



Choral Evensong

The First Sunday after the Epiphany Sunday 10 January 2021

Officiant:

Preacher:

Versicles: William Smith (1603-45)

Psalm: 46

First Lesson: Isaiah 42.1-9

Magnificat: The Second Service, Orlando Gibbons (1583-1625)

Second Lesson: Ephesians 2.1-10

Nunc Dimittis: The Second Service, Orlando Gibbons (1583-1625)

Apostles' Creed

Responses: William Smith (1603-45)

Anthem:

See, see the Word is incarnate;

God is made man in the womb of a Virgin.

Shepherds rejoice, wise men adore and angels sing

"Glory be to God on high: peace on earth, good will towards men."

The law is cancelled,

Jews and Gentiles converted by the preaching of glad tidings of salvation.

The blind have sight and cripples have their motion;

diseases cured, the dead are raised, and miracles are wrought.

Let us welcome such a guest with Hosanna.

The Paschal Lamb is offered, Christ Jesus made a sacrifice for sin.

The earth quakes, the sun is darkened, the powers of hell are shaken;

and lo, he is risen up in victory.

Sing Alleluia.

See, O see the fresh wounds, the gored blood,
the prick of thorns, the print of nails.
And in the sight of multitudes a glorious ascension.

When now he sits on God's right hand
where all the choir of heaven all jointly sing:
Glory be to the Lamb that sitteth on the throne.
Let us continue our wonted note with Hosanna:
Blessed be He that cometh in the Name of the Lord;
with Alleluia, we triumph in victory,
the serpent's head is bruised, Christ's kingdom exalted,
and heaven laid open to sinners
Amen.

Text: [Bishop Godfrey Goodman \(1582/3-1656\)](#)

Music: [Orlando Gibbons \(1583-1625\)](#)

Notes:

The longest anthem of Orlando Gibbons 'See, see, the Word is incarnate', its text fits no Anglican festival unless maybe Ascension: it traces Christ's entire life up to then, *Messiah*-fashion, through verse solo and choruses, leading to an elaborate final "Amen."

The text, assigned to Bishop Godfrey Goodman, avoid narrative, but creates a static series of icons or tableaux, that is well-suited to Gibbons' style of alternating florid and stately textures and voices. Bishop Goodman was not uncontroversial in his lifetime: he enraged many by placing a crucifix on his wall at Windsor Castle, and, when Bishop of Gloucester, celebrating Holy Communion with an altar cloth. At the fall of Charles I, he was imprisoned for a short time in the Tower of London before he retreated to his estates in Wales, where he converted to Roman Catholicism.