

CALVARY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania



Choral Evensong

The Calvary Choir

Alan Lewis, *director*

Jon Tyillian, *assistant organist*

Ascension Day

May 9, 2023, at 7:30 P.M.

EVENSONG is the name given to the English-language service for evening created for the first English Book of Common Prayer, published in 1549. This liturgy combines elements of two medieval monastic services—Vespers, offered at about sundown, and Compline, sung just before bed-time. Its essential shape consists of three sections: psalm-singing, readings (answered in song by canticles drawn from scripture, the Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis, both from the Gospel of St. Luke), and prayers. In Choral Evensong, these elements are mostly offered by the Choir, singing on behalf of the congregation, either in dialogue with the officiant or on its own. The congregation joins the choir in singing the Creed and the hymns.

ASCENSION DAY, on the fortieth day of Eastertide, commemorates the end of Jesus earthly, corporeal ministry after the Resurrection, a period during which he appeared to the disciples and, as St. John's Gospel puts it, "did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book." Observances of this day as a feast of the Church date back at least to the early fifth century, when St. Augustine pointed to its apostolic origins. It marks an inflection in the Church's annual observance of Easter, turning from the resurrection toward the impending out-pouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost.



CHORAL EVENING PRAYER, RITE I

Prelude *Fantasia in C* William Byrd

Introit *Non vos relinquam orphanos* Byrd

Non vos relinquam orphanos: Alleluia. I will not leave you comfortless: Alleluia.
Vado et venio ad vos: Alleluia. I will come again to you: Alleluia.
Et gaudebit cor vestrum: Alleluia. And your heart will rejoice: Alleluia.

—based on John 14:18

Hymn 214 *Hail the day that sees him rise* Llanfair

All stand and sing the hymn together.

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| 1 <i>Hail the day that sees him rise, Alleluia!
glorious to his native skies; Alleluia!
Christ, a while to mortals given, Alleluia!
enters now the highest heaven! Alleluia!</i> | 3 <i>See! he lifts his hands above; Alleluia!
See! he shows the prints of love; Alleluia!
Hark! his gracious lips bestow, Alleluia!
blessings on his Church below. Alleluia!</i> |
| 2 <i>There the glorious triumph waits; Alleluia!
lift your heads, eternal gates! Alleluia!
Wide unfold the radiant scene; Alleluia!
take the King of glory in! Alleluia!</i> | 4 <i>Lord, beyond our mortal sight, Alleluia!
raise our hearts to reach thy height, Alleluia!
there thy face unclouded see, Alleluia!
find our heaven of heavens in thee. Alleluia!</i> |

—Charles Wesley, alt.

Opening Sentences *BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER, page 61*

Confession of Sin *BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER, page 62*

Officiant and People together, all kneeling

Almighty and most merciful Father,
we have erred and strayed from thy ways like lost sheep,
we have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts,
we have offended against thy holy laws,
we have left undone those things which we ought to have done,
and we have done those things which we ought not to have done.
But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us,
spare thou those who confess their faults,
restore thou those who are penitent,
according to thy promises
declared unto mankind in Christ Jesus our Lord;
and grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake,
that we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life,
to the glory of thy holy Name. Amen.

The Priest alone stands and says

The Almighty and merciful Lord grant you absolution and remission of all your sins, true repentance, amendment of life, and the grace and consolation of his Holy Spirit. *Amen.*

Officiant O Lord, open thou our lips.
Choir And our mouth shall shew 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 for the Psalm, sung by the Choir.

Psalm 47 *Omnes gentes, plaudite*

CHANT: Charles Villiers Stanford

*O clap your hands together, all ye people : O sing unto God with the voice of melody.
 For the Lord is high, and to be feared : he is the great King upon all the earth.
 He shall subdue the people under us : and the nations under our feet.
 He shall choose out an heritage for us : even the worship of Jacob, whom he loved.
 God is gone up with a merry noise : and the Lord with the sound of the trump.
 O sing praises, sing praises unto our God : O sing praises, sing praises unto our King.
 For God is the King of all the earth : sing ye praises with understanding.
 God reigneth over the heathen : God sitteth upon his holy seat.
 The princes of the people are joined unto the people of the God of Abraham:
 for God, which is very high exalted, doth defend the earth, as it were with a shield.
 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 First Lesson

Daniel 7:9-14

I beheld till the thrones were cast down, and the Ancient of days did sit, whose garment was white as snow, and the hair of his head like the pure wool: his throne was like the fiery flame, and his wheels as burning fire. A fiery stream issued and came forth from before him: thousand thousands ministered unto him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him: the judgment was set, and the books were opened. I beheld then because of the voice of the great words which the horn spake: I beheld even till the beast was slain, and his body destroyed, and given to the burning flame. As concerning the rest of the beasts, they had their dominion taken away: yet their lives were prolonged for a season and time. I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him. And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed.

The Magnificat

Sung by the Choir, the Congregation standing.

Roland E. Martin

Service for St. Paul's Cathedral, Buffalo

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 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.

—Luke 1: 46-55, with Gloria Patri

The Second Lesson

All sit.

Matthew 28:16-20

Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, into a mountain where Jesus had appointed them. And when they saw him, they worshipped him: but some doubted. And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

The Nunc Dimittis

Sung by the Choir, the Congregation standing.

Martin

Service for St. Paul's Cathedral, Buffalo

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.

—Luke 2: 29-32, with Gloria Patri

The Apostles' Creed

Monotone: all together.

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.

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.

Officiant Our Father,

Choir 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 those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

Officiant O Lord, show 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.

The Collects *The Choir sings the Amen after each Collect.*

O Almighty God, whose blessed Son our Savior Jesus Christ ascended far above all heavens that he might fill all things: Mercifully give us faith to perceive that, according to his promise, he abideth with his Church on earth, even unto the end of the ages; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting. Amen.

Grant, we beseech thee, Almighty God, that like as we do believe thy only-begotten Son our Lord Jesus Christ to have ascended into the heavens, so we may also in heart and mind thither ascend, and with him continually dwell; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, one God, world without end. Amen.

Lord Jesus, stay with us, for evening is at hand and the day is past; be our companion in the way, kindle our hearts, and awaken hope, that we may know thee as thou art revealed in Scripture and the breaking of bread. Grant this for the sake of thy love. Amen.

*The congregation sits for the Anthem,
and an offering is received.
Those wishing to make offerings
by electronic transfer may use
this QR Code to do so:*



*God is gone up with a triumphant shout:
the Lord with sounding Trumpets' melodies:
sing Praise, sing Praises out,
unto our King sing praise seraphic-wise.
Lift up your heads, ye lasting Doors, they sing,
and let the King of Glory enter in.
Methinks I see Heaven's sparkling courtiers fly
In flakes of Glory down him to attend,
And hear heart-cramping notes of Melody
Surround his Chariot as it did ascend;
Mixing their music, making every string
More to enravish as they this tune sing.
God is gone up...*

—Edward Taylor

Hymn 221

O Lord Most High, eternal King

Gonfalon Royal

All stand and sing the hymn together as the Offering is presented.

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|---|---|
| <p>1 O Lord Most High, eternal King,
by thee redeemed thy praise we sing.
The bonds of death are burst by thee,
and grace has won the victory.</p> <p>2 Ascending to the Father's throne
thou claim'st the kingdom as thine own;
and angels wonder when they see
how changed is our humanity.</p> | <p>3 Be thou our joy, O mighty Lord,
as thou wilt be our great reward;
let all our glory be in thee
both now and through eternity.</p> <p>4 O risen Christ, ascended Lord,
all praise to thee let earth accord,
who art, while endless ages run,
with Father and with Spirit One. Alleluia!</p> |
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—Medieval Latin, tr. F. Bland Tucker & Benjamin Webb

Prayers, Intercessions, and Thanksgivings

The General Thanksgiving

All together

Almighty God, Father of all mercies,
we thine unworthy servants do give thee most humble and hearty thanks
for all thy goodness and loving-kindness to us and to all men.
We bless thee for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life;
but above all for thine inestimable love
in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ,
for the means of grace and for the hope of glory.
And, we beseech thee, give us that due sense of all thy mercies,
that our hearts may be unfeignedly thankful;
and that we show forth thy praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives,
by giving up our selves to thy service,
and by walking before thee in holiness and righteousness all our days;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost,
be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.

The Prayer of St. Chrysostom

Prayed by the Officiant

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.*

The Four-fold Paschal Blessing

May Almighty God, who has redeemed us and made us his children through the resurrection of his Son our Lord, bestow upon you the riches of his blessing. *Amen.*

May God, who through the water of baptism has raised us from sin into newness of life, make you holy and worthy to be united with Christ for ever. *Amen.*

May God, who has brought us out of bondage to sin into true and lasting freedom in the Redeemer, bring you to your eternal inheritance. *Amen.*

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. *Amen.*

Hymn 460, *stanzas 1-2, 4-5*

Alleluia! sing to Jesus!

Hyfrydol

The Dismissal

Officiant Let us bless the Lord. Alleluia.

Choir Thanks be to God. Alleluia.

Postlude

Sonata in G major: Allegro

Edward Elgar

A reception in the Parish Hall follows the service. Please join us.



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Office Hours – 9 A.M. to 4 P.M., Monday through Friday