



ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
SUNDAY, MARCH 8, 2026 – 5:00 P.M.

Choral Evensong

The Third Sunday in Lent

Welcome to St. Peter's and this service of Choral Evensong. This service of Evening Prayer is drawn almost entirely from the Bible and has been sung regularly in the Anglican Church for centuries. Its purpose is to give thanks in song and sight to God, the Giver of all beauty.

At St. Peter's, Evensong has been sung regularly since 1990. As we mark the 35th year of this tradition, we welcome you warmly to this service, whether you are worshipping at Evensong for the first time, or you have come for many years.

Evensong connects us to the ancient liturgies held at this time of day through its inclusion of the *Magnificat* and the *Nunc dimittis*. These canticles, from the Gospel of Luke, were sung in the monastic offices of Vespers and Compline respectively.

Prelude Ich ruf zu dir, Herr Jesu Christ, BWV 639
(“I call on thee, Lord Jesus Christ;” Hymn 634)

J. S. Bach
(1685–1750)

The tower bells peal just before the hour. All then stand for the procession.

Procession

Introit

PEACE be within this sacred place,
And joy a constant guest!
With holy gifts and heavenly grace,
Be these attendants blest.

My soul shall pray for Zion still,
While life or breath remains;
Here my best friends, my kindred dwell,
Here God, my Savior, reigns.

Words: *Isaac Watts (1674–1748), after Psalm 122*
Music: *Alice Parker (1925–2023)*

Opening Sentence

Officiant To the Lord our God belong mercies and forgivenesses, though we have rebelled against him; neither have we obeyed the voice of the Lord our God, to walk in his laws which he set before us.

Daniel 9:9, 10

Confession of Sin

Officiant Dear friends in Christ, here in the presence of Almighty God, let us kneel in silence, and with penitent and obedient hearts confess our sins, so that we may obtain forgiveness by his infinite goodness and mercy.

The People kneel. Silence may be kept.

All 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.*

The People stand.

THE PRECES AND PSALTER

Music: *Gerre Hancock (1934-2012)*

Officiant O Lord, open thou our lips.
Choir And our mouth shall show forth thy praise.
Officiant O God, make speed to save us.
Choir O Lord, make haste to help us.
Officiant Glory 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.

The People sit. The Choir sing the Psalms for the eighth evening of the month.

Psalm 41 *Beatus qui intelligit*

Anglican Chant: *J. M. Ritchie*

- 1 Happy are they who consider the poor and needy! *
the Lord will deliver them in the time of trouble.
- 2 The Lord preserves them and keeps them alive,
so that they may be happy in the land; *
he does not hand them over to the will of their enemies.
- 3 The Lord sustains them on their sickbed *
and ministers to them in their illness.
- 4 I said, "Lord, be merciful to me; * heal me, for I have sinned against you."
- 5 My enemies are saying wicked things about me: *
"When will he die, and his name perish?"

- 6 Even if they come to see me, they speak empty words; *
their heart collects false rumors; they go outside and spread them.
- 7 All my enemies whisper together about me * and devise evil against me.
- 8 “A deadly thing,” they say, “has fastened on him; *
he has taken to his bed and will never get up again.”
- 9 Even my best friend, whom I trusted, who broke bread with me, *
has lifted up his heel and turned against me.
- 10 But you, O Lord, be merciful to me and raise me up, * and I shall repay them.
- 11 By this I know you are pleased with me, *
that my enemy does not triumph over me.
- 12 In my integrity you hold me fast, * and shall set me before your face for ever.
- 13 Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, * from age to age. Amen. Amen.
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.

Psalm 42 *Quemadmodum*

Anglican Chant: *J. Fenstermaker*

- 1 As the deer longs for the water brooks, * so longs my soul for you, O God.
- 2 My soul is athirst for God, athirst for the living God; *
when shall I come to appear before the presence of God?
- 3 My tears have been my food day and night, *
while all day long they say to me, “Where now is your God?”
- 4 I pour out my soul when I think on these things: *
how I went with the multitude and led them into the house of God,
- 5 With the voice of praise and thanksgiving, * among those who keep holy day.
- 6 Why are you so full of heaviness, O my soul? *
and why are you so disquieted within me?
- 7 Put your trust in God; * for I will yet give thanks to him,
who is the help of my countenance, and my God.
- 8 My soul is heavy within me; *
therefore I will remember you from the land of Jordan,
and from the peak of Mizar among the heights of Hermon.
- 9 One deep calls to another in the noise of your cataracts; *
all your rapids and floods have gone over me.

- 10 The Lord grants his loving kindness in the daytime; *
in the night season his song is with me, a prayer to the God of my life.
- 11 I will say to the God of my strength, “Why have you forgotten me? *
and why do I go so heavily while the enemy oppresses me?”
- 12 While my bones are being broken, * my enemies mock me to my face;
- 13 All day long they mock me * and say to me, “Where now is your God?”
- 14 Why are you so full of heaviness, O my soul? *
and why are you so disquieted within me?
- 15 Put your trust in God; * for I will yet give thanks to him,
who is the help of my countenance, and my God.

Psalm 43 *Judica me, Deus*

Anglican Chant: *J. Fenstermaker*

- 1 Give judgment for me, O God,
and defend my cause against an ungodly people; *
deliver me from the deceitful and the wicked.
- 2 For you are the God of my strength; why have you put me from you? *
and why do I go so heavily while the enemy oppresses me?
- 3 Send out your light and your truth, that they may lead me, *
and bring me to your holy hill and to your dwelling;
- 4 That I may go to the altar of God, to the God of my joy and gladness; *
and on the harp I will give thanks to you, O God my God.
- 5 Why are you so full of heaviness, O my soul? *
and why are you so disquieted within me?
- 6 Put your trust in God; * for I will yet give thanks to him,
who is the help of my countenance, and my God.

The People stand.

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 People sit.

THE LESSONS

First Lesson: Genesis 44:1-17

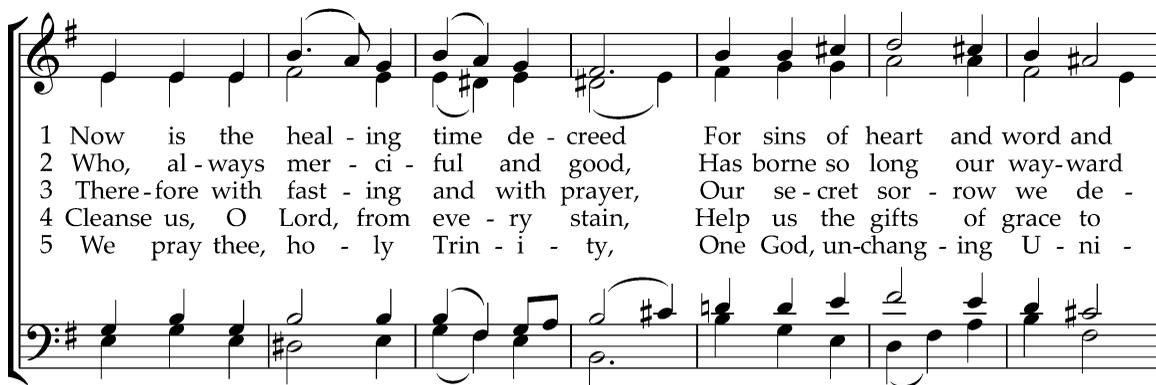
THEN JOSEPH COMMANDED THE STEWARD of his house, “Fill the men’s sacks with food, as much as they can carry, and put each man’s money in the top of his sack. Put my cup, the silver cup, in the top of the sack of the youngest, with his money for the grain.” And he did as Joseph told him. As soon as the morning was light, the men were sent away with their donkeys. When they had gone only a short distance from the city, Joseph said to his steward, “Go, follow after the men, and when you overtake them, say to them, ‘Why have you returned evil for good? Why have you stolen my silver cup? Is it not from this that my lord drinks? Does he not indeed use it for divination? You have done wrong in doing this.’ ”

When he overtook them, he repeated these words to them. They said to him, “Why does my lord speak such words as these? Far be it from your servants that they should do such a thing! Look, the money that we found at the top of our sacks, we brought back to you from the land of Canaan; why then would we steal silver or gold from your lord’s house? Should it be found with any one of your servants, let him die; moreover, the rest of us will become my lord’s slaves.” He said, “Even so; in accordance with your words, let it be: he with whom it is found shall become my slave, but the rest of you shall go free.” Then each one quickly lowered his sack to the ground, and each opened his sack. He searched, beginning with the eldest and ending with the youngest, and the cup was found in Benjamin’s sack. At this they tore their clothes. Then each one loaded his donkey, and they returned to the city.

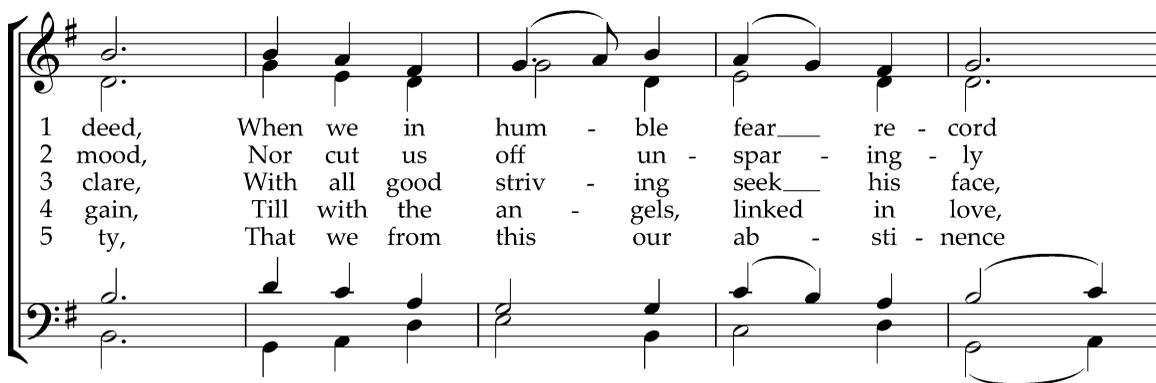
Judah and his brothers came to Joseph’s house while he was still there, and they fell to the ground before him. Joseph said to them, “What deed is this that you have done? Do you not know that one such as I can practice divination?” And Judah said, “What can we say to my lord? What can we speak? How can we clear ourselves? God has found out the guilt of your servants; here we are then, my lord’s slaves, both we and also the one in whose possession the cup has been found.” But he said, “Far be it from me that I should do so! Only the one in whose possession the cup was found shall be my slave, but as for you, go up in peace to your father.”

The People stand and sing the Office Hymn

Hymn: "Now is the healing time decreed"



1 Now is the heal - ing time de - creed For sins of heart and word and
2 Who, al - ways mer - ci - ful and good, Has borne so long our way - ward
3 There - fore with fast - ing and with prayer, Our se - cret sor - row we de -
4 Cleanse us, O Lord, from eve - ry stain, Help us the gifts of grace to
5 We pray thee, ho - ly Trin - i - ty, One God, un - chang - ing U - ni -



1 deed, When we in hum - ble fear re - cord
2 mood, Nor cut us off un - spar - ing - ly
3 clare, With all good striv - ing seek his face,
4 gain, Till with the an - gels, linked in love,
5 ty, That we from this our ab - sti - nence



1 The wrong that we have done the Lord:
2 In our so great in - iq - ui - ty.
3 And low - ly - heart - ed plead for grace.
4 Joy - ful we tread thy courts a - bove.
5 May reap the fruits of pen - i - tence. A - men.

ECCE TEMPUS IDONEUM

Words: Latin, tr. T. R. Lacey

Music: Jena, melody Melchior Vulpius; harm. J. S. Bach

The People remain standing as the Choir sing the Magnificat.

Magnificat

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.

Words: *Luke 1: 46-55 and Gloria Patri*
Music: *Oriel Service, Judith Bingham (b. 1952)*

The People sit.

Second Lesson: John 5:25-29

JESUS SAID, "Very truly, I tell you, the hour is coming and is now here when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live. For just as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself, and he has given him authority to execute judgment because he is the Son of Man. Do not be astonished at this, for the hour is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his voice and will come out: those who have done

good to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil to the resurrection of condemnation.”

The People stand. The Choir sing the Nunc dimittis.

Nunc dimittis

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.

Words: *Luke 2: 29-32 and Gloria Patri*
Music: *Judith Bingham*

The Apostles' Creed

Officiant I believe in God,
All 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

Officiant The Lord be with you.

Music: *Hancock*

Choir And with thy spirit.

Officiant Let us pray.

The People kneel.

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 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 Collect of the Day

Officiant Almighty God, who seest that we have no power of ourselves to help ourselves: Keep us both outwardly in our bodies and inwardly in our souls, that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Choir Amen.

A Seasonal Collect

Officiant Almighty and everlasting God, who hatest nothing that thou hast made and dost forgive the sins of all those who are penitent: Create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may obtain of thee, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Choir Amen.

A Collect for Peace

Officiant 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 our hearts may be set to obey thy commandments, and also that by thee, we, being defended from the fear of all enemies, may pass our time in rest and quietness; through the merits of Jesus Christ our Savior.

Choir Amen.

A Collect for Aid against Perils

Officiant 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 Savior Jesus Christ.

Choir Amen.

The People sit.

The Greeting

Anthem

TE LUCIS ANTE TERMINUM
Rerum Creator, poscimus
Ut pro tua clementia
Sis praesul et custodia.

Procul recedant somnia
Et noctium phantasmata,
Hostemque nostrum comprime
Ne polluantur corpora.

Praesta, Pater piissime
Patrique compar unice
Cum Spiritu Paraclito
Regnans per omne saeculum. Amen.

BEFORE THE ENDING OF THE DAY,
Creator of the world, we pray
That with Thy wonted favor Thou
Wouldst be our guard and keeper now.

From all ill dreams defend our eyes,
From nightly fears and fantasies;
Tread under foot our ghostly foe,
That no pollution we may know.

O Father, that we ask be done,
Through Jesus Christ thine only Son;
Who, with the Holy Ghost and Thee,
Doth live and reign eternally. Amen.

EVENING HYMN

Words: Roman Breviary (8th century),
tr. John Mason Neale (1818–1866)

Music: H. Balfour Gardiner (1877–1950)

The People kneel.

Closing Prayers

The Officiant offers prayers for the church, the nation, and the world.

The General Thanksgiving

All 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.

A Prayer of St. Chrysostom

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.

People Amen.

Officiant Let us bless the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

The Grace

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

2 Corinthians 13:14

People Amen.

The People stand and sing the hymn.

Hymn 701: "Jesus, all my gladness"

Jesu, meine Freude

The People remain standing as the Procession departs. The Choir then sing the Choral Orison from the narthex.

Choral Orison

GOD, that madest earth and heaven,
Darkness and light;
Who the day for toil hast given,
For rest the night;
May thine angel guards defend us,
Slumber sweet thy mercy send us,
Holy dreams and hopes attend us,
This livelong night.

Words: *Reginald Heber (1783–1826)*
Music: *AR HYD YNOS, Traditional Welsh Melody,*
harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872–1958)

Voluntary: Jesu, meine Freude, BWV 610

J. S. Bach
(1685–1750)

Bearing in mind that the Voluntary, like the liturgy that precedes it, is an offering to God's glory, the Congregation is asked to be seated or depart quietly.

All are cordially invited to a reception in the undercroft following this service.

The Rev. Dr. Nathan Haydon *Officiant*

The St. Peter's Singers
David Sinden *Choirmaster*
Joseph Arndt *Organist*
Sandy Peters *Crucifer*
DeWayne Trainer *Lector*
Mark Pye *Usher*

The Parish Staff

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The Rev. Dr. Nathan Haydon, Associate Rector	nhaydon@specstl.org
The Rev. Zack Rugenstone, Youth and Young Adult Minister	zackr@specstl.org
The Rev. Luke Jernagan, Assisting Clergy	lukejern@gmail.com
The Rev. Jay Kanzler, Assisting Clergy	jaykanzler@wkllc.com
The Rev. Susie Skinner, Assisting Clergy	susieskinner@gmail.com
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Mallory McClelland, Office Assistant	office@specstl.org
Regina Edwards, Sexton	sexton@specstl.org
Lisa Reynolds, Playgroup Director	playgroup@specstl.org

The Vestry

Cyd Alloway, Jane Anne Batjer, Clark Davis,
Amy Hilmer, Noelle Miles, Tim Noelker, Michael Orłowski,
Ben Park, William Schoenecker, Matt Sokolich,
Ann Spann, David Stuart, and Katelyn Wilson

UPCOMING SERVICES AND CONCERTS

Poetry and Music Holy Monday March 30 6:00 p.m.

Meditations for Holy Week. A Marian Passion Ballad. Witness the joys and sorrows of the Marys of the Gospels in a darkened church. This service alternates between poems selected and recited by Dr. Kathryn Haydon with improvised responses on the organ.

Choral Evensong Sunday April 12 5:00 p.m.

A traditional service of scripture, prayer, and music in the evening. On the Octave Day of Easter, this service includes music by G. F. Handel, Charles Villiers Stanford, and Martha Shaffer.

Organ Recital Sunday April 26 3:00 p.m.

Bach and the Baroque Organ Masters. Part of the 2026 St. Louis Bach Festival. Organists Sarah Bereza, Matthew Gerhardt and David Sinden perform works by J. S. Bach and those who inspired him. Tickets are free, but advanced registration at bachsociety.org/baroqueorgan is strongly recommended.



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