

# Benedictus

Edited by Jason Smart

Thomas Tallis (c.1505–85)

Countertenor 1

Countertenor 2

Tenor

Bass

Bles - sed be the Lord God of Is - ra -

Bles - sed be the Lord [God] of Is - ra -

Bles - sed be the Lord God of Is - ra -

Bles - sed be the Lord God of Is - ra -

4

- el, for he hath vi - sit - ed and re - deem - ed his peo -

- el, for he hath vi - sit - ed and re - deem - ed his peo -

- el, for he hath vi - sit - ed and re - deem - ed his peo -

- el, for he hath vi - sit - ed and re - deem - ed his peo -

8

- ple; And hath lift - ed up an horn,

- ple; And hath lift - ed up an

- ple; And hath lift - ed up an horn

- ple; And hath lift - ed up an horn, and hath

12

and hath lift - ed up an horn of sal - va - ti - on to us in the house of his  
 horn of sal - va - ti - on to us in the house of his  
 of sal - va - ti - on, of sal - va - ti - on to us in the house of his  
 lift - ed up an horn of sal - va - ti - on to us in the house of his

16

ser - vant Da - vid; As he spake by the  
 ser - vant Da - vid; As he  
 ser - vant Da - vid; As he spake by the mouth of his ho -  
 ser - vant Da - vid; As he spake by the mouth of his ho - ly pro -

20

mouth of his ho - ly pro - phets  
 spake by the mouth of his ho - ly pro - phets which hath been since the  
 - ly pro - phets which hath been since the  
 - phets, of his ho - ly pro - phets which hath been

23

which hath been since the world be - gan, *the world be - gan;*  
 world be-gan, *which hath been since the world be - gan;*  
 world be-gan, *which hath been since the world be - - - - gan;*  
 since the world be - gan, *which hath been since the world be - gan;* That

27

That we should be sav - ed from our e - ne - mies and from the  
 That we should be sav-ed from our e - ne - mies and from the hands of all that  
 That we should be sav - ed from our e - ne - mies and  
 we should be sav - ed from our e - ne - mies and from the hands of

31

hands of all that hate\_\_\_ us; To per - form the mer -  
 hate\_\_\_ us; To per - form the mer - cy pro - mis - ed to our  
 from the hands of all that hate\_\_ us; To per -  
 all that hate\_\_\_ us; To per - form the mer - cy pro - mis-ed to our

35

- cy pro - mis - ed to our fa - thers and to re -  
 fa - thers, *to our fa - - - thers* and to re - mem -  
 form the mer - cy pro - mis - ed to our fa - thers and to re - mem - ber his ho - ly  
 fa - thers, to our fa - thers and to re - mem - ber his ho - ly

39

- mem - ber his ho - ly \_\_\_\_\_ cove - nant; To \_\_\_\_\_ per - form the oath which he  
 - ber his ho - ly cove - nant; \_\_\_\_\_ To \_\_\_\_\_ per - form the oath which he  
 cove - nant, *his ho - ly cove - nant;* To \_\_\_\_\_ per - form the oath which he  
 cove - nant, *his ho - ly cove - nant;* To \_\_\_\_\_ per - form the oath which he

44

sware to our fa - ther A - bra - ham, that he would give \_\_\_\_\_ us;  
 sware to our fa - ther A - bra - ham, that he would give us;  
 sware to our fa - ther A - bra - ham, that he would give \_\_\_\_\_ us;  
 sware to our fa - ther A - bra - ham, that he would give us;

49

That we be - ing de - li - ver - ed out of the hands of our

That we be - ing de - li - ver - ed out of \_\_\_\_\_ the hands of our

53

e - ne - mies, out of the hands of our e - ne - mies, of our

That we be - ing de - li - ver - ed out of the hands of our

e - ne - mies, \_\_\_\_\_ de - li - ver - ed out of the hands of our

That we be - ing de - li - ver - ed out of the

57

e - ne - mies might serve him, - might serve him with - out \_\_\_\_\_ fear; In

e - ne - mies might serve him, might serve him with - out fear; In

e - ne - mies might serve him, might serve him with - out \_\_\_\_\_ fear; In

hands of our e - ne - mies might serve him with - out fear;

61

ho - li-ness and right - e-ous-ness be - fore him all the days of our  
 ho - li-ness and right - e-ous-ness be - fore him all the days  
 ho - li-ness and right - e-ous-ness be - fore him, be - fore him all  
 In ho - li-ness and right - e-ous-ness be - fore him

65

life, our life. And thou, child, shalt be call - ed  
 of our life. And thou, child, shalt be call -  
 the days of our life. And thou, child, shalt be call -  
 all the days of our life. And thou, child, shalt be call -

69

the pro - phet of the most high'st, for thou shalt go be -  
 ed the pro - phet of the most high'st, for thou shalt go be - fore,  
 ed the pro - phet of the most high'st, for thou shalt  
 ed the pro - phet of the most high'st, for thou shalt go be -

73

- fore the face of the Lord, be - fore \_\_\_\_\_ the face of the Lord  
 for thou shalt go be - fore the face of the Lord to pre -  
 go be - fore the face, be - fore the face of the Lord  
 - fore the face of the Lord, be - fore the face of the Lord to pre - pare

77

to pre - pare his ways, to \_\_\_\_\_ pre - pare his \_\_\_\_\_  
 - pare his ways, to pre - pare his ways, to pre - pare  
 to \_\_\_\_\_ pre - pare his ways, to pre - pare \_\_\_\_\_ his \_\_\_\_\_  
 his ways, to pre - pare his ways, [to pre - pare his \_\_\_\_\_

81

ways; To \_\_\_\_\_ give know - ledge of sal - va - ti -  
 his \_\_\_\_\_ ways; To give  
 ways; To give know - ledge of sal - va - ti - on \_\_\_\_\_  
 ways;] To \_\_\_\_\_

85

- - on un - to his peo - - - ple, un - to his peo - ple for  
 know-ledge of sal - va - ti - on un - to his peo - - - ple for  
 \_\_\_\_\_ un - to his peo - ple, un - to his peo - ple  
 \_\_\_\_\_ give know-ledge of sal - va - ti - on un - to his peo - ple

89

the re - mis - si - on of their \_\_\_\_\_ sins; Through \_\_\_\_\_ the ten - der  
 the re - mis - si - on \_\_\_\_\_ of their \_\_\_\_\_ sins; Through \_\_\_\_\_ the ten - der  
 for the re - mis - si - on of their sins; Through \_\_\_\_\_ the ten - der  
 for the re - mis - si - on of their sins; Through \_\_\_\_\_ the ten - der

93

mer-cy of our God, where - by the day - spring from on  
 mer - cy of our God, where - by the day - spring from on high, -spring from  
 mer - cy of our God, where - by the day - spring  
 mer - cy of our God, where - by the day - spring from on high, -spring



97

high hath vi - sit - ed \_\_\_\_\_ us; To give light to them that  
 on [high] hath vi - sit - ed us; To give light to them that  
 from on high hath \_\_\_\_\_ vi - sit - ed us; To give light to them that  
 from on high [hath vi - sit - ed us;] To give light to them that

101

sit in dark - ness, and in the sha - dow of death, and to guide our  
 sit in dark - ness, and in the sha - dow of death, and to guide our  
 sit in dark - ness, and in the sha - dow of death, \_\_\_\_\_  
 sit in dark - ness, and in the sha - dow of death, \_\_\_\_\_

105

feet in - to the way of peace, and to *guide our feet in -*  
 feet in - to the way of peace, *and to guide our feet in -*  
 and to guide our feet in - to the way of peace, in -  
 and to guide our feet in - to the way of peace, *in -*

109

- to the way of peace. Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther, and to the  
 - to the way of peace. Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther, and to the  
 - to [the way of peace.] Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther, and to the  
 - to the way of peace. Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther, and to the

114

Son, and to \_\_\_\_\_ the Ho - ly Ghost;  
 Son, and to \_\_\_\_\_ the Ho - ly Ghost; As it  
 Son, and to \_\_\_\_\_ the Ho - ly Ghost; As it was in the be -  
 Son, and to the Ho - ly Ghost; As it was in

118

As it was in the be - gin - ning, and is now,  
 was in the be - gin - ning, and \_\_\_ is \_\_\_ now, \_\_\_ and is now,  
 - gin - ning, and is \_\_\_\_\_ now,  
 the be - gin - ning, and is now, and is now, and



## Liturgical Function

Canticle after the second lesson at Matins in the Book of Common Prayer. Tallis's text agrees with that of the 1549 prayer book, except that he interpolates the word 'most' at bar 70.

## Editorial Conventions

The nomenclature of the voice-parts follows the Tudor convention.

The original clef, staff signature, mensuration symbol and first note of each part are shown on the prefatory staves.

Editorial accidentals are placed above the notes concerned and remain operative throughout the bar.

Spelling of the text has been modernised.

Text repetition signs in the underlay have been expanded editorially in italics.

Text between square brackets is not indicated in the source and is entirely editorial.

## Source

London, British Library, MSS Roy. App. 75 and 76 (two of the three 'Lumley Partbooks', c.1547–8).

75	(Ct1, Ct2)	f.29 <sup>v</sup>	at end of Ct1:	m <sup>f</sup> tallis	The two countertenor parts are on facing pages throughout. The are identified by the headers 'Contratenor parte Secundus' on f.29 <sup>v</sup> and 'primus Contratenor parte' on f.30. Similar headers, not always so specific, appear on most subsequent pages.
76	(T, B)	f.37 <sup>v</sup>	at end of B:	m <sup>f</sup> tallis	The tenor and bass parts are on facing pages throughout. They are identified by the headers 'Tenor parte' on f.37 <sup>v</sup> and 'Bassus parte' on f.38. These headers are repeated on most subsequent pages.

## Notes on the Readings of the Source

The order within each entry below is: 1) bar number; 2) voice; 3) reading of the source. Pitches are in capital letters, preceded by a number where necessary, e.g. <sup>1</sup>A = first note A in the bar. The sign + denotes a tie.

### Underlay

2	Ct2	<i>the</i> inserted by caret
7	T	hairline from <i>his</i> to D
7	B	alignment of <i>his</i> ambiguous
21–21	T	slur for FG <sup>2</sup> ED
28	Ct2	<i>the hands</i> deleted after <i>from</i> and replaced by <i>our enemies</i>
32	Ct2	<i>the</i> written twice, the second deleted
37–38	T	hairlines from <i>remem-</i> to C <sup>1</sup> B
40	Ct1, Ct2	<i>covenant</i> treated as two syllables following T and B, but three may be intended.
57	Ct1	<i>enemies</i> undivided below CDBCD, underlay of <i>-ne-</i> uncertain
59–60	T	slur for A+AGF
72	Ct2	<i>the face</i> deleted after <i>before</i>
75	Ct2	<i>all people</i> deleted after <i>face of, of the Lord</i> substituted with <i>of</i> cancelled and hairlines from <i>of the</i> to <sup>2</sup> A <sup>3</sup> A
96–97	Ct2	<i>-spring from on</i> inserted by caret
106	Ct2	<i>way</i> inserted by caret
108	B	<i>way of</i> inserted by caret
120	B	<i>and is now</i> inserted by caret, hairline from second <i>and</i> to D
124	Ct2	alignment of <i>-out</i> ambiguous below BC <sup>2</sup> A

### Other Readings

9	B	b for B
23	Ct2	new staff begins with B, staff signature b for D, corrected to b for B
33	Ct2	F is a corrected minim
37–38	T	C <sup>1</sup> B both dotted, G is corrected crotchet
38	Ct2	D is a corrected minim
61	T	<sup>1</sup> A <sup>2</sup> AG are BBA
62	T	<sup>1</sup> D is C
66	Ct1	B <sup>‡</sup> omitted, semibreve C <sup>#</sup> is a breve
71	Ct2	new staff begins with G with the <sup>‡</sup> for the B in place of the B <sup>b</sup> staff signature
73	T	F is a corrected A
93	Ct1	C is a corrected minim
97	B	<sup>1</sup> A inserted in later ink
101	B	b for B
102	Ct1	<sup>‡</sup> is in the form of a letter C
109	B	G is corrected F
120	Ct1	<sup>1</sup> A is B