



CHURCH *of the* INCARNATION

The Fourth Sunday *of* Easter

April 26, 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

We are happy to welcome today the choristers from Saint Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church, Dallas and their director, Mr. Tom Hammond-Davies. Tonight's repertoire features music that they will sing on their tour this summer to St. Paul's Cathedral, London. Please join us in welcoming them to Incarnation!



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

This afternoon Church of the Incarnation welcomes the choristers from Saint Michael and All Angels, Dallas, and their Director of Music, Tom Hammond-Davies.

Organ Voluntary

Reflections: After a French Air

Percy Whitlock (1903–1946)

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

Invitatory

Ferial

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 103

Benedic, anima mea

*Chants by G. H. Knight (1908–1979)
& Gerre Hancock (1934–2012)*

PRAISE the LORD, O my soul : and all that is within me, praise his holy Name.
Praise the LORD, O my soul : and forget not all his benefits:
Who forgiveth all thy sin : and health all thine infirmities;
Who saveth thy life from destruction : and crowneth thee with mercy and loving-kindness;
Who satisfieth thy mouth with good things : making thee young and lusty as an eagle.
The LORD executeth righteousness and judgment : for all them that are oppressed with wrong.
He showed his ways unto Moses : his works unto the children of Israel.
The LORD is full of compassion and mercy : long-suffering, and of great goodness.
He will not always be chiding : neither keepeth he his anger for ever.
He hath not dealt with us after our sins : nor rewarded us according to our wickednesses.
For look how high the heaven is in comparison of the earth :
 so great is his mercy also toward them that fear him.
Look how wide also the east is from the west : so far hath he set our sins from us.
Yea, like as a father pitieth his own children : even so is the LORD merciful unto them that fear him.
For he knoweth whereof we are made : he remembereth that we are but dust.
The days of man are but as grass : for he flourisheth as a flower of the field.
For as soon as the wind goeth over it, it is gone : and the place thereof shall know it no more.
But the merciful goodness of the LORD endureth for ever and ever upon them that fear him :
 and his righteousness upon children's children;
Even upon such as keep his covenant : and think upon his commandments to do them.

(psalm continued overleaf)

The LORD hath prepared his seat in heaven : and his kingdom ruleth over all.
O praise the LORD, ye angels of his, ye that excel in strength :
ye that fulfil his commandment, and hearken unto the voice of his word.
O praise the LORD, all ye his hosts : ye servants of his that do his pleasure.
O speak good of the LORD, all ye works of his, in all places of his dominion :
praise thou the LORD, O my soul.

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 28:1-4, 30-38

THE LORD said to Moses: “Then bring near to you your brother Aaron and his sons with him, from among the Israelites, to serve me as priests—Aaron and Aaron’s sons: Nadab and Abihu, Eleazar and Ithamar. You shall make sacred vestments for the glorious adornment of your brother Aaron. And you shall speak to all who are skillful, whom I have endowed with skill, so that they make Aaron’s vestments to consecrate him for my priesthood. These are the vestments that they shall make: a breastpiece, an ephod, a robe, a checkered tunic, a turban, and a sash. When they make these sacred vestments for your brother Aaron and his sons to serve me as priests, they shall use gold, blue, purple, and crimson yarns and fine linen.” In the breastpiece of judgment you shall put the Urim and the Thummim, and they shall be on Aaron’s heart when he goes in before the LORD; thus Aaron shall bear the judgment of the Israelites on his heart before the LORD continually. “You shall make the robe of the ephod all of blue. It shall have an opening for the head in the middle of it, with a woven binding around its edge, like the opening in a garment, so that it may not be torn. On its lower hem you shall make pomegranates of blue, purple, and crimson yarns, all around the lower hem, with bells of gold between them all around—a golden bell and a pomegranate alternating all around the lower hem of the robe. Aaron shall wear it when he ministers, and its sound shall be heard when he goes into the holy place before the LORD and when he comes out, so that he may not die. You shall make a rosette of pure gold and engrave on it, like the engraving of a signet, ‘Holy to the LORD.’ You shall fasten it on the turban with a blue cord; it shall be on the front of the turban. It shall be on Aaron’s forehead, and Aaron shall take on himself any guilt incurred in the holy offerings that the Israelites consecrate as their sacred donations; it shall always be on his forehead, in order that they may find favor before the LORD.”

All stand.

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.

The Second Lesson

Mark 6:30-44

THE apostles gathered around Jesus and told him all that they had done and taught. He said to them, "Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest a while." For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat. And they went away in the boat to a deserted place by themselves. Now many saw them going and recognized them, and they hurried there on foot from all the towns and arrived ahead of them. As he went ashore, he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion for them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd, and he began to teach them many things. When it grew late, his disciples came to him and said, "This is a deserted place, and the hour is now very late; send them away so that they may go into the surrounding country and villages and buy something for themselves to eat." But he answered them, "You give them something to eat." They said to him, "Are we to go and buy two hundred denarii worth of bread and give it to them to eat?" And he said to them, "How many loaves have you? Go and see." When they had found out, they said, "Five, and two fish." Then he ordered them to get all the people to sit down in groups on the green grass. So they sat down in groups of hundreds and of fifties. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and blessed and broke the loaves and gave them to his disciples to set before the people, and he divided the two fish among them all. And all ate and were filled, and they took up twelve baskets full of broken pieces and of the fish. Those who had eaten the loaves numbered five thousand men.

All stand.

Nunc Dimittis

Service in A-flat

Sarah MacDonald

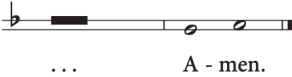
LORD, ✠ now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word; for mine eyes have seen thy salvation, which thou hast prepared before the face of all people, to be a light to lighten the Gentiles, and to be the glory of thy people Israel.

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.

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.



The Prayers

Ferial

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

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 For it is thou Lord only that makest us dwell in safety.

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 Son Jesus is the good shepherd of thy people: Grant that when we hear his voice we may know him who calleth us each by name, and follow where he doth lead; who, with thee and the Holy Spirit, liveth and reigneth, one God, for ever and 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

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. Amen.

Anthem

Bob Chilcott (b. 1955)

GOD so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son that whoso believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

John 3:16

All kneel.

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 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 34

Christ, mighty Savior, Light of all creation

Innisfree Farm



Sunday morning Holy Eucharist with choir: 9 a.m. & 11:15 a.m.

Podcasts of Evensong services are published weekly at incarnation.org/evensong



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