



CHURCH *of the*
INCARNATION

The Day of Pentecost

Whitsunday

May 24, 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

Kenneth Leighton is one of the most distinctive voices in English church music. With its strong rhythmic propulsion, his music epitomizes the new sound-world that emerged after the Second World War. Leighton had a deep connection to church music, having sung as a boy chorister at Wakefield Cathedral, but his imagination was never confined to the church. He was also a major composer of orchestral and instrumental music, and that broader musical world can be heard clearly in this service. The organ does not merely support the choir; it has a powerful, lively voice of its own. The result is music rooted in Anglican tradition but full of drama and energy.

We welcome Dr. Malcolm Matthews who is Professor of Organ at the University of North Texas and thank him for serving as our organist today.



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

Komm, Heiliger Geist, BWV 651

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)

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

Invitatory

Gabriel Jackson (b. 1962)

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 145

Exaltabo te, Deus Chants by Thomas Hanforth (1867–1948)

& Owen Reid (b. 1994)

I WILL magnify thee, O God, my King : and I will praise thy Name for ever and ever.

Every day will I give thanks unto thee : and praise thy Name for ever and ever.

Great is the LORD, and marvellous worthy to be praised : there is no end of his greatness.

One generation shall praise thy works unto another : and declare thy power.

As for me, I will be talking of thy worship : thy glory, thy praise, and wondrous works;

So that men shall speak of the might of thy marvellous acts : and I will also tell of thy greatness.

The memorial of thine abundant kindness shall be shewed : and men shall sing of thy righteousness.

The LORD is gracious, and merciful : long-suffering, and of great goodness.

The LORD is loving unto every man : and his mercy is over all his works.

All thy works praise thee, O LORD : and thy saints give thanks unto thee.

They shew the glory of thy kingdom : and talk of thy power;

That thy power, thy glory, and mightiness of thy kingdom : might be known unto men.

Thy kingdom is an everlasting kingdom : and thy dominion endureth throughout all ages.

The LORD upholdeth all such as fall : and lifteth up all those that are down.

The eyes of all wait upon thee, O Lord : and thou givest them their meat in due season.

Thou openest thine hand : and fillest all things living with plenteousness.

The LORD is righteous in all his ways : and holy in all his works.

The LORD is nigh unto all them that call upon him : yea, all such as call upon him faithfully.

He will fulfil the desire of them that fear him : he also will hear their cry, and will help them.

The LORD preserveth all them that love him : but scattereth abroad all the ungodly.

My mouth shall speak the praise of the LORD :

and let all flesh give thanks unto his holy Name for ever and ever.

(the psalm continues overleaf)

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

Deuteronomy 16:9–12

MOSES said to the Israelites: “You shall count seven weeks; begin to count the seven weeks from the time the sickle is first put to the standing grain. Then you shall keep the Festival of Weeks to the LORD your God, contributing a freewill offering in proportion to the blessing that you have received from the LORD your God. Rejoice before the LORD your God—you and your sons and your daughters, your male and female slaves, the Levites resident in your towns, as well as the strangers, the orphans, and the widows who are among you—at the place that the LORD your God will choose as a dwelling for his name. Remember that you were a slave in Egypt, and diligently observe these statutes.”

All stand.

Magnificat

Collegium Magdalene Oxoniense Kenneth Leighton (1929–1988)

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

John 4:19–26

THE woman at the well said to Jesus, “Sir, I see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem.” Jesus said to her, “Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming and is now here when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.” The woman said to him, “I know that Messiah is coming” (who is called Christ). “When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us.” Jesus said to her, “I am he, the one who is speaking to you.”

All stand.

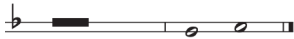
LORD, ✠ now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word; for mine eyes have seen thy salvation, which thou hast prepared before the face of all people, to be a light to lighten the Gentiles, and to be the glory of thy people Israel.

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

IBELIEVE 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

Gabriel Jackson

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 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

ALmighty God, who on this day didst open the way of eternal life to every race and nation by the promised gift of thy Holy Spirit: Shed abroad this gift throughout the world by the preaching of the Gospel, that it may reach to the ends of the earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of the same Spirit, 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

Grayston Ives (b. 1948)

LISTEN sweet dove unto my song,
And spread thy golden wings in me;
Hatching my tender heart so long,
Till it get wing and flie away with thee.

Such glorious gifts thou didst bestow
The earth did like a heav'n appeare,
The starres were coming down to know
If they might mend their wages and serve here.

The sunne which once did shine alone,
Hung down his head and wisht for night,
When he beheld twelve sunnes for one
Going about the world and giving light.

Lord though we change thou art the same,
The same sweet God of love and light:
Restore this day for thy great name,
Unto his ancient and miraculous right.

George Herbert (1593–1633)

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

Gabriel Jackson

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

Salisbury



1. Ho - ly Spi - rit, e - ver dwell - ing In the ho - liest realms of light;
 2. Ho - ly Spi - rit, e - ver liv - ing As the Church's ve - ry life;
 3. Ho - ly Spi - rit, e - ver work - ing Through the Church's mi - nis - try;



Ho - ly Spi - rit, e - ver brood - ing O'er a world of gloom and night;
 Ho - ly Spi - rit, e - ver striv - ing Through her in a cease - less strife;
 Quick'ning, strength'ning, and ab - sol - ving, Set - ting cap - tive sin - ners free;



Ho - ly Spi - rit, e - ver rai - sing Sons of earth to
 Ho - ly Spi - rit, e - ver form - ing In the Church the
 Ho - ly Spi - rit, e - ver bind - ing Age to age, and



thrones on high; Liv - ing life - - im - part - ing
 mind of Christ; Thee we praise with end - less
 soul to soul; In a fel - - low - ship un -



Spi - rit, Thee we praise and mag - ni - fy.
 wor - ship For thy fruit and gifts un - priced.
 - end - ing Thee we wor - ship and ex - tol.

Words: Timothy Rees (1874–1939)

Music: *Salisbury*, Herbert Howells (1892–1983)