



CHORAL EVENSONG

Sunday, May 7, 2023

Four o'clock in the afternoon

Among the many possible ways of Christian worship, the service of evensong, also known as evening prayer, is remarkable both for the centuries-old liturgical tradition it represents and for the atmosphere of contemplative devotion that enables it to remain deeply meaningful for worshippers today. The liturgy traces its origins to the daily rites of the medieval church and has been said or sung regularly in its current form since the sixteenth century. All the words have been shaped and refined by long use and by renewed attempts to express the mysteries of God.

For some people it is music, not words, that carries them into the presence of God: and for others it is silence. Most of us need all three – words, music and silence – to lead us into the spirit of worship. So this service provides a liturgical, architectural and musical space in which one may gather the preoccupations and anxieties of life and hold them together with a recollection of the God whose saving acts we celebrate. Many find that through participation by silent attention while ministers and choir speak and sing in their name, they make the words and music their own. Once you have quietly offered those preoccupations which may be cluttering your mind, you are free to go on to offer to God all that you are. It is then that this service is experienced for what it is – an act of worship, in the Spirit, expressing our thanksgiving and hopes to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Processional

All stand as the choir enters.

The Preces

*Cantor &
Choir*

O Lord, open thou our lips;
and our mouth shall shew forth thy praise.
O God, make speed to save us;
O Lord, make haste to help us.
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now and ever
shall be: world without end. Amen.
Praise ye the Lord.
The Lord's name be praised.

Paul Spicer

All sit

Psalm 24

The earth is the Lord's and all that therein is; the compass of the world and they that dwell therein. For he hath founded it upon the seas and prepared it upon the floods. Who shall ascend into the hill of the Lord? Or who shall rise up in his holy place? Even he that hath clean hands and a pure heart, and that hath not lift up his mind unto vanity nor sworn to deceive his neighbor. He shall receive the blessing from the Lord, and righteousness from the God of his salvation. This is the generation of them that seek him, even of them that seek thy face O Jacob. Lift up your heads, O ye gates, and be ye lift up ye everlasting doors, and the King of glory shall come in. Who is the King of glory? It is the Lord strong and mighty, even the Lord mighty in battle. Lift up your heads O ye gates and be ye lift up ye everlasting doors, and the King of glory shall come in. Who is the King of glory? Even the Lord of hosts, he is the King of glory. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

J. Barnby

Lesson

Wisdom 7:22-8:1

Canticle

Magnificat – Collegium Regale

Herbert Howells

My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my savior. For he hath regarded the lowliness of his handmaiden. For behold, from henceforth, all generations shall call me blessed. For he that is mighty hath magnified me, and holy is his name. And his mercy is on them that fear him, throughout all generations. He hath shewed strength with his arm; he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He hath put down the mighty from their seat and hath exalted the humble and meek. He hath filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he hath sent empty away. He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel; as he promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed forever. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Lesson

John 14: 1-2
(Pew Bible p. 877)

Canticle

Nunc dimittis – Collegium Regale

Herbert Howells

Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word. For mine eyes have seen thy salvation, which thou hast prepared before the face of all people, to be a light to lighten the Gentiles, and to be the glory of thy people Israel.

All Stand

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

The Apostles' Creed*Said by all*

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

The Responses*Cantor & Choir*

The Lord be with you.
 And with thy spirit.
 Let us pray.

All sit

Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us.
 Lord, have mercy upon us.

The Lord's Prayer

O Lord, show thy mercy upon us,
 and grant us thy salvation.
 O Lord, save the state,
 and mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.
 Endue thy ministers with righteousness,
 and make thy chosen people joyful.
 O Lord, save thy people,
 and bless thine inheritance.
 Give peace in our time, O Lord,
 because there is none other that fighteth for us, but only thou, O God.
 O God, make clean our hearts within us,
 and take not thy Holy Spirit from us.

Paul Spicer

Collects

O God, from whom all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works do proceed: Give unto thy servants that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey thy commandments, and also that by thee we, being defended from the fear of all enemies, may pass our time in rest and quietness; through the merits of Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who work, or watch, or weep this night, and give thine angels charge over those who sleep. Tend the sick, Lord Christ; give rest to the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering, pity the afflicted, shield the joyous; and all for thy love's sake. Amen.

Lighten our darkness, we beseech thee, O Lord; and by thy great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night; for the love of thy only Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

Anthem

Hail, Gladdening Light

Charles Wood

Hail, gladdening light, of His pure glory poured, who is th'Immortal Father, Heavenly, blest, Holiest of Holies Jesu Christ, our Lord. Now we are come to the sun's hour of rest, the lights of evening round us shine, We hymn the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit Divine. Worthiest art Thou at all times to be sung with undefiled tongue, Son of our God, Giver of life alone; therefore in all the world Thy glories Lord, they own.
(words by John Keble from the Greek)

Prayers of Intercession

After each petition, all pray together in silence. After the silence:

Liturgist: Lord, in your mercy,
People: **Hear our prayer.**

All stand and sing

Hymn 690

The Day Thou Gavest, Lord, Is Ended

St. Clement

Blessing

Let us pray.

Almighty God, who hast given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication unto thee, and hast promised through thy well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name thou wilt be in the midst of them: fulfill now, O Lord, the desires and petitions of thy servants as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of thy truth, and in the world to come life everlasting. **Amen.**

Grace

All remain standing until the procession passes

Voluntary

Prelude and Fugue in C Major, BWV 545

J. S. Bach

Sanctuary Choir of West End United Methodist Church

Soprano

Jill Austin Prentice
Patricia Cullum
Rebecca Frame
Laura Gray
Christy Hathcock
Emma Jackson
Penny Lueckenhoff
Lucy Majors

Alto

Bethany DiSantis
Bevin Gregory
Emily McCord
Lee Warren
Bethany Wilson

Tenor

Kyle Collier
Jon Cooper
Matt Smyth
Scott Wolfe

Bass

Robb Bigelow
Doug Brown
Evan Burton
Sean Jernigan
Pierce O'Brien
Keith Ramsey
Casey Reed
Ben Troxler

Andrew Risinger, Organist/Conductor • Malcolm Matthews, Guest Organist
Ben Troxler, Cantor • Stacey Harwell-Dye, Liturgist

Kyle Collier, Tenor Soloist



WEST END
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