

ST. JAMES

EPISCOPAL CHURCH



Welcome

Whether you are a first-time visitor, longtime member, or somewhere in-between, welcome to this place where together we sing, read, pray, listen, and break bread in thanksgiving and praise of the living God whose love brings new life for us and for the world.

For more information

- *Fill out a welcome card, located in the pew rack and drop it in the offering plate or return it by mail.*
- *Call the Parish Office at 225-387-5141 with questions about baptisms, weddings, membership, or any other needs.*

CHORAL EVENSONG

July 8, 2025
6:00P.M.

Voluntary

2 Slow Airs

Herbert Howells (1892–1983)

CHORAL EVENSONG • 6:00P.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: Sarah MacDonald (b. 1968)

- 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.
- V. Glory be to the Father and to the Son: and to the Holy Ghost;
- R. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be: world without end. Amen.
- V. Praise ye the Lord.
- R. The Lord's name be praised.

The hymn is sung by all

Hymn 662

1 A - bide with me: fast falls the e - ven - tide;
2 I need thy pres - ence ev - ery pass - ing hour;
3 I fear no foe, with thee at hand to bless;
4 Hold thou thy cross be - fore my clos - ing eyes;

the dark - ness deep - ens; Lord, with me a - bide:
what but thy grace can foil the tempt - er's power?
ills have no weight, and tears no bit - ter - ness;
shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies;

when o - ther help - ers fail and com - forts flee,
Who, like thy - self, my guide and stay can be?
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy vic - to - ry?
heaven's morn - ing breaks, and earth's vain sha - dows flee;

help of the help - less, O a - bide with me.
Through cloud and sun - shine, Lord, a - bide with me.
I tri - umph still, if thou a - bide with me.
in life, in death, O Lord, a - bide with me.

Words: Henry Francis Lyte (1793-1847)

Music: *Eventide*, William Henry Monk (1823-1889)

Psalm 102

- ¹ Hear my prayer, O Lord *
and let my crying come unto thee.
- ² Hide not thy face from me in the time of my trouble *
incline thine ear unto me when I call; O hear me, and that right soon.
- ³ For my days are consumed away like smoke *
and my bones are burnt up as it were a fire-brand.
- ⁴ My heart is smitten down, and withered like grass *
so that I forget to eat my bread.
- ⁵ For the voice of my groaning *
my bones will scarce cleave to my flesh.
- ⁶ I am become like a pelican in the wilderness *
and like an owl that is in the desert.
- ⁷ I have watched, and am even as it were a sparrow *
that sitteth alone upon the house-top.
- ⁸ Mine enemies revile me all the day long *
and they that are mad upon me are sworn together against me.
- ⁹ For I have eaten ashes as it were bread *
and mingled my drink with weeping;
- ¹⁰ And that because of thine indignation and wrath *
for thou hast taken me up, and cast me down.
- ¹¹ My days are gone like a shadow *
and I am withered like grass.
- ¹² But, thou, O Lord, shalt endure for ever *
and thy remembrance throughout all generations.
- ¹³ Thou shalt arise, and have mercy upon Sion *
for it is time that thou have mercy upon her, yea, the time is come.
- ¹⁴ And why? thy servants think upon her stones *
and it pitieth them to see her in the dust.
- ¹⁵ The heathen shall fear thy Name, O Lord *
and all the kings of the earth thy Majesty;
- ¹⁶ When the Lord shall build up Sion *
and when his glory shall appear;
- ¹⁷ When he turneth him unto the prayer of the poor destitute *
and despiseth not their desire.
- ¹⁸ This shall be written for those that come after *
and the people which shall be born shall praise the Lord.
- ¹⁹ For he hath looked down from his sanctuary *
out of the heaven did the Lord behold the earth;
- ²⁰ That he might hear the mournings of such as are in captivity *
and deliver the children appointed unto death;
- ²¹ That they may declare the Name of the Lord in Sion *
and his worship at Jerusalem;

- ²² When the people are gathered together *
and the kingdoms also, to serve the Lord.
- ²³ He brought down my strength in my journey *
and shortened my days.
- ²⁴ But I said, O my God, take me not away in the midst of mine age *
as for thy years, they endure throughout all generations.
- ²⁵ Thou, Lord, in the beginning hast laid the foundation of the earth *
and the heavens are the work of thy hands.
- ²⁶ They shall perish, but thou shalt endure *
they all shall wax old as doth a garment;
- ²⁷ And as a vesture shalt thou change them, and they shall be changed *
but thou art the same, and thy years shall not fail.
- ²⁸ The children of thy servants shall continue *
and their seed shall stand fast in thy sight.

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

1 Samuel 15:24-35

A reading from the First Book of Samuel.

Saul said to Samuel, 'I have sinned; for I have transgressed the commandment of the Lord and your words, because I feared the people and obeyed their voice. Now therefore, I pray, pardon my sin, and return with me, so that I may worship the Lord.' Samuel said to Saul, 'I will not return with you; for you have rejected the word of the Lord, and the Lord has rejected you from being king over Israel.' As Samuel turned to go away, Saul caught hold of the hem of his robe, and it tore. And Samuel said to him, 'The Lord has torn the kingdom of Israel from you this very day, and has given it to a neighbor of yours, who is better than you. Moreover, the Glory of Israel will not recant or change his mind; for he is not a mortal, that he should change his mind.' Then Saul said, 'I have sinned; yet honor me now before the elders of my people and before Israel, and return with me, so that I may worship the Lord your God.' So Samuel turned back after Saul; and Saul worshipped the Lord. Then Samuel said, 'Bring Agag king of the Amalekites here to me.' And Agag came to him haltingly. Agag said, 'Surely this is the bitterness of death.' But Samuel said, 'As your sword has made women childless, so your mother shall be childless among women.' And Samuel hewed Agag in pieces before the Lord in Gilgal. Then Samuel went to Ramah; and Saul went up to his house in Gibeah of Saul. Samuel did not see Saul again until the day of his death, but Samuel grieved over Saul. And the Lord was sorry that he had made Saul king over Israel.

Here endeth the lesson.

All stand.

Magnificat

Music: Joanna Forbes L'Estrange (b. 1971), *King's College Service*

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

Acts 9:32-43

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Now as Peter went here and there among all the believers, he came down also to the saints living in Lydda. There he found a man named Aeneas, who had been bedridden for eight years, for he was paralysed. Peter said to him, 'Aeneas, Jesus Christ heals you; get up and make your bed!' And immediately he got up. And all the residents of Lydda and Sharon saw him and turned to the Lord. Now in Joppa there was a disciple whose name was Tabitha, which in Greek is Dorcas. She was devoted to good works and acts of charity. At that time she became ill and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in a room upstairs. Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, who heard that Peter was there, sent two men to him with the request, 'Please come to us without delay.' So Peter got up and went with them; and when he arrived, they took him to the room upstairs. All the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing tunics and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was with them. Peter put all of them outside, and then he knelt down and prayed.

He turned to the body and said, 'Tabitha, get up.' Then she opened her eyes, and seeing Peter, she sat up. He gave her his hand and helped her up. Then calling the saints and widows, he showed her to be alive. This became known throughout Joppa, and many believed in the Lord. Meanwhile he stayed in Joppa for some time with a certain Simon, a tanner.

Here endeth the Lesson.

All stand.

Nunc Dimittis

Music: Joanna Forbes L'Estrange (b. 1971), *King's College Service*

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: Sarah MacDonald (b. 1968)

- 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, who hast taught us to keep all thy commandments by loving thee and our neighbor: Grant us the grace of thy Holy Spirit, that we may be devoted to thee with our whole heart, and united to one another with pure affection; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the same Spirit, one God, for ever and 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 Rt. Rev. Shannon Rogers Duckworth
Twelfth Bishop of Louisiana



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: Herbert Howells (1892–1983), *A Hymn for St. Cecilia*
Words: Ursula Vaughan Williams (1911–2007)

Sing for the morning's joy, Cecilia, sing, in words of youth and phrases of the Spring, walk the bright colonnades by fountains' spray, and sing as sunlight fills the waking day; till angels, voyaging in upper air pause on a wing and gather the clear sound into celestial joy, wound and unwound, a silver chain, or golden as your hair. Sing for loves of heaven and earth, in words of music, and each word a truth; marriage of heart and longings that aspire, a bond of roses, and a ring of fire. Your summertime grows short and fades away, terror must gather to a martyr's death; but never tremble, the last indrawn breath remembers music as an echo may. Through the cold aftermath of centuries, Cecilia's music dances in the skies; lend us a fragment of the immortal air, that with your choiring angels we may share, a word to light us thro' time-fettered night, water of life, or rose of paradise, so from the earth another song shall rise to meet your own in heaven's long delight.

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.

Blessing of the Choir

The Benedicamus & Grace

Bishop 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.**

Hymn



1 Love Di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, joy of heav'n to earth come down,
 2 Come, al - might - y to de - liv - er, let us all thy life re - ceive;
 3 Fin - ish then thy new cre - a - tion, pure and spot - less let us be;
 fix in us thy hum - ble dwel - ling, all thy faith - ful mer - cies crown.
 sud - den - ly re - turn and nev - er, nev - er more thy tem - ples leave.
 let us see thy great sal - va - tion, per - fect - ly re - stored in thee,
 Je - su, thou art all com - pas - sion, pure un - bound - ed love thou art;
 Thee we would be al - ways bles - sing, serve the as thy hosts a - bove,
 changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry, till in heav'n we take our place,
 vis - it us with thy sal - va - tion, en - ter ev - ery trem - bling heart.
 pray, and praise thee, with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love.
 till we cast our crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise!

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

Music: *Blaenwern*, William Rowlands (1860-1937)

Voluntary

Festival Piece

Craig Phillips (b. 1961)

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

All are invited to a reception in Coleman Hall.

*Today's flowers are given to the greater glory of God
and in thanksgiving for the ministry and music of the St. James Choirs by The Rev. Chris Duncan.*

*The dual roses are present in Worcester Cathedral's stone work around Prince Arthur's tomb
representing the combining of the warring cousins at the end of the
War of the Roses coming together to make the Tudor Rose.*

