

LINCOLN CATHEDRAL



Choral Evensong & Procession

Friday, 8th October, 2021

5.30 pm

Robert Grosseteste, bishop,
philosopher and scientist

The Office of Evensong

Preces	<i>Rose</i>
Office Hymn	NEH 221
<i>Sit</i>	
Psalmody	Psalm 88
First Lesson	2 Kings 12.1-19
<i>Stand</i>	
Magnificat	<i>Dyson in D</i>
<i>Sit</i>	
Second Lesson	Acts 28.1-16
<i>Stand</i>	
Nunc Dimittis	<i>Dyson in D</i>
Apostles' Creed	
<i>Kneel</i>	
Responses	<i>Rose</i>
<i>Sit</i>	
Anthem	O thou the central orb <i>Wood</i>
<i>Kneel</i>	
Intercessions	<i>led by the Vice Chancellor</i>

All stand to sing the following, during which the procession moves to the South Choir Transept via the South Choir Gate:

**Lord of the boundless curves of space
And time's deep mystery,
To your creative might we trace
All nature's energy.**

**Your mind conceived the galaxy,
Each atoms's secret planned,
And every age of history
Your purpose, Lord, has spanned.**

**Your Spirit gave the living cell
Its hidden, vital force:
The instincts which all life impel
Derive from you, their source.**

**You gave the growing consciousness
That flowered at last in man,
With all his longing to progress,
Discover, shape and plan.**

**In Christ the living power of grace
To liberate and lead
Lights up the future of our race
With mercy's crowning deed.**

**Lead us, whom love has made and sought,
To find, when planets fall,
That Omega of life and thought
Where Christ is all in all.**

Words: Albert Bayley

Music: Christopher Dearnley

The canon-in-residence reads from an article on Grosseteste by Canon J.H. Strawley, sometime Chancellor of Lincoln.

The pastoral charge, said Grosseteste, does not consist merely in administering the sacraments, saying the canonical hours, celebrating masses, but in the truthful teaching of the living truth, in the awe-inspiring condemnation of vice and severe punishment of it when necessary. It consists also in feeding the hungry, giving drink to the thirsty, covering the naked, receiving guests, visiting the sick and those in prison, especially those who belong to the parish, who have a claim upon the endowments of their church. By the doing of these things are the people to be taught the holy duties of the active life.

Matthew Paris, who had so often criticized Grosseteste, especially for his dealings with the monasteries, has an appreciative verdict on his work as a bishop, speaking of him as 'a director of priests, the instructor of clerks, the supporter of scholars, the persecutor of the incontinent, and the unwearied student of the Scriptures, in his episcopal office sedulous, dignified and unwearied.'

Of his personal relations with clergy who had gone astray there is a touching picture of in a letter, written, however, before he became bishop. It is addressed to a cleric who was living a luxurious and vicious life, and whom he had known in his earlier and better days. Though denouncing in stern language his present evil courses, and

speaking of him as no longer 'in Christ', he yet says that, though he had been accustomed to love him 'in Christ', which he no longer can do, yet he cannot cease to love him 'for Christ's sake', for 'love never faileth', and as his severe reproof is written in all charity and humility, he looks forward to his restoration and points out to him the only way in which this may come to be. He concludes with the words 'farewell into Christ', that some day I may boldly say, farewell in Christ.'

Impetuous as he was in his righteous zeal against evil things, his wrath would break out at times with bursts of hot temper, but behind this there is the steadfast purpose of seeking to bring both clergy and people to a fuller knowledge and experience of the love of God and of the Christian way of life.

Dean Let us pray.

Almighty God,
who gave your bishop Robert Grosseteste
the gift of uniting human wisdom with divine faith:
grant that as your children grow in understanding
of the world and the laws of nature,
so too we may come to a deeper knowledge and love
of you;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

Dean May God who kindled the fire of his love in the hearts
of his saints pour upon you the riches of his grace;
may he give you joy in their fellowship
and a share in their joy;
may he strengthen you to walk in the way of holiness
and come to the full radiance of his glory;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
be upon you and remain with you always.

All **Amen.**

The choir and clergy depart.