CHORAL EVENSONG

on The Feast of the Holy Cross

Sunday 14th September 2025 | 4.00pm



Introit When I survey the wondrous cross

Words: Isaac Watts (1674-1748) Music: Bob Chilcott (b. 1955)

from St John Passion

Responses Paul Spicer (b. 1952)

Psalm 110

First Lesson Isaiah 63, 1-16

Magnificat The Song of Mary

Music: Richard Shephard (1949-2021)

Second Lesson 1 Corinthians 1. 18-25

Nunc Dimittis The Song of Simeon

Music: Richard Shephard

Anthem Were you there?

Words: African-American spiritual Music: James Whitbourn (1963-2024)

Intercessions The Grace of Our Lord Jesus Christ,

and the love of God,

and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all, evermore. Amen.

Hymn There in God's garden stands the tree of wisdom.

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Voluntary Prelude from Symphonie I

Louis Vierne (1870-1937)

Hymn



There in God's garden stands the tree of wisdom whose leaves hold forth the healing of the nations: tree of all knowledge, tree of all compassion, tree of all beauty.

Its name is Jesus, name that says 'Our Saviour': there on its branches see the scars of suffering: see where the tendrils of our human selfhood feed on its lifeblood.

Thorns not its own are tangled in its foliage; our greed has starved it, our despite has choked it; Yet, look, it lives! Its grief has not destroyed it, nor fire consumed it.

See how its branches reach to us in welcome; Hear what the voice says, 'Come to me, ye weary: give me your sickness, give me all your sorrow: I will give blessing.'

All heaven is singing, 'Thanks to Christ whose Passion offers in mercy healing, strength and pardon: peoples and nations, take it, take it freely.'
Amen, my Master.

Words: Erik Routley (1917-82) based on the Hungarian of Pécselyi Király Imre (c.1590-c.1641) Music: DIVA SERVATRIX Bayeux Antiphoner (1739) Harmony by Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)