

Choral Evensong with Holy Eucharist
Sunday, September 22, 2024 at 4:00 p.m.
Feast of St. Matthew (observed)



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 Master Tallis's Testament *Herbert Howells*

All stand.

Opening sentences from Holy Scripture **BCP 61**

Preces *sung by the Officiant and the choir* *Richard Ayleward*

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.

*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.

All sit.

Psalm 19 *Sung by the choir to Anglican Chants by C.H.H. Parry and G.C. Martin* **BCP 733**

Psalm 112 *Sung by the choir to Anglican Chant by Stephen Elvey* **BCP 733**

The First Lesson Genesis 3:1-15

All stand.

Hymn 596 Judge eternal, throned in splendor

Komm, o komm, du Geist der Lebens

All sit.

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: Short Service *sung by the choir*

Thomas Weelkes

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 Ghost: as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

The Magnificat 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

Matthew 13:44-52

Nunc dimittis: Short Service *sung by the choir*

Thomas Weelkes

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 Ghost: as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. 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

Richard Ayleward

Officiant *The Lord be with you.*
Choir *And with thy spirit.*
Officiant *Let us pray.*
Choir *Lord, have mercy upon us.*
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.

Lord's Prayer

Richard Ayleward

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.

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.

Suffrages and Collects

Richard Ayleward

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.*

Then follow three Collects: the first of the day, the second for Peace, and the third for Aid against all Perils.

The Second Collect, for Peace
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 our enemies, may pass our time in rest and quietness; through the merits of Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

The Third Collect, for Aid against all Perils
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 Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

All sit.

Anthem

O where shall wisdom be found?

William Boyce

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

*O where shall wisdom be found?
And where is the place of understanding?
Man knoweth not the price thereof;
Neither is it found in the land of the living.
The depth saith, It is not in me:
And the sea saith, It is not with me.
It cannot be gotten for gold,
neither shall silver be weighed for the price thereof.
No mention shall be made of coral, or of pearls
for the price of wisdom is above rubies.
Whence then cometh wisdom?
and where is the place of understanding?
seeing it is hid from the eyes of all living.
God understandeth the way thereof,
and He knoweth the place thereof.*

*For He looketh to the ends of the earth,
And seeth under the whole heav'n;
To make the weight for the winds;
and He weigheth the waters by measure,
He weigheth the waters by measure.
When He made a decree for the rain,
and a way for the lightning of the thunder;
then did He see it, and declare it;
He prepared it, yea, and searched it out.
And unto man He said, Behold,
the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom;
and to depart from evil is understanding.*

Text: Job 28:12-15, 18, 20-28

Soloists: Samantha Stover, Anna Squire, Carolina Kipnis, Stephen Vano, Josiah Wheeler

All stand.

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 231 By all your saints still striving

King's Lynn
(v. 2: *St. Matthew*)

Offertory

Præludium in G minor, BuxWV 149

Dieterich Buxtehude

HOLY EUCHARIST

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

The Great Thanksgiving

BCP 340

The Breaking of the Bread

BCP 337

The Postcommunion Prayer

BCP 339

The Dismissal

Please join us in Morrison Hall for a reception following evensong today, generously donated by Scott Seidenschwartz. Next week's evensong will include the installation of officers of the Central Arkansas Chapter of the American Guild of Organists, and will also conclude with a reception in Morrison Hall.

PARTICIPATING THIS EVENING

Officiant The Rev. Thomas Alexander
Lector Judy Barger
Music Dr. Colin MacKnight, Director of Music
Beau Baldwin, Guest Organist
Trinity Cathedral Choir

Notes on the Notes: Thomas Weelkes is one of the most important – and most colorful – composers of the Tudor and Jacobean eras. He frequently ran into trouble for unauthorized absences, drunken behavior, and swearing and blaspheming during services. The Oxford Dictionary of National Biography says, “he was not the only disorderly member of the [Chichester] cathedral establishment, though in due course he would become its most celebrated.”

Boyce's *O where shall wisdom be found?* is a large scale verse anthem for solo quintet and chorus and takes its text from today's Old Testament lesson. Boyce belonged to an unfortunate generation of English composers who were overshadowed by George Frideric Handel (who was German but made England his home). This anthem, arguably Boyce's sacred masterpiece, shows how unjustified this is.