

CHORAL EVENSONG

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

Chorale Prelude on 'Eventide'

C. Hubert Hastings Parry (1848–1918)

PRECES & RESPONSES

Gerre Hancock (1934–2012)

PSALM 84

Quam dilecta!

Setting: C.H.H. Parry (1848–1918)

O HOW amiable are thy dwellings : thou LORD of hosts!
My soul hath a desire and longing to enter into the courts of the LORD :
my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.
Yea, the sparrow hath found her an house, and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young :
even thy altars, O LORD of hosts, my King and my God.
Blessed are they that dwell in thy house : they will be always praising thee.
Blessed is the man whose strength is in thee : in whose heart are thy ways.
Who going through the vale of misery use it for a well : and the pools are filled with water.
They will go from strength to strength : and unto the God of gods appeareth every one of them in Sion.
O LORD God of hosts, hear my prayer : hearken, O God of Jacob.
Behold, O God our defender : and look upon the face of thine Anointed.
For one day in thy courts : is better than a thousand.
I had rather be a door-keeper in the house of my God : than to dwell in the tents of ungodliness.
For the LORD God is a light and defence :
the LORD will give grace and worship, and no good thing shall he withhold from them that live a godly life.
O LORD God of hosts : blessed is the man that putteth his trust in thee.

(standing)

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.

FIRST LESSON

Genesis 18:16–33

THE men set out from the oaks of Mamre, and they looked toward Sodom; and Abraham went with them to set them on their way. The LORD said, "Shall I hide from Abraham what I am about to do, seeing that Abraham shall become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall bless themselves by him? No, for I have chosen him, that he may charge his children and his household after him to keep the way of the LORD by doing righteousness and justice; so that the LORD may bring to Abraham what he has promised him." Then the LORD said, "Because the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is great and their sin is very grave, I will go down to see whether they have done altogether according to the outcry which has come to me; and if not, I will know." So the men turned from there, and went toward Sodom; but Abraham still stood before the LORD. Then Abraham drew near, and said, "Wilt thou indeed destroy the righteous with the wicked? Suppose there are fifty righteous within the city; wilt thou then destroy the place and not spare it for the fifty righteous who are in it? Far be it from thee to do such a thing, to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous fare as the wicked! Far be that from thee! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?" And the LORD said, "If I find at Sodom fifty righteous in the city, I will spare the whole place for their sake." Abraham answered, "Behold, I have taken upon myself to speak to the Lord, I who am but dust and ashes. Suppose five of the fifty righteous are lacking? Wilt thou destroy the whole city for lack of five?" And he said, "I will not destroy it if I find forty-five there." Again he spoke to him, and said, "Suppose forty are found there." He answered, "For the sake of forty I will not do it." Then he said, "Oh let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak. Suppose thirty are found there." He answered, "I will not do it, if I find thirty there." He said, "Behold, I have taken upon myself to speak to the Lord. Suppose twenty are found there." He answered, "For the sake of twenty I will not destroy it." Then he said, "Oh let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak again but this once. Suppose ten are found there." He answered, "For the sake of ten I will not destroy it." And the LORD went his way, when he had finished speaking to Abraham; and Abraham returned to his place.

SECOND LESSON

Mark 8:22–30

JESUS and his disciples came to Beth-saida. And some people brought to him a blind man, and begged him to touch him. And he took the blind man by the hand, and led him out of the village; and when he had spit on his eyes and laid his hands upon him, he asked him, “Do you see anything?” And he looked up and said, “I see men; but they look like trees, walking.” Then again he laid his hands upon his eyes; and he looked intently and was restored, and saw everything clearly. And he sent him away to his home, saying, “Do not even enter the village.” And Jesus went on with his disciples, to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, “Who do men say that I am?” And they told him, “John the Baptist; and others say, Elijah; and others one of the prophets.” And he asked them, “But who do you say that I am?” Peter answered him, “You are the Christ.” And he charged them to tell no one about him.

NUNC DIMITTIS

Wells Service

Malcolm Archer

ANTHEM

The Secret of Christ

Richard Shephard (1949–2021)

FOR a long time I have held my peace, but now will I speak.
I will lead the blind in a way they know not, in paths that they have not known I will guide them.
I will turn their darkness into light, and I will not forsake them.

And he showed me a pure river of the water of life, clear as crystal,
Proceeding out of the throne of God; and on either side of the river was there a tree of life,
And the leaves of the trees were for the healing of the nations.

Help us, LORD, to persevere in prayer with minds awake and thankful hearts,
That we may share the secret of Christ with those we meet on our earthly pilgrimage,
Following in the steps of Jesus, our master and our friend. Amen.

Isaiah 42:14–16, Revelation 22:1–3, Colossians 4:2–4

HYMN 662

Abide with me: fast falls the eventide

Eventide