

Sept 20, 2020 ■ The Church of St. John the Divine

Choral Evensong

First Evening Prayer of Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist

We acknowledge these ancestral territories of the Lekwungen people.

Officiant: Stephanie Wood, Assistant Curate

Music: Choral and Organ Scholars of the Church of St. John the Divine

A note about COVID-19 safety: Please remain in your places through the service except in case of emergency. The toilet, located through the door at the front left, is for emergency use only. At the end of the service, after the clergy have left, please feel free to leave during or after the organ voluntary, maintaining physical distance.

Listed music is subject to substitution in the event of changes of personnel or situation.

A note about language: In our worship, we use language which is poetic and filled with metaphor and wonder – realising that any language about God is limited. We use some ancient words which may seem odd, or may seem to refer to God as male, or in terms which elsewhere we might not choose to use. The poetry and the metaphor are there not to restrict or define our understanding of God, but to remind us that our words are never enough to talk about the Divine: instead we use the beauty of the words and music in our worship to help us glimpse just a little of the God beyond all words.

Order of Service

Organ prelude

Please stand as the clergy enter.

The Responses

Musical setting: Wm. Smith (1603-45)

Cantor: O Lord, open thou our lips

Choir: And our mouth shall show forth thy praise.

Cantor: O God, make speed to save us.

Choir: O Lord, make haste to help us.

Cantor: 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.

Cantor: Praise ye the Lord.

Choir: The Lord's name be praised.

Psalm

Psalm 34

Please sit for the Psalm, but stand at the final 'Glory be to the Father...'

I will always give thanks unto the Lord :his praise shall ever be in my mouth. My soul shall make her boast in the Lord : the humble shall hear thereof, and be glad. O praise the Lord with me : and let us magnify his Name together. I sought the Lord, and he heard me : yea, he delivered me out of all my fear. They had an eye unto him, and were lightened : and their faces were not ashamed. Lo, the poor crieth, and the Lord heareth him : yea, and saveth him out of all his troubles. The angel of the Lord tarrieth round about them that fear him : and delivereth them. O taste, and see, how gracious the Lord is : blessed is the man that trusteth in him. O fear the Lord, ye that are his

saints : for they that fear him lack nothing. The lions do lack, and suffer hunger : but they who seek the Lord shall want no manner of thing that is good. Come, ye children, and hearken unto me : I will teach you the fear of the Lord. What man is he that lusteth to live : and would fain see good days? Keep thy tongue from evil : and thy lips, that they speak no guile. Eschew evil, and do good : seek peace, and ensue it. The eyes of the Lord are over the righteous : and his ears are open unto their prayers. The countenance of the Lord is against them that do evil : to root out the remembrance of them from the earth. The righteous cry, and the Lord heareth them : and delivereth them out of all their troubles. The Lord is nigh unto them that are of a contrite heart : and will save such as be of an humble spirit. Great are the troubles of the righteous : but the Lord delivereth him out of all. He keepeth all his bones : so that not one of them is broken. But misfortune shall slay the ungodly : and they that hate the righteous shall be desolate. The Lord delivereth the souls of his servants : and all they that put their trust in him shall not be destitute.

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.

First Lesson

Isaiah 33.13-17

Please sit during the reading of the lesson.

Magnificat

Text: Lk. 1:46-55 Music: R. Farrant (1525-80)

Please stand.

MY SOUL doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour. 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 the 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.

Second Lesson

Matthew 6.19-end

Please sit during the reading of the lesson.

Nunc Dimittis

Text: Luke 2:29-32. Music: Farrant

Please stand.

LORD, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word. For mine eyes have seen thy salvation, which thou has 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.

Apostles' Creed

All may join in reciting the creed.

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 Ghost, Born of the Virgin Mary, Suffered under Pontius Pilate, Was crucified, dead, and 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.

Responses, Lord's Prayer, and Collects

Cantor: The Lord be with you;

Choir: And with thy spirit.

Cantor: Let us pray.

Please sit or kneel for the prayers.

Choir: Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

All: Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on 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.

Cantor: O Lord, show thy mercy upon us;

Choir: And grant us thy salvation.

Cantor: O Lord, save the Queen;

Choir: And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.

Cantor: Endue thy Ministers with righteousness;

Choir: And make thy chosen people joyful.

Cantor: O Lord, save thy people;

Choir: And bless thine inheritance.

Cantor: Give peace in our time, O Lord;

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

Cantor: O God, make clean our hearts within us;

Choir: And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.

First Collect, of the day:

ALMIGHTY GOD, who through your Son called Matthew to be your apostle and evangelist, free us from all greed and selfish love, that we may follow in the steps of Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Ghost, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

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 both 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 Saviour. Amen.

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.

Anthem

Text: Robert Bridges (1890). Music: E. Coxhead (b. 1987)

Please sit as the choir sings the anthem.

My eyes for beauty pine, my soul for Goddes grace: No other care nor hope is mine, to heaven I turn my face. One splendour thence is shed from all the stars above: 'Tis named when God's name is said, 'tis Love, 'tis heavenly Love. And every gentle heart, that burns with true desire, is lit from eyes that mirror part of that celestial fire.

Intercessions

Please sit or kneel for the intercessions.

Final Hymn

Text H. B. Nelson (1823-1913), rev. © The Church Pension Fund. Music: KING'S LYNN

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In line with current Covid regulations the congregation is asked not sing; words are provided for meditation on the text of the hymn.

Please sit as the choir sings.

By all your saints still striving, for all your saints at rest,
your holy name, O Jesus, for evermore be blessed.

You rose, our King victorious, that they might wear the crown
and ever shine in splendour reflected from your throne

We praise you, Lord, for Matthew, whose gospel words declare
that, worldly gain forsaking, your path of life we share.
From all unrighteous mammon, O raise our eyes anew,
that we, whate'er our station, may rise and follow you

Then let us praise the Father and worship God the Son
and sing to God the Spirit, eternal Three-in-One,
till all the ransomed number who stand before the throne,
ascribe all power and glory and praise to God alone.

Blessing

Please stand.

Organ Voluntary

Please remain seated until you can leave maintaining appropriate physical distance.

If you wish to make a contribution towards the ministry of the Church of St John the Divine, you will find a collection plate at the exit.

Thank you for attending tonight's service. We wish you a pleasant and safe week.

There are recycling bins for this service sheet by the exit, as well as hand-sanitizing stations.