



# CHURCH *of the* INCARNATION

The Third Sunday *of* Easter

April 19, 2026

*Choral Evensong*

## ABOUT THIS SERVICE

The origins of Choral Evensong go back many centuries, and have their roots in the ancient patterns of monastic worship, which were based on the regular singing of all 150 psalms and the systematic reading of the Bible. Brief services, or offices, were said or sung throughout the day and night, in accordance with St. Paul's instruction to 'pray without ceasing', so that the whole of the daily routine of monks and nuns could be sanctified and offered to God. In the aftermath of the Reformation in England, the first *Book of Common Prayer* (published in 1549) combined elements from a number of the monastic offices to form the dual services of Morning Prayer and Evening Prayer, or Evensong. Each has as its central feature the recitation or singing of the Psalms; readings from Scripture; and prayers for the Church, the world, and those in need. Both services have fixed songs or canticles associated with them, including the *Magnificat* (the Song of Mary from St. Luke's Gospel) and the *Nunc dimittis* (the Song of Simeon from St. Luke's Gospel) at Evensong. This format was formalized in *The Book of Common Prayer 1662* and has remained largely unchanged ever since.

## ABOUT THE MUSIC

"Goss wrote a musical drama, *The Serjeant's Wife*, which ran at the London Lyceum for a hundred nights from 24 July 1827. He took to writing church music in later life. The anthem *If we believe that Jesus died* was written for the funeral of Arthur Wellesley, the first Duke of Wellington, who died at Walmer Castle, Kent, on 14 September 1852. He lay there in state until 10 November and then in Chelsea Hospital until his burial. The funeral was held at St Paul's on 17 November and 'Arthur, Duke of Wellington' was buried in the crypt. According to Marjie Bloy's contribution to *The Victorian Web*, Wellesley had declared himself in favour of Catholic emancipation as early as 1825 and, despite unpopularity in his political policies, in later years he was remembered for his military greatness as a general. His personality and inherent honesty impressed a whole generation and so it is no surprise that the sombre event in St Paul's that marked his passing should have had a suitably sober setting of the words from Saint Paul's first letter to the Thessalonians.

The opening phrase of Goss's anthem is quoted on his memorial tablet in the Chapel of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire in the crypt of St Paul's. The inscription reads: 'His genius and skill are shewn in the various compositions with which he has enriched the Music of the Church. His virtues and kindness of heart endeared him to his pupils and friends who have erected this monument in token of their admiration and esteem.'"

– *Note by William McVicker*



*Following this service, all are warmly invited to a reception in the Narthex.*

**Cover art:** *Evensong* (depicting St. Cecilia, patron saint of musicians), John Melhuish Strudwick

# SOLEMN EVENSONG

## Organ Voluntary

Résurrection *from* Symphonie-Passion, Op. 23

Marcel Dupré (1886–1971)

*All stand at the entrance of the procession. The Officiant first reads one or more sentences of Scripture.*

## Invitatory

Kenneth Leighton (1929–1988)

*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 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.*

## Psalm 114

*In exitu Israel*

Edward Bairstow (1874–1946)

**W**HEN Israel came out of Egypt : and the house of Jacob from among the strange people,  
Judah was his sanctuary : and Israel his dominion.

The sea saw that, and fled : Jordan was driven back.

The mountains skipped like rams : and the little hills like young sheep.

What aileth thee, O thou sea, that thou fleddest : and thou Jordan, that thou wast driven back?

Ye mountains, that ye skipped like rams : and ye little hills, like young sheep?

Tremble, thou earth, at the presence of the Lord : at the presence of the God of Jacob;

Who turned the hard rock into a standing water : and the flint-stone into a springing well.

*The People stand as the Choir sings*

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.*

## The First Lesson

Exodus 18:1–12

**J**ETHRO, the priest of Midian, Moses's father-in-law, heard of all that God had done for Moses and for his people Israel, how the LORD had brought Israel out of Egypt. After Moses had sent away his wife Zipporah, his father-in-law Jethro took her back, along with her two sons. The name of the one was Gershom (for he had said, "I have been an alien in a foreign land"), and the name of the other was Eliezer (for he had said, "The God of my father was my help and delivered me from the sword of Pharaoh"). Jethro, Moses's father-in-law, along with Moses's sons and wife, came into the wilderness where Moses was encamped at the mountain of God. He sent word to Moses, "I, your father-in-law Jethro, am coming to you, with your wife and her two sons." So Moses went out to meet his father-in-law; he bowed down and

kissed him; each asked after the other's welfare, and they went into the tent. Then Moses told his father-in-law all that the LORD had done to Pharaoh and to the Egyptians for Israel's sake, all the hardship that had found them on the way, and how the LORD had delivered them. Jethro rejoiced for all the good that the LORD had done to Israel, in delivering them from the Egyptians. Jethro said, "Blessed be the LORD, who has delivered you from the Egyptians and from Pharaoh. Now I know that the LORD is greater than all gods, because he delivered the people from the Egyptians, when they dealt arrogantly with them." And Jethro, Moses's father-in-law, brought a burnt offering and sacrifices to God, and Aaron came with all the elders of Israel to eat bread with Moses's father-in-law in the presence of God.

*All stand.*

**Magnificat**

*Service in A*

Charles Villiers Stanford (1852–1924)

**M**Y ✠ 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.*

**The Second Lesson**

Mark 16:9–20

**N**OW after Jesus rose early on the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, from whom he had cast out seven demons. She went out and told those who had been with him, while they were mourning and weeping. But when they heard that he was alive and had been seen by her, they would not believe it. After this he appeared in another form to two of them, as they were walking into the country. And they went back and told the rest, but they did not believe them. Later he appeared to the eleven themselves as they were sitting at the table, and he upbraided them for their lack of faith and stubbornness, because they had not believed those who saw him after he had risen. And he said to them, "Go into all the world and proclaim the good news to the whole creation. The one who believes and is baptized will be saved, but the one who does not believe will be condemned. And these signs will accompany those who believe: by using my name they will cast out demons; they will speak in new tongues; they will pick up snakes, and if they drink any deadly thing, it will not hurt them; they will lay their hands on the sick, and they will recover." So then the Lord Jesus, after he had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God. And they went out and proclaimed the good news everywhere, while the Lord worked with them and confirmed the message by the signs that accompanied it.

*All stand.*

**L**ORD, ✠ 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.

### The Apostle's Creed

*The People and Choir chant in unison*

**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.



... A - men.

### The Prayers

Kenneth Leighton

*Officiant* The Lord be with you.

*Choir* And with thy spirit.

*Officiant* Let us pray.

*All kneel as the Choir sings*

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

### The Lord's Prayer

**O**UR 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*

**O** GOD, whose blessed Son did manifest himself to his disciples in the breaking of bread: Open, we pray thee, the eyes of our faith, that we may behold him in all his redeeming work; through the same thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

*The 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 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 Savior. Amen.

*The Collect for Aid against all Perils*

**L**IGHTEN 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. Amen.

**Anthem**

John Goss (1800–1880)

**I**F we believe that Jesus died and rose again,  
Even so them also which sleep in Jesus,  
will God bring with him.  
Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

*1 Thessalonians 4:14, 18*

*All kneel.*

**The General Thanksgiving**

**A**Lmighty 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 Officiant then says A Prayer of St. Chrysostom, saying*

Almighty God, who hast given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplications unto thee; and dost promise, that when two or three are gathered together in thy Name thou wilt grant their requests; Fulfil now, O Lord, the desires and petitions of thy servants, as may be most expedient for them; granting us in this world knowledge of thy truth, and in the world to come life everlasting. *Amen.*

*All stand.*

### **The Dismissal**

*Officiant* The Lord be with you.

*Choir* And with thy spirit.

*Officiant* Let us bless the Lord.

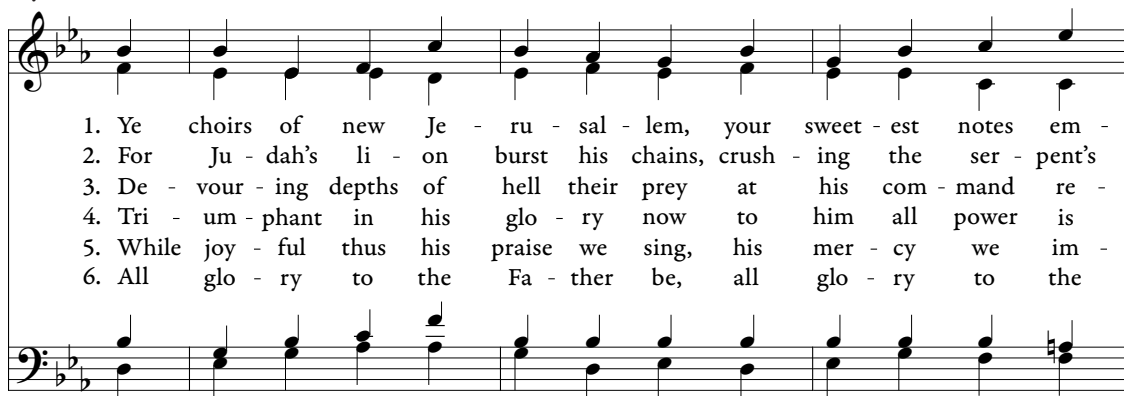
*Choir* Thanks be to God.

*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.

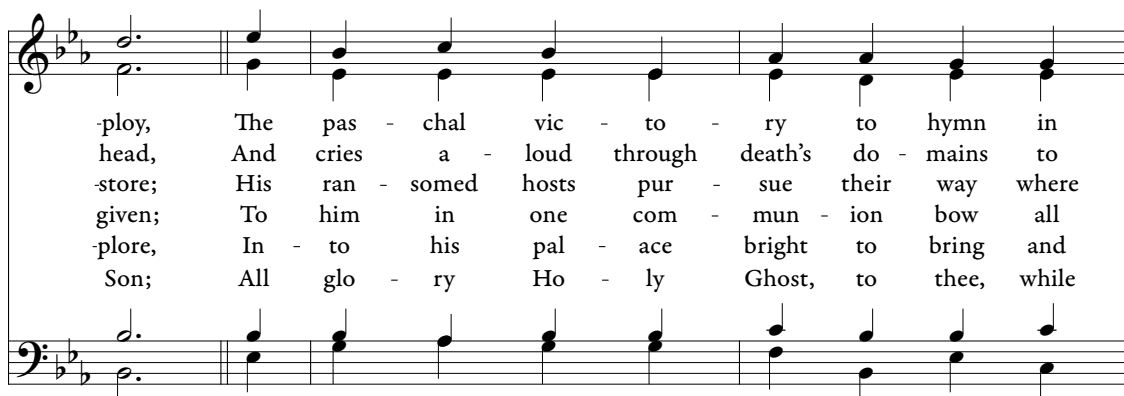
*Choir* Amen.

*Hymn printed overleaf.*

# Hymn



1. Ye choirs of new Je - ru - sal - lem, your sweet - est notes em -  
2. For Ju - dah's li - on burst his chains, crush - ing the ser - pent's  
3. De - vour - ing depths of hell their prey at his com - mand re -  
4. Tri - um - phant in his glo - ry now to him all power is  
5. While joy - ful thus his praise we sing, his mer - cy we im -  
6. All glo - ry to the Fa - ther be, all glo - ry to the



-ploy, The pas - chal vic - to - ry to hymn in  
head, And cries a - loud through death's do - mains to  
store; His ran - somed hosts pur - sue their way where  
given; To him in one com - mun - ion bow all  
-plore, In - to his pal - ace bright to bring and  
Son; All glo - ry Ho - ly Ghost, to thee, while



strains of ho - ly joy.  
wake the im - pris - oned dead.  
Je - sus goes be - fore.  
saints in earth and heaven.  
keep us ev - er - more.  
end - less a - ges run. Al - le - lu - ia! A - men.

Words: St. Fulbert of Chartres (d. 1028); tr. Robert Campbell (1814–1868)

Music: *St. Fulbert*, J. H. Fauntless (1805–1876)