

Choral Evensong with Holy Eucharist
Sunday, September 24, 2023 at 4:00 p.m.
Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost



Welcome to Trinity Episcopal Cathedral. We're delighted you have joined us for this beautiful, restorative service. Choral Evensong is a contemplative service of music, readings, and prayers that takes place in the late afternoon or early evening. It allows listeners time to meditate and transition from the busyness of the day to the peace and quiet of the evening. A major aspect of the Evensong service's structure is the balance between old and new, young and old, birth and death, and female and male. Evensong's distinguishing feature is that it consists primarily of music.

Prelude

Adagio and Andante recit. from Sonata in F minor, Op. 65, No. 1
Felix Mendelssohn

All stand.

Opening sentences from Holy Scripture

BCP 61

Preces *sung by the Officiant and the choir*

Philip Radcliffe

Officiant O Lord, open thou our lips.

Choir And our mouth shall show forth thy praise.

Officiant O God, make speed to save us.

Choir O Lord, make haste to help us.

Officiant Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;

Choir As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Officiant Praise ye the Lord.

Choir The Lord's Name be praised.

All sit.

Psalm 34 *Anglican chants by Atkins and Norris*



Scan code for psalm text

The First Lesson

2 Kings 4:8-37

All stand.

Hymn 76 On Jordan's bank

Winchester New

Choral Preces and Responses are one of the oldest forms of Christian prayer, where short, composed petitions are sung alternately by the officiant and the choir.

The Psalms are the ancient hymnal of God's people. The choir sings the psalms appointed for that day. At evensongs, we conclude each psalm with the "Gloria Patri,"

"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."

Magnificat in C *sung by the choir*

Charles Villiers Stanford

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 showed 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 for ever. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

The Magnificat, sung by the choir, then links the Old and New Testaments. The Magnificat is Mary's song of thanksgiving after receiving news that she will bear the son of God, fulfilling the promises of the Old Testament. (Luke 1:46-55)

The Second Lesson

Luke 3:7-18

Nunc dimittis in C *sung by the choir*

Charles Villiers Stanford

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. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

The Nunc dimittis is the song of Simeon, an aged man promised by the Holy Spirit that he would not die until he had seen the Messiah. After taking the infant Jesus into his arms, he wrote these words of thanksgiving. (Luke 2:29-32)

The Apostles' Creed *intoned by the Officiant, sung by all, standing*

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ,
his only son, our Lord
Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried:
He descended into hell.
The third day he rose again from the dead;
He ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on 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 Ghost,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

The Apostles' Creed, the oldest profession of faith in the Christian Church and lists the primary doctrines of Christianity.

The people stand or kneel.

The following are sung by the Officiant and the choir.

Salutation

Philip Radcliffe

The **Lesser Litany and the Collects** are set prayers that bid God to strengthen our faith and protect us from all perils as evening falls.

Lord's Prayer

Philip Radcliffe

Our Father, which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, As it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, As we forgive them that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil. Amen.

Suffrages and Collects

Philip Radcliffe

Officiant O Lord, shew thy mercy upon us.

Choir And grant us thy salvation.

Officiant O Lord, save the State.

Choir And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.

Officiant Endue thy Ministers with righteousness.

Choir And make thy chosen people joyful.

Officiant O Lord, save thy people.

Choir And bless thine inheritance.

Officiant Give peace in our time, O Lord.

Choir Because there is none other that fighteth for us, but only thou, O God.

Officiant O God, make clean our hearts within us.

Choir And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.

All sit.

Anthem

Let thy merciful ears

Thomas Mudd

The **Choral Anthem** follows, meditating on Biblical texts and providing a sermon in music.

*Let thy merciful ears, O Lord,
be open to the prayers of thy humble servants;
and that they may obtain their petitions,
make them to ask such things as shall please thee;
through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.*

Text: Collect for the 10th Sunday after Trinity

All stand.

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| The Prayer of St. Chrysostom | BCP 72 | Evensong, the liturgy of the word, concludes with a blessing , a final hymn , and an organ offertory . |
| The Concluding Sentences from Holy Scripture | BCP 72 | |
| Hymn 625 | Ye holy angels bright | <i>Darwall's 148th</i> |
| Offertory | Allegro assai vivace from Sonata in F minor, Op. 65, No. 1 | <i>Felix Mendelssohn</i> |

For those who wish to participate in the Eucharist, please come to the choir pews, as you are able, following the Offertory.

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| The Great Thanksgiving | BCP 340 |
| The Breaking of the Bread | BCP 337 |
| The Postcommunion Prayer | BCP 339 |
| The Dismissal | |

Please join us for a small reception in Morrison Hall or in the Garth after evensong today, and every week!

PARTICIPATING THIS EVENING

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| <i>Officiant</i> | The Very Rev. Amy Dafler Meaux |
| <i>Lector</i> | Judith Barger |
| <i>Music</i> | Dr. Colin MacKnight, Director of Music Celina Kobetitsch, Associate Director of Music Trinity Cathedral Choir |

Notes on the Notes:

Today's postlude, the final movement from Mendelssohn's first organ sonata is one of the most pianistic pieces in the organ repertoire, so I thought I'd take this opportunity to describe one of the less obvious – but most important – differences between the piano and the organ: that the piano has a sustain pedal and the organ does not. Practically, this means that pianists can play a whole flurry of notes and those notes can continue to ring without the player physically holding all those keys down. On the organ, this is not so; we must hold every note for exactly as long as we want it to sustain, meaning it is much less effective for us to fly around the keyboard because those notes will immediately stop.

This brings us back to the postlude. In this piece, Mendelssohn finds a clever solution: he writes pianistically for the hands while using a slow, sustained pedal line to create the effect of a piano's sustain pedal. Then he switches the roles, sustaining the hands while the pedals move quickly. Mendelssohn, incidentally, did not have a particularly well-developed pedal technique, so this had the additional benefit of saving him from having to simultaneously play difficult parts in the hands and feet!



Read more about evensong services on our website.