

The Third Sunday before Lent

Sunday 13 February 2022



**Southwell
Minster**
THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF
THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

3.30pm Evensong

sung by the Minster Chorale and Lincoln Cathedral Consort

Organ Prelude: *Evening Song*, Edward Bairstow (1874-1946)

Preces and Responses: Philip Radcliffe (1905-86)

Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis: *Evening Service in E*, Herbert Murrill (1909-52)

INTROIT sung by the choirs from the North Transept

Lead, kindly light, amid the encircling gloom,
Lead thou me on;
The night is dark, and I am far from home,
Lead thou me on.
Keep thou my feet; I do not ask to see
The distant scene; one step enough for me.

Words: John Henry Newman (1801-1890)

Music: John Rutter (b. 1945)

OFFICE HYMN: O Trinity of blessed light (*page 11 in Evensong booklet*)

PSALM 6 (*page 351 in the Book of Common Prayer*)

FIRST READING

Wisdom 11:21 – 12:11

For it is always in your power to show great strength,
and who can withstand the might of your arm?
Because the whole world before you is like a speck that tips the scales,
and like a drop of morning dew that falls on the ground.
But you are merciful to all, for you can do all things,
and you overlook people's sins, so that they may repent.
For you love all things that exist,
and detest none of the things that you have made,
for you would not have made anything if you had hated it.
How would anything have endured if you had not willed it?
Or how would anything not called forth by you have been preserved?
You spare all things, for they are yours, O Lord, you who love the living.

For your immortal spirit is in all things.
Therefore you correct little by little those who trespass,
and you remind and warn them of the things through which they sin,
so that they may be freed from wickedness and put their trust in you,
O Lord.

Those who lived long ago in your holy land
you hated for their detestable practices,
their works of sorcery and unholy rites,
their merciless slaughter of children,
and their sacrificial feasting on human flesh and blood.
These initiates from the midst of a heathen cult,
these parents who murder helpless lives,
you willed to destroy by the hands of our ancestors,
so that the land most precious of all to you
might receive a worthy colony of the servants of God.
But even these you spared, since they were but mortals,
and sent wasps as forerunners of your army
to destroy them little by little,
though you were not unable to give the ungodly into the hands of the
righteous in battle,
or to destroy them at one blow by dread wild animals or your stern
word.
But judging them little by little you gave them an opportunity to repent,
though you were not unaware that their origin was evil
and their wickedness inborn,
and that their way of thinking would never change.
For they were an accursed race from the beginning,
and it was not through fear of anyone that you left them unpunished for
their sins.

SECOND READING

Galatians 4: 8–20

Formerly, when you did not know God, you were enslaved to beings that by nature are not gods. Now, however, that you have come to know God, or rather to be known by God, how can you turn back again to the weak and beggarly elemental spirits? How can you want to be enslaved to them again? You are observing special days, and months, and seasons, and years. I am afraid that my work for you may have been wasted.

Friends, I beg you, become as I am, for I also have become as you are. You have done me no wrong. You know that it was because of a physical infirmity that I first announced the gospel to you; though my condition put you to the test, you did not scorn or despise me, but welcomed me as an angel of God, as Christ Jesus. What has become of the goodwill you felt? For I testify that, had it been possible, you would have torn out your eyes and given them to me. Have I now become your enemy by telling you the truth? They make much of you, but for no good purpose; they want to exclude you, so that you may make much of them. It is good to be made much of for a good purpose at all times, and not only when I am present with you. My little children, for whom I am again in the pain of childbirth until Christ is formed in you, I wish I were present with you now and could change my tone, for I am perplexed about you.

COLLECT FOR SEPTUAGESIMA

O Lord, we beseech thee favourably to hear the prayers of thy people; that we, who are justly punished for our offences, may be mercifully delivered by thy goodness, for the glory of thy Name; through Jesus Christ our Saviour, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end.
Amen.

ANTHEM *sung by the choirs*

The Lord hath created medicines out of the earth;
and he that is wise will not abhor them.
And he hath given men skill,
that he might be honoured in his marvellous works.
My son, in thy sickness leave off from sin,
and order thy hands aright
and cleanse thy heart from all wickedness.

Strengthen ye the weak hands,
and confirm the feeble knees.
Say to them that are of a fearful heart,
Be strong, fear not!
Behold, your God will come;
he will come and save you.

Then shall the eyes of the blind be opened,
and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped.
Then shall the lame man leap as an hart,
and the tongue of the dumb shall sing:
for in the wilderness shall waters break out,
and streams in the desert.

The wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad for them;
and the desert shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose.
It shall blossom abundantly,
and rejoice with joy and singing:
the glory of Lebanon shall be given unto it,
the excellency of Carmel and Sharon,
they shall see the glory of the Lord
and the excellency of our God.

O Saviour of the World,
who by thy Cross and precious Blood hast redeemed us,
save us, and help us,
we humbly beseech thee, O Lord.

*Words: Ecclesiasticus 38: 4, 6, 9, 10;
Isaiah 35: 1-6; and the Collect for the Visitation of the Sick*

*Music: STRENGTHEN YE THE WEAK HANDS
William Harris (1883-1973)*

HOMILY given by the Revd David McCoulough, Priest Vicar

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION led by the Revd Paul Rattigan, Canon Missioner

HYMN: Happy are they, they that love God (NEH 369)

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

Psalm-Prelude Set 2 No 3

Herbert Howells (1892-1983)

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