

Evening Prayer on Sunday 26 June 2022 – Birth of St John the Baptist

Preparation

O God, make speed to save us.

O Lord, make haste to help us.

Hymn:

Christ is our cornerstone, on him alone we build;
with his true saints alone the courts of heaven are filled;
on his great love our hopes we place
of present grace and joys above.

O then with hymns of praise these hallowed courts shall ring;
our voices we will raise the Three in One to sing;
and thus proclaim in joyful song,
both loud and long, that glorious name.

Here, gracious God, do thou for evermore draw nigh;
accept each faithful vow, and mark each suppliant sigh;
in copious shower on all who pray
each holy day thy blessings pour.

Here may we gain from heaven the grace which we implore;
and may that grace, once given, be with us evermore,
until that day when all the blest
to endless rest are called away.

Words: J. Chandler (1806 – 1876) T. HAREWOOD

That this evening may be holy, good and peaceful,
let us pray with one heart and mind.

Silence is kept.

As our evening prayer rises before you, O God, so may your mercy come down upon us to cleanse our hearts and set us free to sing your praise now and for ever. **Amen.**

Psalm 59.1-6,18-20,

1 Rescue me from my enemies, O my God; set me high above those that rise up against me.

2 Save me from the evildoers and from murderous foes deliver me.

3 For see how they lie in wait for my soul and the mighty stir up trouble against me.

4 Not for any fault or sin of mine, O Lord; for no offence, they run and prepare themselves for war.

5 Rouse yourself, come to my aid and see; for you are the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel.

6 Awake, and judge all the nations; show no mercy to the evil traitors.

18 Yet will I sing of your strength and every morning praise your steadfast love;

19 For you have been my stronghold, my refuge in the day of my trouble.

20 To you, O my strength, will I sing; for you, O God, are my refuge, my God of steadfast love.

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now and shall be for ever. Amen.

A reading from the prophet Isaiah (40:1-11)

Comfort, O comfort my people,
says your God.

Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and cry to her

that she has served her term,
that her penalty is paid,

that she has received from the LORD's hand
double for all her sins.

A voice cries out:

'In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD,
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.

Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,
and all people shall see it together,
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.'

A voice says, 'Cry out!'
And I said, 'What shall I cry?'
All people are grass,
their constancy is like the flower of the field.
The grass withers, the flower fades,
when the breath of the LORD blows upon it;
surely the people are grass.
The grass withers, the flower fades;
but the word of our God will stand for ever.
Get you up to a high mountain,
O Zion, herald of good tidings;
lift up your voice with strength,
O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,
lift it up, do not fear;
say to the cities of Judah,
'Here is your God!'
See, the Lord GOD comes with might,
and his arm rules for him;
his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him.
He will feed his flock like a shepherd;
he will gather the lambs in his arms,
and carry them in his bosom,
and gently lead the mother sheep.
The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Canticle: A Song of the Lamb,

Refrain: **Let us rejoice and exult and give glory and homage to our God. Alleluia.**

Salvation and glory and power belong to our God,
whose judgements are true and just.
Praise our God, all you his servants,
all who fear him, both small and great.
The Lord our God, the Almighty, reigns:
let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory.
For the marriage of the Lamb has come
and his bride has made herself ready.
Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding banquet of the Lamb.

To the One who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honour and glory and might, for ever and ever. Amen.
Let us rejoice and exult and give glory and homage to our God. Alleluia.

A reading from the Gospel of Luke (1:57-80)

The time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son. Her neighbours and relatives heard that the Lord had shown his great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her.

On the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they were going to name him Zechariah after his father. But his mother said, 'No; he is to be called John.' They said to her, 'None of your relatives has this name.' Then they began motioning to his father to find out what name he wanted to give him. He asked for a writing-tablet and wrote, 'His name is John.' And all of them were amazed. Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue freed, and he began to speak, praising God. Fear came over all their neighbours, and all these things were talked about throughout the entire hill country of Judea. All who heard them pondered them and said, 'What then will this child become?' For, indeed, the hand of the Lord was with him.

The child grew and became strong in spirit, and he was in the wilderness until the day he appeared publicly to Israel.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

A responsory

The Lord is my light and my salvation; the Lord is the strength of my life.

The Lord is my light and my salvation; the Lord is the strength of my life.

The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it.

The Lord is the strength of my life.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

The Lord is my light and my salvation; the Lord is the strength of my life.

Gospel Canticle - The Magnificat

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,

my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour;

he has looked with favour on his lowly servant.

From this day all generations will call me blessed;

the Almighty has done great things for me and holy is his name.

He has mercy on those who fear him, from generation to generation.
He has shown strength with his arm and has scattered the proud in their
conceit,
Casting down the mighty from their thrones and lifting up the lowly.
He has filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty.
He has come to the aid of his servant Israel, to remember his promise of
mercy,
The promise made to our ancestors, to Abraham and his children for ever.
Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now and shall be for ever. Amen.

Prayers

The Collect of the day is said

The Lord's Prayer is said

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come;
thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily
bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass
against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For
thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

Hymn

Be still for the presence of the Lord, the Holy One, is here;
come bow before him now with reverence and fear:
in him no sin is found – we stand on holy ground.
Be still, for the presence of the Lord, the Holy One is here.

Be still, for the glory of the Lord is shining all around;
he burns with holy fire, with splendour he is crowned:
how awesome is the sight – our radiant King of light!
Be still, for the glory of the Lord is shining all around.

Be still, for the power of the Lord is moving in this place:
he comes to cleanse and heal, to minister his grace.
No work too hard for him, in faith receive from him,
Be still for the power of the Lord is moving in this place.

Words: David Evans (b. 1957) T. BE STILL

Address

Hymn

1 O praise ye the Lord! Praise him in the height;
rejoice in his word, ye angels of light;
ye heavens adore him by whom ye were made,
and worship before him, in brightness arrayed.

2 O praise ye the Lord! Praise him upon earth,
in tuneful accord, ye sons of new birth;
praise him who hath brought you his grace from above,
praise him who hath taught you to sing of his love.

3 O praise ye the Lord, all things that give sound;
each jubilant chord re-echo around;
loud organs, his glory forth tell in deep tone,
and, sweet harp, the story of what he hath done.

4 O praise ye the Lord! Thanksgiving and song
to him be outpoured all ages along:
for love in creation, for heaven restored,
for grace of salvation, O praise ye the Lord!

Words: Henry Williams Baker (1821-1877) T. LAUDATE DOMINUM

The Conclusion

**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.**

Let us bless the Lord. Alleluia, alleluia.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.