

Evensong, Palm Sunday April 5 2009
Hymns from Common Praise.
(Large print editions available)

Opening Hymn	123 There is a green hill
Psalm	69
Hymn	116 dearest Lord
Canticles	Noble in B minor
Anthem	O Saviour of the world Harold Moore
Offertory Hymn	112 My song is love unknown (v. 1-4 and last verse.)
Closing Hymn	109 It is a thing most wonderful

' Saviour of the world' is an extract from the Lenten cantata " The Darkest Hour".

It was written in 1908 by Harold Moore, who studied composition, organ and horn at the Royal Academy of Music 1893 - 1895. His known compositions include three operas, many songs and anthems and the Lenten cantata 'The Darkest Hour'.

Passiontide oratorios such as Bach's St Matthew Passion have long been a tradition of the Christian church as a Good Friday devotion. There was, however, a demand in Victorian times for music more approachable and understandable to non-musical audiences with smaller-scale works such as Stainer's 'Crucifixion', Maunder's 'Olivet to Calvary' and Harold Moore's 'The Darkest Hour', which was first performed in 1906 and is now out of print. It is typical of much of the church music written at that time. Although with undoubtedly sincere intentions, some of it might be thought rather sentimental by modern standards. The original performance was on a large scale, requiring a full symphony orchestra, organ, several soloists and a large choir. 'The Darkest

Hour' is now largely forgotten, although in its day it had a huge following and always packed churches.

PSALM 69

Save | me O | God :
for the waters are come in | even | unto • my | soul.
2 I stick fast in the deep mire | where no | ground is :
I am come into deep waters | so that • the | floods run | over me.
3 I am weary of crying, my | throat is | dry :
my sight faileth me for waiting so | long up | on my | God.
4 They that hate me without a cause are more than the | hairs • of
my | head:
they that are mine enemies and would de | stroy me | guiltless are
| mighty.

5 I put on | sackcloth | also :
and they | jested • up | on | me.
6 They that sit in the gate | speak a | gainst me :
and the | drunkards • make | songs up | on me.

7 But Lord I make my prayer | unto | thee :
In | an ac | cepta • ble | time.
8 Hear me O God in the multitude | of thy | mercy :
even in the | truth of | thy sal | vation.

Glory | be • to the | Father;
and to the Son,
| and • to the | Holy | Ghost:
As it was in the be | ginning • is | now:
And ever shall be, | world with • out | end A | men.