

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: The Rev'd Patrick Sibley. 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: Thos. Tallis (1552-85)

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.

Praise ye the Lord.

Psalm

Psalm 124

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

If the Lord himself had not been on our side, now may Israel say : if the Lord himself had not been on our side, when men rose up against us; They had swallowed us up quick : when they were so wrathfully displeased at us. Yea, the waters had drowned us : and the stream had gone over our soul. The deep waters of the proud : had gone even over our soul. But praised be the Lord : who hath not given us over for a prey unto their teeth. Our soul is escaped even as a bird out of the snare of the fowler : the snare is broken, and we are delivered. Our help standeth in the Name of the Lord : who hath made heaven and earth..

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

Ezekiel 37.15-end

Please sit during the reading of the lesson.

Magnificat

Text: Lk. 1:46-55 Music: H. Willan (1880-68)

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

1 John 2.22-end

Please sit during the reading of the lesson.

Nunc Dimittis

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

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:

O LORD, we beseech you mercifully to hear the prayers of your people who call upon you; and grant that they may both perceive and know what things they ought to do, and also may have grace and power faithfully to fulfil them; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, 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: Psalm 63.1-5, 8. Music: H. Purcell (1659-1695)

Please sit as the choir sings the anthem.

O God, thou art my God: early will I seek thee.

My soul thirsteth for thee, my flesh also longeth after thee in a barren and dry land where no water is. Thus have I looked for thee in holiness, that I might behold thy power and glory. For thy loving kindness is better than life itself: My lips shall praise thee. As long as I live will I magnify thee on this manner and lift up my hands in thy Name. Because thou hast been my helper, therefore under the shadow of thy wings will I rejoice. Hallelujah.

Intercessions

Please sit or kneel for the intercessions.

Response to the Prayers

Music: Amy Beach (1867-1944)

With prayer and supplication, let your requests be known unto God. And the peace of God which passeth all understanding shall keep your hearts and minds through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Sermon

Please sit

Final Hymn

Text H. F. Lyte (1793-1847) Music: EVENTIDE, W. H. Monk (1823-89)

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 the hymn.

Abide with me: fast falls the eventide;
the darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide.
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, O abide with me.

Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day;
earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass away.
Change and decay in all around I see.
O thou who changest not, abide with me.

I need thy presence every passing hour.
What but thy grace can foil the tempter's power?
Who like thyself my guide and strength can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, O abide with me.

I fear no foe with thee at hand to bless,
ills have no weight, and tears no bitterness.
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory?
I triumph still, if thou abide with me.

Hold thou thy cross before my closing eyes.
Shine through the gloom and point me to the skies.
Heaven's morning breaks and earth's vain shadows flee;
in life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.

The Grace

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.

Ezekiel 37.15-end The Two Sticks

The word of the Lord came to me: Mortal, take a stick and write on it, 'For Judah, and the Israelites associated with it'; then take another stick and write on it, 'For Joseph (the stick of Ephraim) and all the house of Israel associated with it'; and join them together into one stick, so that they may become one in your hand. And when your people say to you, 'Will you not show us what you mean by these?' say to them, Thus says the Lord God: I am about to take the stick of Joseph (which is in the hand of Ephraim) and the tribes of Israel associated with it; and I will put the stick of Judah upon it, and make them one stick, in order that they may be one in my hand. When the sticks on which you write are in your hand before their eyes, then say to them, Thus says the Lord God: I will take the people of Israel from the nations among which they have gone, and will gather them from every quarter, and bring them to their own land. I will make them one nation in the land, on the mountains of Israel; and one king shall be king over them all. Never again shall they be two nations, and never again shall they be divided into two kingdoms. They shall never again defile themselves with their idols and their detestable things, or with any of their transgressions. I will save them from all the apostasies into which they have fallen, and will cleanse them. Then they shall be my people, and I will be their God.

My servant David shall be king over them; and they shall all have one shepherd. They shall follow my ordinances and be careful to observe my statutes. They shall live in the land that I gave to my servant Jacob, in which your ancestors lived; they and their children and their children's children shall live there for ever; and my servant David shall be their prince for ever. I will make a covenant of peace with them; it shall be an everlasting covenant with them; and I will bless them and multiply them, and will set my sanctuary among them for evermore. My dwelling-place shall be with them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Then the nations shall know that I the Lord sanctify Israel, when my sanctuary is among them for evermore. HERE ENDS THE FIRST LESSON

1 John 2.22-end

Who is the liar but the one who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the antichrist, the one who denies the Father and the Son. No one who denies the Son has the Father; everyone who confesses the Son has the Father also. Let what you heard from the beginning abide in you. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, then you will abide in the Son and in the Father. And this is what he has promised us, eternal life.

I write these things to you concerning those who would deceive you. As for you, the anointing that you received from him abides in you, and so you do not need anyone to teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about all things, and is true and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, abide in him.

And now, little children, abide in him, so that when he is revealed we may have confidence and not be put to shame before him at his coming. HERE ENDS THE SECOND LESSON

