

## **WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD**

Voluntary: Sonata no. 6 in d  
i) Chorale & variations  
ii) Fugue  
iii) Andante

Mendelssohn

### **Call to Worship**

“For the Son of Man also came not to be served but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many.”  
*Mark 10:45*

**Hymn:** 264 Judge Eternal, throned in splendour

*Rhuddlan*

- 1 Judge Eternal, throned in splendour,  
Lord of lords and King of kings,  
with your living fire of judgement  
purge this land of bitter things ;  
solace all its wide dominion  
with the healing of your wings.
- 2 Still the weary folk are pining  
for the hour that brings release ;  
and the city's crowded clangour  
cries aloud for sin to cease ;  
and the homesteads and the woodlands  
plead in silence for their peace.
- 3 Crown, O God, your own endeavour ;  
cleave our darkness with your sword ;  
feed the faithless and the hungry  
with the richness of your word ;  
cleanse the body of this nation  
through the glory of the Lord.

***We bring to God our prayers and  
The Lord's Prayer***

**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 debts as we forgive our debtors,  
And lead us not into temptation,  
But deliver us from evil.  
For Thine is the Kingdom,  
The power and the glory,  
Forever.  
Amen**

*We hear the Word of God*

Old Testament:           **Amos 7:7-15**  
                                  *(Read by Charles Wilson)*

He showed me: behold, the Lord was standing beside a wall built with a plumb line, with a plumb line in his hand. <sup>8</sup> And the Lord said to me, "Amos, what do you see?" And I said, "A plumb line." Then the Lord said, "Behold, I am setting a plumb line in the midst of my people Israel; I will never again pass by them; <sup>9</sup> the high places of Isaac shall be made desolate, and the sanctuaries of Israel shall be laid waste, and I will rise against the house of Jerobo'am with the sword."

Amaziah Complains to the King

<sup>10</sup> Then Amazi'ah the priest of Bethel sent to Jerobo'am king of Israel, saying, "Amos has conspired against you in the midst of the house of Israel; the land is not able to bear all his words. <sup>11</sup> For thus Amos has said, 'Jerobo'am shall die by the sword, and Israel must go into exile away from his land.'"

<sup>12</sup> And Amazi'ah said to Amos, "O seer, go, flee away to the land of Judah, and eat bread there, and prophesy there; <sup>13</sup> but never again prophesy at Bethel, for it is the king's sanctuary, and it is a temple of the kingdom."

<sup>14</sup> Then Amos answered Amazi'ah, "I am no prophet, nor a prophet's son; but I am a herdsman, and a dresser of sycamore trees, <sup>15</sup> and the Lord took me from following the flock, and the Lord said to me, 'Go, prophesy to my people Israel.'

Amen

### **Children's Time**

***We respond to God's Word with our Offering***  
*(Children invited to help with the Offering)*

Offertory: Élévation

William Faulkes

### **Prayer**

*Children leave for Crèche and Sunday Club*

**Hymn:** 642 Ye that know the Lord is gracious

*Abbot's Leigh*

- 1        Ye that know the Lord is gracious,  
          ye for whom a corner stone  
          stands, of God elect and precious,  
          laid that ye may build thereon,  
          see that on that sure foundation  
          ye a living temple raise,  
          towers that may tell forth salvation,  
          walls that may re-echo praise.
  
- 2        Living stones, by God appointed  
          each to an allotted place,  
          kings and priests, by God anointed,  
          shall ye not declare his grace ?  
          Ye, a royal generation,  
          tell the tidings of your birth,  
          tidings of a new creation  
          to an old and weary earth.

3 Tell the praise of him who called you  
out of darkness into light,  
broke the fetters that enthralled you,  
gave you freedom, peace and sight :  
tell the tale of sins forgiven,  
strength renewed and hope restored,  
till the earth, in tune with heaven,  
praise and magnify the Lord !

***We bring to God our Prayers of Confession***

***We hear the Word of God***

New Testament:           **Mark 6:14-29**

King Herod heard of it; for Jesus' name had become known. Some said, "John the baptizer has been raised from the dead; that is why these powers are at work in him." <sup>15</sup> But others said, "It is Eli'jah." And others said, "It is a prophet, like one of the prophets of old." <sup>16</sup> But when Herod heard of it he said, "John, whom I beheaded, has been raised." <sup>17</sup> For Herod had sent and seized John, and bound him in prison for the sake of Hero'di-as, his brother Philip's wife; because he had married her. <sup>18</sup> For John said to Herod, "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife." <sup>19</sup> And Hero'di-as had a grudge against him, and wanted to kill him. But she could not, <sup>20</sup> for Herod feared John, knowing that he was a righteous and holy man, and kept him safe. When he heard him, he was much perplexed; and yet he heard him gladly. <sup>21</sup> But an opportunity came when Herod on his birthday gave a banquet for his courtiers and officers and the leading men of Galilee. <sup>22</sup> For when Hero'di-as' daughter came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his guests; and the king said to the girl, "Ask me for whatever you wish, and I will grant it." <sup>23</sup> And he vowed to her, "Whatever you ask me, I will give you, even half of my kingdom." <sup>24</sup> And she went out, and said to her mother, "What shall I ask?" And she said, "The head of John the baptizer." <sup>25</sup> And she came in immediately with haste to the king, and asked, saying, "I want

you to give me at once the head of John the Baptist on a platter.” <sup>26</sup> And the king was exceedingly sorry; but because of his oaths and his guests he did not want to break his word to her. <sup>27</sup> And immediately the king sent a soldier of the guard and gave orders to bring his head. He went and beheaded him in the prison, <sup>28</sup> and brought his head on a platter, and gave it to the girl; and the girl gave it to her mother. <sup>29</sup> When his disciples heard of it, they came and took his body, and laid it in a tomb.

Amen

**Hymn:** 424 Blest be the everlasting God

*Bishopthorpe*

1. Blest be the everlasting God,  
The Father of our Lord!  
Be His abounding mercy praised,  
His majesty adored.
2. When from the dead He raised His Son,  
And call Him to the sky,  
He gave our souls a lively hope  
That they should never die.
3. To an inheritance divine  
He taught our hearts to rise;  
'tis uncorrupted, undefiled,  
Unfading in the skies.
4. Saints by the power of God are kept,  
Till the salvation come:  
We walk by faith as strangers here;  
But Christ shall call us home.

### Intimations

**Hymn:** 334 On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry

*Winchester New*

- 1 On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry  
announces that the Lord is nigh ;  
awake and hearken for he brings  
glad tidings of the King of kings.

- 2        Then cleansed be every heart from sin ;  
          make straight the way for God within ;  
          prepare we in our hearts a home,  
          where such a mighty Guest may come.
- 3        For you are our salvation, Lord,  
          our refuge and our great reward ;  
          without your grace we waste away,  
          like flowers that wither and decay.
- 4        Stretch out your hand, to heal our sore,  
          and make us rise to fall no more ;  
          once more upon your people shine,  
          and fill the world with love divine.
- 5        All praise to you, eternal Son,  
          whose advent has our freedom won,  
          whom with the Father we adore,  
          and Holy Spirit, evermore.

Sermon

**John the Baptist**

*We bring to God our prayers  
of Thanksgiving and Intercession*

**Hymn:** 594 Come, Holy Spirit, come!

*Diademata*

- 1        Come, Holy Spirit, come !  
          Inflame our souls with love,  
          transforming every heart and home  
          with wisdom from above.  
          Let none of us despise  
          the humble path Christ trod,  
          but choose, to shame the worldly wise,  
          the foolishness of God.

- 2 All-knowing Spirit, prove  
the poverty of pride,  
by knowledge of the Father's love  
in Jesus crucified.  
And grant us faith to know  
the glory of that sign,  
and in our very lives to show  
the marks of love divine.
- 3 Come with the gift to heal  
the wounds of guilt and fear,  
and to oppression's face reveal  
the kingdom drawing near.  
Where chaos longs to reign,  
descend, O holy Dove,  
and free us all to work again  
the miracles of love.
- 4 Spirit of truth, arise ;  
inspire the prophet's voice :  
expose to scorn the tyrant's lies,  
and bid the poor rejoice.  
O Spirit, clear our sight,  
all prejudice remove,  
and help us to discern the right,  
and covet only love.
- 5 Give us the tongues to speak  
the word of love and grace  
to rich and poor, to strong and weak,  
in every time and place.  
Enable us to hear  
the words that others bring,  
interpreting with open ear  
the special song they sing.

6        Come, Holy Spirit, dance  
          within our hearts today,  
          our earthbound spirits to entrance,  
          our mortal fears allay.  
          And teach us to desire,  
          all other things above,  
          that self-consuming holy fire,  
          the perfect gift of love.

### **Benediction and Threefold Amen**

Voluntary: Pageantry

Sidney Campbell