



An Order
for
Choral Mattins
from the Book of Common Prayer

Sunday 9 March
LENT I

In the 17th and 18th Centuries it was usual for Reformed (Protestant) church services in Germany to last three hours, with hour-long sermons (not a practice we encourage in 21st Century Britain!) In the larger city churches, where considerable musical resources were available, a 15 to 30 minute cantata was presented at the main Sunday service and on Feast Days, more often than not composed by the local organist. The choir and vocal soloists were accompanied by instruments, sometimes only a few string players, and at other times an orchestra, complete with trumpets, tympani and woodwinds. These cantatas usually made use of a chorale (hymn) for the text and melodic basis, selected to emphasise the liturgical theme for the day and to underscore the appointed scripture lessons. Bach is known to have composed over 300 such cantatas for church use. Organists generally didn't play through a partial or complete chorale tune prior to the congregation singing the same, but instead played a more elaborate chorale-prelude, some of which are 5 or 6 minutes long. The organ chorale-preludes and the instrumental sections of the cantatas gave people time to reflect upon the words. During that period the Lutheran liturgy was such that the Eucharist was not usually celebrated at the main weekly services, and in a similar way this morning we use the cantata in place of the Mattin's anthem.

Dietrich Buxtehude, 1637-1707, in his day considered the finest organist in Northern Germany, served the Marienkirche in Lübeck. In 1705 the 20-year old J S Bach was given a month's leave from his own organ position to visit and possibly study with Buxtehude in Lübeck, but ended up staying four months! Today's cantata, Jesu, Meine Freude, BuxWV 060, is thought to have been composed in the 1680s. It makes use of the German hymn text written in 1650 by Johann Franck, and the chorale tune by Johann Crüger in 1653.

Written in the first person, the poetry addresses Jesus as joy and support, versus enemies and the vanity of existence. After a lengthy introductory "sonata" the first verse, for choir, sets the theme of love to Jesus and the desire to be united with him, who is named Lamb and Bridegroom, and probably is a parody of the 1645 love song Flora, meine Freude. The second verse, a solo soprano aria, describes the protection of Jesus against threats by Satan, enemies, thunder, hell and sin, all pictured with text painting. The third verse, for bass solo, thrice defies the enemies "old dragon", death, and fear. The Christian feels safe even in adverse conditions and stands singing. The choral fourth verse turns away from worldly treasures and honours, which cannot separate the believer from Jesus. The fifth verse, a tenor aria, bids farewell to existence in the world, to sins, to pride and pomp, and to a life of vice. The final verse, sung in a straight-forward manner by the choir, imagines the entry of Jesus as the Master of Joys and a comforter in every misery. In between verses Buxtehude gives a short instrumental ritornello to allow for reflection. In the Baroque period this chorale was often used at funerals, but now we generally use it during Lent.

¶ *Please STAND*

Entrance & Processional HYMN 67

Bidding

Priest Beloved, we are come together in the presence of almighty God and of the whole company of heaven to offer unto him through our Lord Jesus Christ our worship and praise and thanksgiving; to make confession of our sins; to pray, as well for others as for ourselves, that we may know more truly the greatness of God's love and shew forth in our lives the fruits of his grace; and to ask on behalf of all men such things as their well-being doth require. Wherefore let us kneel in silence, and remember God's presence with us now:

Confession

¶ *SIT OR KNEEL*

All Almighty and most merciful Father,
we have erred, and strayed from thy ways like lost sheep. We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts. We have offended against thy holy laws. We have left undone those things which we ought to have done; and we have done those things which we ought not to have done; and there is no health in us.

But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us, miserable offenders. Spare thou them, O God, which confess their faults. Restore thou them that are penitent; according to thy promises declared unto mankind in Christ Jesu our Lord.

And grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake, that we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life, to the glory of thy holy name.
Amen.

Absolution

Priest Grant, we beseech thee, merciful Lord,
To thy faithful people pardon and peace,
That they may be cleansed from all their sins,
And serve thee with a quiet mind;
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

The Versicles (*Setting by Thomas Tallis*)

Priest O Lord, open thou our lips

All and our mouth shall show forth thy praise

Priest O God make speed to save us

All O Lord, make haste to help us

¶ *STAND*

Priest Glory be to the Father, and to the Son
and to the Holy Ghost

All As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,
world without end, Amen

Priest Praise ye the Lord:

All The Lord's name be praised.

¶ *SIT*

Psalm 19:7-14 (*Chant, Malcolm Archer*)

The choir sings the Psalm. We stand for the Gloria.

The law of the Lord is perfect and revives the soul:
The testimony of the Lord is sure and gives wisdom to the innocent.
The statutes of the Lord are just and rejoice the heart:
The commandment of the Lord is clear and gives light to the eyes.
The fear of the Lord is clean and endures for ever:
The judgements of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.
More to be desired are they than gold, more than much fine gold:
Sweeter far than honey, than honey in the comb.
By them also is your servant enlightened;
And in keeping them there is great reward.
Who can tell how often he offends:
Cleanse me from my secret faults.
Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins,
Let them not get dominion over me:
Then shall I be whole and sound, and innocent of a great offense.
Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be
acceptable in Your sight,
O Lord, my strength and my Redeemer.

¶ STAND

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.

¶ SIT

A reading from the OLD TESTAMENT

¶ STAND

Benedictus (*Chant, R Langdon*)

Blessed be the Lord God of Israel :
for he hath visited, and redeemed his people;
And hath raised up a mighty salvation for us :
in the house of his servant David;
As he spake by the mouth of his holy Prophets :
which have been since the world began;
That we should be saved from our enemies :
and from the hands of all that hate us;
To perform the mercy promised to our forefathers :
and to remember his holy covenant;
To perform the oath which he sware to our forefather Abraham :
that he would give us,
That we being delivered out of the hands of our enemies :
might serve him without fear,
In holiness and righteousness before him :
all the days of our life.
And thou, child, shalt be called the Prophet of the Highest :
for thou shalt go before the face of the Lord to prepare his ways;
To give knowledge of salvation unto his people :
for the remission of their sins;
Through the tender mercy of our God :
whereby the dayspring from on high hath visited us;
To give light to them that sit in darkness, and in the shadow of death :
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.
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.

A reading from the NEW TESTAMENT

¶ STAND

Jubilate Deo (*Charles Wood*)

O be joyful in the Lord, all ye lands :
serve the Lord with gladness,
and come before his presence with a song.
Be ye sure that the Lord he is God :
it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves;
we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.
O go your way into his gates with thanksgiving,
and into his courts with praise :
be thankful unto him, and speak good of his Name.
For the Lord is gracious, his mercy is everlasting :
and his truth endureth from generation to generation.
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.

The Apostles' Creed

All I believe in God the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth:
and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried.
He descended into hell;
the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father almighty;

from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Ghost;
the holy catholic Church;
the communion of saints;
the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

The Responses

Priest The Lord be with you.

All And with thy spirit.

Priest Let us pray.

¶ SIT or KNEEL

Priest The Lord be with you:

All And with thy spirit.

Priest Let us pray. Lord, have mercy upon us.

All Christ, have mercy upon us.

Priest Lord, have mercy upon us.

Priest Our Father,

All 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 trespasses,
as we forgive them that trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil. Amen.

Priest O Lord, shew thy mercy upon us.

All And grant us thy salvation.

Priest O Lord, save the King.

All And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.

Priest Endue thy ministers with righteousness.

All And make thy chosen people joyful.

Priest O Lord, save thy people.

All And bless thine inheritance.

Priest Give peace in our time, O Lord.

All Because there is none other that fighteth for us, but only thou, O God.

Priest O God, make clean our hearts within us

All And take not thy Holy Spirit from us

The Collects

The Collect of the Day

O Lord, who for our sake didst fast forty days and forty nights; Give us grace to use such abstinence, that, our flesh being subdued to the Spirit, we may ever obey thy godly motions in righteousness and true holiness, to thy honour and glory; who livest and reignest with the Father and the Holy Ghost, one God, world without end.

The Collect for Peace

O GOD, who art the author of peace and lover of concord, in knowledge of whom standeth our eternal life, whose service is perfect freedom; Defend us thy humble servants in all assaults of our enemies; that we, surely trusting in thy defence, may not fear the power of any adversaries, through the might of Jesus Christ our Lord.

The Collect for Grace

LORD, our heavenly Father, Almighty and everlasting God, who hast safely brought us to the beginning of this day; Defend us in the same with thy mighty power; and grant that this day we fall into no sin, neither run into any kind of danger; but that all our doings, being ordered by thy governance, may be righteous in thy sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Cantata: Jesu, Meine Freude – Dietrich Buxtehude

Jesu, Joy, and Treasure, solace passing measure,
Precious gift to me!

Long, so long, I languish, torn my heart with anguish,
Yearning, Lord, for Thee.

Thine, I am, O spotless Lamb, in Thine arms I'd ever hide me;
Earth holds naught beside Thee.

While Thine arms are round me, let the foe surround me,
Him I do defy!

Satan's hosts may press me, powers of ill distress me,
Still is Jesus nigh.

Hell fires slash, their thunders crash, sin and Satan's might assail me,
Jesus ne'er will fail me.

Hence! Thou noisome serpent! Hence! I mock Death's torment,
Bow in fear thy crest!

Rage ye, World, wild leaping! I stand here, and singing,
Calm, in peace, at rest.

'Tis God's arm holds me from harm, earth and Hades rouse no terror,
Though in wrath they mutter.

Naught on earth is lasting, Thou are Joy surpassing,
Jesu, my Delight!

Hence! Vain wealth's deceiving, naught for you I'm grieving,
Get thee from my sight!

Death or pain, or cross or shame, Jesu is beside me ever,
Naught from me can sever.

Farewell, all that's mortal' gaze I on heaven's portal,
Earth's poor arts are vain!

Fare thee well, temptation, sin, and condemnation,
Thee do I disdain!

Fare thee well, earth's pomp and spell! World, thy life and bonds I sever,
Fare thee well for ever!

Banish fear and sadness, come, sweet Lord of Gladness,

Jesu, Master mine!
Who do truly serve Thee, must by faith deserve Thee,
Joyous bear Thy sign.
Scorn and hate may be man's fate; little worth in them I measure,
Jesu, Joy and Treasure!

The Prayers

Almighty God, the fountain of all goodness, we humbly beseech thee to bless our most gracious Sovereign Lord King Charles, Queen Camilla, William Prince of Wales, the Princess of Wales, and all the Royal Family: endue them with thy Holy Spirit; enrich them with thy heavenly grace; prosper them with all happiness; and bring them to thine everlasting kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, from whom cometh every good and perfect gift; Send down upon our Bishops, and other Clergy, and upon the Congregations committed to their charge, the healthful Spirit of thy grace; and, that they may truly please thee, pour upon them the continual dew of thy blessing. Grant this, O Lord, for the honour of our Advocate and Mediator, Jesus Christ.

O GOD, the Creator and Preserver of all mankind, we humbly beseech thee for all sorts and conditions of men; that thou wouldest be pleased to make thy ways known unto them, thy saving health unto all nations. More especially we pray for thy holy Church universal; that it may be so guided and governed by thy good Spirit, that all who profess and call themselves Christians may be led into the way of truth, and hold the faith in unity of spirit, in the bond of peace, and in righteousness of life. Finally, we commend to thy fatherly goodness all those who are any ways afflicted, or distressed, in mind, body, or estate; that it may please thee to comfort and relieve them, according to their several necessities; giving them patience under their sufferings, and a happy issue out of all their afflictions. And this we beg for Jesus Christ's sake.

ALMIGHTY God, Father of all mercies, we, thine unworthy servants, do give thee most humble and hearty thanks for all thy goodness and loving-kindness to us and to all men; We bless thee for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all, for thine inestimable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ; for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory. And, we beseech thee, give us that due sense of all thy mercies, that our hearts may be unfeignedly thankful; and that we show forth thy praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives, by giving up our selves to thy service, and by walking before thee in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honour and glory, world without end.

ALMIGHTY God, who hast given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplications unto thee; and dost promise that when two or three are gathered together in thy Name thou wilt grant their requests; Fulfil now, O Lord, the desires and petitions of thy servants, as may be most expedient for them; granting us in this world knowledge of thy truth, and in the world to come life everlasting.

All The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
 and the love of God,
 and the fellowship of the Holy Ghost,
 be with us all evermore. Amen

Voluntary: Jesu, Meine Freude, BWV 610 – JS Bach