

ST. JAMES

EPISCOPAL CHURCH



Martin Luther *observed*
CHORAL EVENSONG

February 23, 2025
5:00P.M.

ORGAN RECITAL • 4:30P.M.

Austin Clark, *organ*

Wie schön leuchtet der Morgenstern, BuxWV 223

Dieterich Buxtehude (1637-1707)

Allein Gott in der Höh sei Ehr, BWV 662

J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

Prelude & Fugue in F minor, BWV 534

J.S. Bach

*There will be a brief pause following the recital,
during which we invite you to maintain holy silence as we prepare for worship.*

CHORAL EVENSONG • 5:00P.M.

Thank you for worshipping with us today! Evensong is a service to give thanks for the day that has past, pray for safety through the night, and to look forward to the coming of Christ, to a better day. It is a poetic, deeply spiritual service rich with symbolism and mystery. The service is primarily Choral; the Choir sings most of the service on behalf of the congregation in monastic style. Evensong has been offered daily in cathedrals and churches throughout the world for almost 500 years.

The spiritual apex of Evensong are the two canticles, or songs taken directly from the Bible. The Magnificat, sung by Mary upon her Visitation to her cousin Elizabeth (who would bear John the Baptist), is used to respond to the Messianic longing heard in the prophecies of the Old Testament Lesson. The Nunc Dimittis, which Simeon sang after a long life of waiting for that Messiah, is used to respond to the New Testament reading, the fulfillment of those Old Testament prophecies. We invite you to listen, sing, and surround yourself with the beauty of holiness.

THE INVITATORY & PSALTER

All stand as the Choir and Ministers enter.

The Opening Sentences

Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

I will bless the Lord who giveth me counsel; my heart teacheth me, night after night. I have set the Lord always before me; because he is at my right hand, I shall not fall.

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world; he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life."

Sung by the Choir

Preces & Responses

Setting: Richard Ayleward (1626-1669)

V. O Lord, open thou our lips:

R. And our mouth shall show forth thy praise.

V. O God, make speed to save us:

R. 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.

The hymn is sung by all

Hymn 46

1 The du - teous day now clos - eth, each flower and tree re -
2 Now all the heaven - ly splen - dor breaks forth in star-light
3 Though long our mor - tal blind - ness has missed God's lov - ing -

pos - eth, shade creeps o'er wild and wood: let
ten - der from myr - iad worlds un - known; and
kind - ness and plunged us in - to strife; yet

us, as night is fall - ing, on God our Ma - ker
we, this mar - vel see - ing, for - get our self - ish
when life's day is o - ver, shall death's fair night dis -

call - ing, give thanks to him, the Giv - er good.
be - ing for joy of beau - ty not our own.
cov - er the fields of ev - er - last - ing life.

Words: Paul Gerhardt (1607-1676); tr. Robert Seymour Bridges (1844-1930) and others

Music: O Welt, ich muss dich lassen, melody att. Heinrich Isaac (1450?-1517);
harm. Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

All sit.

The Psalter

Psalm 46

Anglican Chant: after Martin Luther (1483-1546)

- 1 God is our hope and strength*
a very present help in trouble.
- 2 Therefore will we not fear, though the earth be moved*
and though the hill be carried into the midst of the sea.
- 3 Though the waters thereof rage and swell*
and though the mountains shake at the tempest of the same.
- 4 The rivers of the flood thereof shall make glad the city of God*
the holy place of the tabernacle of the most Highest.
- 5 God is in the midst of her, therefore shall she not be removed*
God shall help her, and that right early.
- 6 The heathen make much ado, and the kingdoms are moved*
but God hath shewed his voice, and the earth shall melt away.
- 7 The Lord of hosts is with us*
the God of Jacob is our refuge.
- 8 O come hither, and behold the works of the Lord*
what destruction he hath brought upon the earth.
- 9 He maketh wars to cease in all the world*
he breaketh the bow, and knappeth the spear in sunder,
and burneth the chariots in the fire.
- 10 Be still then, and know that I am God*
I will be exalted among the heathen, and I will be exalted in the earth.
- 11 The Lord of hosts is with us*
the God of Jacob is our refuge.

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 LESSONS

First Lesson

Isaiah 55:6-11

A reading from the Prophet Isaiah.

Seek the Lord while he may be found, call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

Here endeth the lesson.

All stand.

Magnificat

Music: Herbert Howells (1892–1983), *Collegium Regale*

Words: Song of Mary, Luke 1:46-55; & Gloria Patri

✠ 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.

All sit.

Second Lesson

Romans 3:21-28

A reading from Paul's letter to the Romans.

But now, apart from law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed, and is attested by the law and the prophets, the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to show his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed; it was to prove at the present time that he himself is righteous and that he justifies the one who has faith in Jesus. Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. By what law? By that of works? No, but by the law of faith. For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.

Here endeth the Lesson.

All stand.

Nunc Dimittis

Music: Herbert Howells (1892–1983), *Collegium Regale*
Words: Song of Simeon, Luke 2:29-32; & Gloria Patri

✠ 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.

All sing

The Apostles' Creed

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.

THE PRAYERS

Preces & Responses

Setting: Richard Ayleward (1626–1669)

- V. The Lord be with you.
R. And with thy spirit.
V. Let us pray.

The congregation kneels. Then is sung

- V. Lord, have mercy upon us.
R. Christ, have mercy upon us.
V. Lord, have mercy upon us.

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

- V. O Lord, shew thy mercy upon us.
R. And grant us Thy salvation.
V. O Lord, save the State:
R. And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.
V. Endue thy ministers with righteousness:
R. And make thy chosen people joyful.
V. O Lord, save thy people:
R. And bless thine inheritance.
V. Give peace in our time, O Lord:
R. Because there is none other that fighteth for us, but only thou, O God.
V. O God, make clean our hearts within us:
R. And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.

The prayers conclude with the following

The Collect of the Day

O God, our refuge and our strength, who raised up your servant Martin Luther to reform and renew your church in the light of your word: Defend and purify the church in our own day and grant that, through faith, we may boldly proclaim the riches of your grace, which you have made known in Jesus Christ our Savior, who with you and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

The Collect for Aid against Perils

Lighten our darkness, we beseech thee, O Lord; and by thy great mercies defend us from all perils and dangers of this night; for the love of thy only Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

The Prayer for Mission

Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who work, or watch, or weep this night, and give thine angels charge over those who sleep. Tend the sick, Lord Christ; give rest to the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering, pity the afflicted, shield the joyous; and all for thy love's sake. Amen.

The Welcome

The Rev. R. Lynn Hooks



The offering at this service goes toward the Choirs' 2025 Residency at Worcester Cathedral in the United Kingdom.

Offering plates are located at the rear of the nave.

To support the Worcester Residency online, scan the QR code with a smart device.

The Anthem

Music: Edward Elgar (1857-1934), *Great is the Lord*, Op. 67
Words: Psalm 48

Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised in the city of our God, in the mountain of His holiness. Beautiful in elevation, the joy of the whole earth, is mount Zion, on the sides of the north, the city of the great King. God hath made Himself known in her palaces for a refuge. For lo! the kings assembled themselves, they passed by together; they saw, then were they amazed; they were dismay'd, they hasted away; trembling took hold of them there, pain as of a woman in travail as with the east wind that breaketh the ships of Tarshish. As we have heard, so have we seen in the city of the Lord of hosts, in the city of our God: God will establish it for ever. We have thought on thy loving kindness, O God, in the midst of Thy temple: as is thy name, O God, so is Thy praise unto the ends of the earth; Thy right hand is full of righteousness. Let mount Zion be glad, because of Thy judgements, let the daughters of Judah rejoice; walk about Zion and go round about her, tell the towers thereof, mark ye well her bulwarks, consider her palaces, that ye may tell it to the generation following. For this God is our God for ever and ever; He will be our guide even unto death. Amen.

All stand to say

The General Thanksgiving

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 Benedicamus & Grace

Officiant Let us bless the Lord.
People Thanks be to God.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Ghost, be with us all evermore. **Amen.**

The hymn is sung by all

Hymn 687



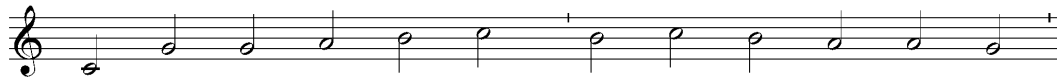
1 A might - y for - tress is our God, a bul - wark
2 Did we in our own strength con - fide, our striv - ing
3 And though this world, with dev - ils filled, should threat - en
4 That word a - bove all earth - ly powers, no thanks to



nev - er fail - ing; our help - er he a - mid the flood
would be los - ing; were not the right man on our side,
to un - do us; we will not fear, for God hath willed
them, a - bid - eth; the Spi - rit and the gifts are ours



of mor - tal ills pre - vail - ing; for still our an - cient foe
the man of God's own choos - ing; dost ask who that may be?
his truth to tri - umph through us; the prince of dark - ness grim,
through him who with us sid - eth: let goods and kin - dred go,



doth seek to work us woe; his craft and power are great,
Christ Je - sus, it is he; Lord Sa - ba - oth his Name,
we trem - ble not for him; his rage we can en - dure,
this mor - tal life al - so; the bo - dy they may kill:



and, armed with cru - el hate, on earth is not his e - qual.
from age to age the same, and he must win the bat - tle.
for lo! his doom is sure, one lit - tle word shall fell him.
God's truth a - bid - eth still, his king - dom is for ev - er.

Words: Martin Luther (1483–1546); tr. Frederic Henry Hedge (1805–1890); based on Psalm 46
Music: *Ein feste Burg*, Martin Luther (1483–1546)

Voluntary

Johann Pachelbel (1653–1706)

Fugue & Fantasia on *Eine feste Burg ist unser Gott*, p. 106

The Choir and Ministers depart during the organ voluntary, after which the congregation may be seated or depart.

Please join us for a reception in Coleman Hall following the service.



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