BLACKBURN CATHEDRAL

Choral Evensong

on

The Third Sunday before Advent

8th November 2026

4pm

The service is sung by
The Cathedral Choir

Directed by
John Robinson

Responses Reading

Office Hymn

RHUDDLAN 490



Judge eternal, throned in splendour,
Lord of lords and King of kings,
With your living fire of judgment
Purge this realm of bitter things:
Solace all its wide dominion
With the healing of thy wings.

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.

Crown, O God, thine 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.
Henry Scott Holland (1847-1918)

The Word of God

Psalmody 82
First Reading Judges 7.2-22
Canticles Howells, Coll Reg
Second Reading John 15.9-17

Anthem *Wie Lieblich Sind* Brahms (1833-97)

Hymn

ST CECILIA 499



Thy Kingdom come, O God,
Thy rule, O Christ, begin;
Break with thy iron rod
The tyrannies of sin.

Where is thy reign of peace
And purity and love?
When shall all hatred cease,
As in the realms above?

When comes the promised time
That war shall be no more,
And lust, oppression, crime,
Shall flee thy face before?

We pray thee Lord, arise,
And come in thy great might;
Revive our longing eyes,
Which languish for thy sight.

O'er lands both near and far
Thick darkness broodeth yet:
Arise, O morning Star,
Arise, and never set.
Charles Wesley (1707-88)

The Organ Voluntary

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