

CHORAL EVENSONG

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

Evening Song

Edward Bairstow (1874–1946)

PRECES & RESPONSES

Richard Ayleward (1626–1669)

PSALM 34

Benedicam Dominum

Setting: S. Dettra

I WILL always give thanks unto the LORD : his praise shall ever be in my mouth.
My soul shall make her boast in the LORD : the humble shall hear thereof, and be glad.
O praise the LORD with me : and let us magnify his Name together.
I sought the LORD, and he heard me : yea, he delivered me out of all my fear.
They had an eye unto him, and were lightened : and their faces were not ashamed.
Lo, the poor crieth, and the LORD heareth him : yea, and saveth him out of all his troubles.
The angel of the LORD tarrieth round about them that fear him : and delivereth them.
O taste, and see, how gracious the LORD is : blessed is the man that trusteth in him.
O fear the LORD, ye that are his saints : for they that fear him lack nothing.
The lions do lack, and suffer hunger : but they who seek the LORD shall want no manner of thing that is good.
Come, ye children, and hearken unto me : I will teach you the fear of the LORD.
What man is he that lusteth to live : and would fain see good days?
Keep thy tongue from evil : and thy lips, that they speak no guile.
Eschew evil, and do good : seek peace, and ensue it.
The eyes of the LORD are over the righteous : and his ears are open unto their prayers.
The countenance of the LORD is against them that do evil : to root out the remembrance of them from the earth.
The righteous cry, and the LORD heareth them : and delivereth them out of all their troubles.
The LORD is nigh unto them that are of a contrite heart : and will save such as be of an humble spirit.
Great are the troubles of the righteous : but the LORD delivereth him out of all.
He keepeth all his bones : so that not one of them is broken.
But misfortune shall slay the ungodly : and they that hate the righteous shall be desolate.
The LORD delivereth the souls of his servants : and all they that put their trust in him shall not be destitute.

(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

2 Kings 4:8–37

ONE day Elisha went on to Shunem, where a wealthy woman lived, who urged him to eat some food. So whenever he passed that way, he would turn in there to eat food. And she said to her husband, "Behold now, I perceive that this is a holy man of God, who is continually passing our way. Let us make a small roof chamber with walls, and put there for him a bed, a table, a chair, and a lamp, so that whenever he comes to us, he can go in there." One day he came there, and he turned into the chamber and rested there. And he said to Gehazi his servant, "Call this Shunammite." When he had called her, she stood before him. And he said to him, "Say now to her, See, you have taken all this trouble for us; what is to be done for you? Would you have a word spoken on your behalf to the king or to the commander of the army?" She answered, "I dwell among my own people." And he said, "What then is to be done for her?" Gehazi answered, "Well, she has no son, and her husband is old." He said, "Call her." And when he had called her, she stood in the doorway. And he said, "At this season, when the time comes round, you shall embrace a son." And she said, "No, my lord, O man of God; do not lie to your maidservant." But the woman conceived, and she bore a son about that time the following spring, as Elisha had said to her. When the child had grown, he went out one day to his father among the reapers. And he said to his father, "Oh, my head, my head!" The father said to his servant, "Carry him to his mother." And when he had lifted him, and brought him to his mother, the child sat on her lap till noon, and then he died. And she went up and laid him on the bed of the man of God, and shut the door upon him, and went out. Then she called to her husband, and said, "Send me one of the servants and one of the asses, that I may quickly go to the man of God, and come back again." And he said, "Why will you go to him today? It is neither new moon nor sabbath." She said, "It will be well." Then she saddled the ass, and she said to her servant, "Urge the beast on; do not slacken the pace for me unless I tell you." So she set out, and came to the man of God at Mount Carmel. When the man of God saw her coming, he said to Gehazi his servant, "Look, yonder is the Shunammite; run at once to meet her, and say to her, Is it well with you? Is it well with your husband? Is it well with the child?"

(continued overleaf)

And she answered, "It is well." And when she came to the mountain to the man of God, she caught hold of his feet. And Gehazi came to thrust her away. But the man of God said, "Let her alone, for she is in bitter distress; and the LORD has hidden it from me, and has not told me." Then she said, "Did I ask my lord for a son? Did I not say, Do not deceive me?" He said to Gehazi, "Gird up your loins, and take my staff in your hand, and go. If you meet any one, do not salute him; and if any one salutes you, do not reply; and lay my staff upon the face of the child." Then the mother of the child said, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So he arose and followed her. Gehazi went on ahead and laid the staff upon the face of the child, but there was no sound or sign of life. Therefore he returned to meet him, and told him, "The child has not awaked." When Elisha came into the house, he saw the child lying dead on his bed. So he went in and shut the door upon the two of them, and prayed to the LORD. Then he went up and lay upon the child, putting his mouth upon his mouth, his eyes upon his eyes, and his hands upon his hands; and as he stretched himself upon him, the flesh of the child became warm. Then he got up again, and walked once to and fro in the house, and went up, and stretched himself upon him; the child sneezed seven times, and the child opened his eyes. Then he summoned Gehazi and said, "Call this Shunammite." So he called her. And when she came to him, he said, "Take up your son." She came and fell at his feet bowing to the ground; then she took up her son and went out.

MAGNIFICAT

Evening Service in B minor

T. Tertius Noble (1867–1953)

SECOND LESSON

Luke 3:7–18

JOHN the Baptist said to the multitudes that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits that befit repentance, and do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire." And the multitudes asked him, "What then shall we do?" And he answered them, "He who has two coats, let him share with him who has none; and he who has food, let him do likewise." Tax collectors also came to be baptized, and said to him, "Teacher, what shall we do?" And he said to them, "Collect no more than is appointed you." Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what shall we do?" And he said to them, "Rob no one by violence or by false accusation, and be content with your wages." As the people were in expectation, and all men questioned in their hearts concerning John, whether perhaps he were the Christ, John answered them all, "I baptize you with water; but he who is mightier than I is coming, the thong of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie; he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor, and to gather the wheat into his granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire." So, with many other exhortations, he preached good news to the people.

NUNC DIMITTIS

Evening Service in B minor

T. Tertius Noble

ANTHEM

Charles Wood (1866–1926)

HAIL, gladdening light, of his pure glory poured,
Who is the immortal Father, heavenly blest,
Holiest of holies Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Now we are come to the sun's hour of rest,
The lights of evening round us shine,
We hymn the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit Divine.

Worthiest art thou at all times to be sung with undefiled tongue,
Son of our God, giver of life alone;
Therefore in all the world thy glories Lord, they own.

Greek, 3rd cent.; tr. John Keble (1792–1866)

HYMN 596

Judge eternal, throned in splendor

Komm, o komm, du Gesit des Lebens