williams (1872–1958)

First hymn

**THIS joyful Eastertide,
Away with sin and sorrow.
My Love, the Crucified,
Hath sprung to life this morrow:
*Had Christ, that once was slain,
Ne'er burst his three-day prison
Our faith had been in vain:
But now hath Christ arisen.***

**My flesh in hope shall rest,
And for a season slumber:
Till trump from east to west
Shall wake the dead in number:**

**Death's flood hath lost his chill,
Since Jesus crossed the river:
Lover of souls, from ill
My passing soul deliver:**

GR Woodward (1848-1934)

O Lord, open thou our lips
And our mouth shall shew forth thy praise.

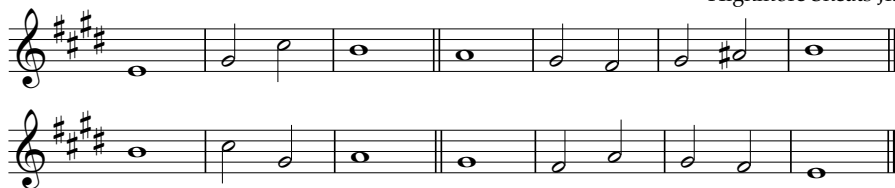
O God, make speed to save us
O Lord, make haste to help us.

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.

Please sit to sing Psalm 139, singing alternate pairs of verses, beginning with those people sitting on the choir side of the church

Highmore Skeats Jr.



O LORD, thou hast searched me / out and / known me:
thou knowest my down-sitting and mine up-rising, * thou understandest my
/ thoughts / long be- / fore.

Thou art about my path, and a- / bout my / bed:
and / spiest out / all my / ways.

For lo, there is not a / word in my / tongue:
but thou, O Lord, / knowest it / alto- / gether.

Thou hast fashioned me be- / hind and be- / fore:
and / laid thine / hand up- / on me.

Such knowledge is too wonderful and / excellent / for me:
I / cannot at- / tain / unto it.

Whither shall I go then / from thy / Spirit:
or whither shall I / go then / from thy / presence?

If I climb up into heaven, / thou art / there:
if I go down to hell, / thou art / there / also.

If I take the / wings of the / morning:
and remain in the / uttermost / parts of the / sea;

Even there also shall / thy hand / lead me:
and / thy right / hand shall / hold me.

If I say, Peradventure the / darkness shall / cover me:
then shall my / night be / turned to / day.

Yea, the darkness is no darkness with thee,* but the night is as / clear as the / day:
the darkness and light to / thee are / both a- / like.

It is thou that hast made mine / inward / parts:
thou hast fashioned me / in my / mother's / womb.

I will give thanks unto thee, for I am fearfully and / wonder - fully / made:
marvellous are thy works, * and that my / soul / knoweth right / well.

My bones are not / hid from / thee:
though I be made secretly, and / fashioned be- / neath in the / earth.

Thine eyes did see my substance, yet / being un- / perfect:
and in thy book were / all my / members / written;
Which day by / day were / fashioned:
when as / yet / there was / none of them.

How dear are thy counsels unto / me, O / God:
O how / great / is the / sum of them!
If I tell them, they are more in number / than the / sand:
when I wake / up I am / present with / thee.

Try me, O God, and seek the / ground of my / heart:
prove me, / and ex- / amine my / thoughts.
Look well if there be any way of / wickedness / in me:
and lead me in the / way / ever- /lasting.

(all) 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. / A- / men.

The First Reading: Acts 2:37–end

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Peter addressed the crowd. Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, ‘Brothers, what should we do?’ Peter said to them, ‘Repent, and be baptised every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him.’ And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, ‘Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.’ So those who welcomed his message were baptised, and that day about three thousand persons were added. They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

Here endeth the first lesson.

Please stand

Magnificat, sung by the choir.

MY soul doth magnify the Lord:
and my spirit hath rejoic'd in God my Saviour.

For he hath regarded:
the lowliness of his handmaiden.

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

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 show'd strength with his arm:
he hath scatter'd 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 fill'd the hungry with good things:
and the rich he hath sent empty away.

He rememb'ring his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel:
as he promis'd to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed, for ever. (*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. (*Dyson in F*)

Second Reading: Luke 23: 13–35 (*please be seated*)

Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, 'What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?' They stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, 'Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?' He asked them, 'What things?' They replied, 'The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said

that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him.' Then he said to them, 'Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?' Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, 'Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.' So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, 'Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?' That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying, 'The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!' Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

Here endeth the second lesson.

Nunc Dimittis (*sung by the choir*). *Please stand*

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: world without end. Amen.

All say together:

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.

The Lord be with you
And with thy spirit

Let us pray

Please kneel

Lord, have mercy upon us
Christ, have mercy upon us

Lord, have mercy upon us.

OUR Father, who 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.

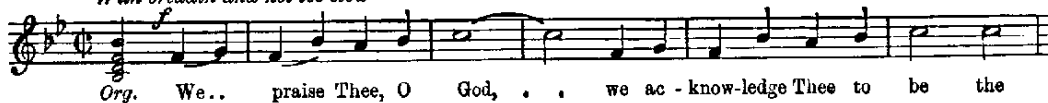
Almighty God, who hast given thine only Son to die for our sins, and to rise again for our justification: grant us so to put away the leaven of malice and wickedness, that we may always serve thee in pureness of living and truth; through the same thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

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**

Please stand to sing the Te Deum Laudamus, set by CV Stanford

With breadth and not too slow



Org. We.. praise Thee, O God, . . we ac - know-ledge Thee to be the



Lord. All the earth doth wor - ship Thee, the Fa - ther ev - er - last - ing.



To Thee all An - - gels cry a - loud, . . the Heavens, and



all the Pow'rs there-in. To Thee Cher - u - bin and Ser - a - phim.



. . . con - tin - ual - ly do cry, . . . Ho - - ly,



Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Lord God of Sa - ba - oth;



Heaven and earth are full of the Ma - jes - ty of . . . Thy



Glo - - - ry. The glo - rious com - pa - ny of the A .

- pos - tles praise Thee. The good - ly fel - low - ship of . . the Pro - phets praise Thee.

choir only:

The no - ble ar - my of Mar - tyrs praise Thee. The ho - ly Church through - out

all the world doth ac - know - ledge Thee; The Fa - ther of an in - fi - nite Ma - jes - ty;

Thine hon - our - a - ble, true, and on - ly Son; Al - so the

people:

Ho - ly Ghost, the Com - - - fort - er. Thou . . art the

King of Glo - ry, O Christ. Thou . . art the

ev - er - last - - - ing Son of the Fa - - - ther.

choir only:

When Thou took - est up - on Thee . . to de - liv - er man, Thou didst

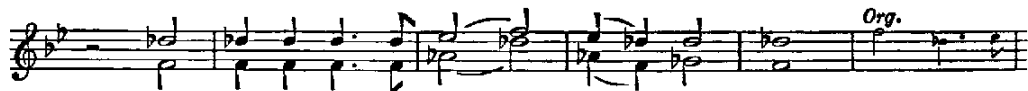
not ab - hor . . . the Vir - gin's womb. When Thou hadst o - ver -

people:

. . come . . the sharp - ness of death, Thou didst o - pen the



King - dom, the King - dom of Heaven to all be - liev - - ers.



Thou sit - test at the right . . hand of God,



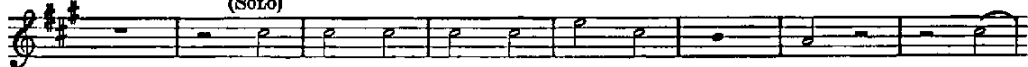
in the Glo - - - - - ry of the Fa -



- ther. We be - lieve that Thou shalt come to be our Judge . .

choir only:

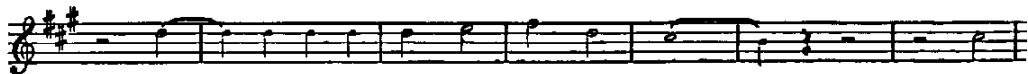
(Solo)



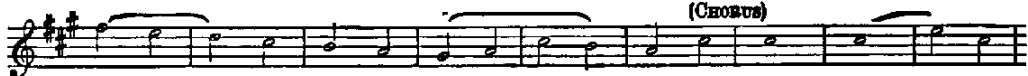
We there - fore pray Thee, help Thy ser - vants, whom



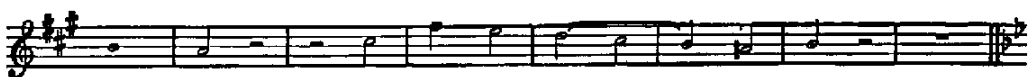
. . . Thou hast re - deem - ed with Thy pre - - cious blood.



Make . . them to be num - ber'd with Thy Saints, . . in



glo - - ry ev - er - last . . - ing. O Lord, save . . Thy



peo - ple, and bless Thine he - - ri - tage.



Gov . ern them, and lift them up for . . . ev . . . er.

people:



Day by day, . . we . . mag - ni - fy Thee; And we wor - ship, we wor - ship Thy

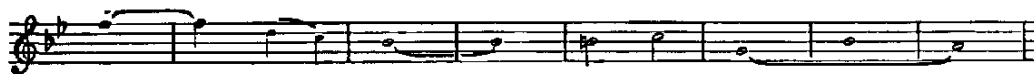


Name, ev - er world . . with - out . . end, ev - er world with - out . . end.

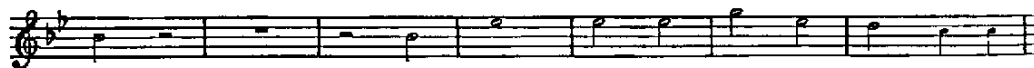
choir



Vouch - safe, O Lord, to keep us this day with - out . . sin. O



Lord, . . have mer - cy up - on



us. O Lord, let Thy mer - cy light - en up -

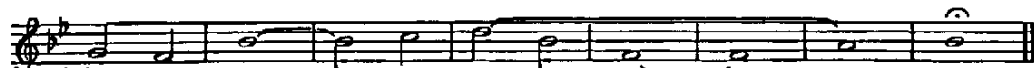


- on us, as our trust is in Thee.

people



O . . Lord, . . in Thee have I trust - ed, let me nev -



- er be . . . con - found ed.

The sermon by the Rt Rev'd David Atkinson, formerly archdeacon of Lewisham and Bishop of Thetford

The Prayers

Final hymn

Lord, enthroned in heavenly splendour,
first-begotten from the dead,
thou alone, our strong defender,
liftest up thy people's head.

Alleluia,

Jesu, true and living bread.

Here our humblest homage pay we,
here in loving reverence bow;
here for faith's discernment pray we,
lest we fail to know thee now.

Alleluia,

thou art here, we ask not how.

Though the lowliest form doth veil thee
as of old in Bethlehem,
here as there thine angels hail thee,
Branch and Flower of Jesse's Stem.

Alleluia,

we in worship join with them.

Paschal Lamb, thine offering, finished
once for all when thou wast slain,
in its fulness undiminished
shall for evermore remain,

Alleluia,

cleansing souls from every stain.

Life-imparting heavenly Manna,
stricken Rock with streaming side,
heaven and earth with loud hosanna
worship thee, the Lamb who died,

Alleluia,

risen, ascended, glorified.

Blessing

Voluntary Jean Langlais (1907–91): *Grands Jeux* (from *Suite Brève*)

The service is followed by a reception in the church hall to which you are most warmly invited