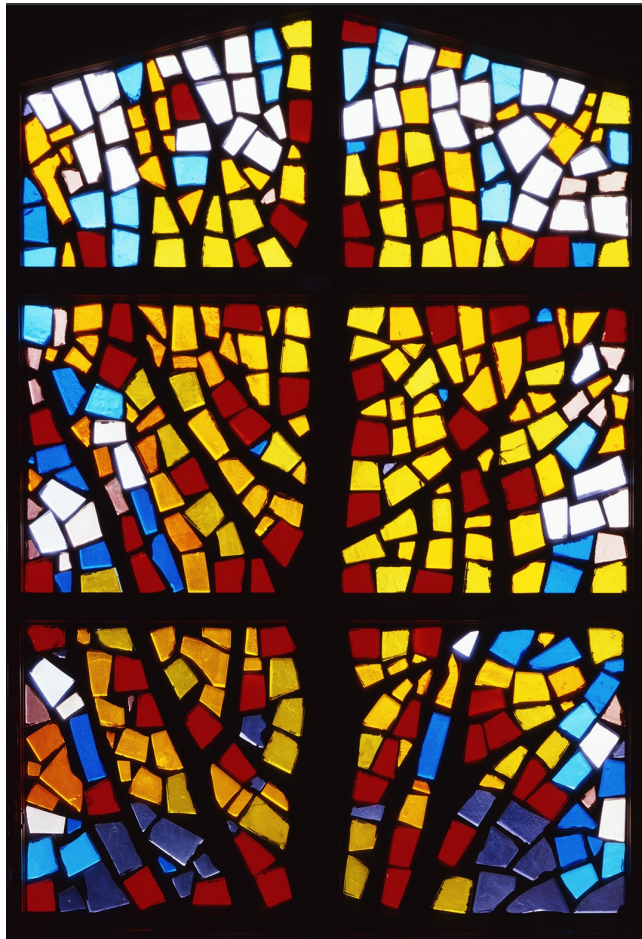


Choral Evensong
The Next Sunday Before Lent

Sunday, March 2, 2025
6:00 pm



Trinity on the Hill Episcopal Church
Los Alamos

Evensong Explained

The service of Evensong, or Evening Prayer, is a combination and a development of the daily Monastic services. Monks and Nuns would be summoned to worship at midnight to welcome the new day. After this, they would go back to bed until dawn, when they returned to the church to sing Lauds. During the day, the third, sixth and ninth hours – measured from 6 o'clock in the morning – were marked by the services Terce, Sext and Nones. At sunset, Vespers would be sung, followed by Compline, the last thing at night. This seven-fold pattern of worship is very ancient, and can be traced back to when then Jews were exiled to Babylon, far away from the Temple. At that time, they learned to “sing the Lord's song in a strange land”, as the psalmist says, without altar or sacrifice. The services are mentioned in other psalms, for example “Seven times a day will I praise Thee,” and “At midnight I will rise to give thanks unto Thee.” When the Gospels mention Jesus and his disciples reading scripture, praying and singing psalms, they would be almost certainly using one of these forms of worship.

At the English reformation, Cranmer and others saw the importance of continuing this tradition that predates even the establishment of synagogues. However, the reformers were also determined to re-democratize Christianity - to involve the whole of the community in worship - and recognized that it was too much to expect the whole parish to gather seven times a day. So, the first two monastic services were combined into Morning Prayer, Vespers and Compline were put together as Evening Prayer, and the services were translated into English. Cranmer and his colleagues were also determined that the congregation should know and love the psalter and the scriptures; hence, the very short readings and the restricted number of psalms used at Compline were replaced by a Lectionary giving a schedule for singing of all of the psalms, plus a complete list of long readings from the Old and New Testaments, setting out the Gospel, the Good News.

Although here we use the 1662 Book of Common Prayer text for Evensong, most of the English text of the central part of the service was already in use by 1549. The Introduction, consisting of Sentences, Exhortation, Confession and Absolution, was added in 1552, as were the Intercessions that conclude the service. The distinction is preserved to this day, with the Introduction and Intercessions being spoken, and the central section – derived entirely from scripture and as used in the ancient services - being sung. The fact that two services are combined has resulted in the Lord's Prayer occurring twice!

Evensong has inspired many composers to set the texts to music. These range from late Renaissance composers, such as Thomas Tallis, William Byrd and Orlando Gibbons, to the high Victorian geniuses such as Charles Villiers Stanford, Charles Hubert Hastings Parry, Thomas Attwood Walmisley, and later masters of the form such as Herbert Murrill, Herbert Howells, and Basil Harwood. This wealth of excellent music has ensured that, after a period of decline, Evensong is a growth area within modern Christianity, both within the Anglican-Episcopalian Communion and as an export; perhaps surprisingly, an increasing number of non-Anglican churches in Germany, the Netherlands and other countries are celebrating Evensong (in English!) so that their choirs and congregations can experience the wonderful music and Cranmer's stirring language.

So, when we are asked “What did Jesus do?”, one of our possible answers is that He and the disciples often celebrated something very closely related to Evensong. We hope to continue to develop our use of this service.

The congregation is invited to join in saying the text printed in bold.

Please join us for a reception in Kelly Hall after the service.

Officiant: Dearly beloved brethren, the Scripture moveth us in sundry places to acknowledge and confess our manifold sins and wickedness; and that we should not dissemble nor cloak them before the face of almighty God our heavenly Father; but confess them with an humble, lowly, penitent and obedient heart; to the end that we may obtain forgiveness of the same by his infinite goodness and mercy. And although we ought at all times humbly to acknowledge our sins before God; yet ought we most chiefly so to do, when we assemble and meet together to render thanks for the great benefits that we have received at his hands, to set forth his most worthy praise, to hear his most holy word, and to ask those things which are requisite and necessary, well for the body as the soul. Wherefore I pray and beseech you, as many as are here present, to accompany me with a pure heart, and humble voice, unto the throne of the heavenly grace, saying:

Please kneel or sit

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; and there is no health in us. But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us, miserable offenders. Spare thou them, O God, which confess their faults. Restore thou them that are penitent; according to thy promises declared unto mankind in Christ Jesu 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.

Officiant:* Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who desireth not the death of a sinner, but rather that he may turn from his wickedness and live; and hath given power, and commandment, to his ministers to declare and pronounce to his people, being penitent, the absolution and remission of their sins: he pardoneth and absolveth all them that truly repent and unfeignedly believe his holy gospel. Wherefore let us beseech him to grant us true repentance, and his Holy Spirit, that those things may please him which we do at this present; and that the rest of our life hereafter may be pure and holy; so that at the last we may come to his eternal joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*(*Should the Minister be a member of the laity, the following prayer shall instead be used:*

Lay Minister: Grant, we beseech thee, merciful Lord, to thy faithful people pardon and peace; that they may be cleansed from all their sins, and serve thee with a quiet mind; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.)

**Our Father, which art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done,
in earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive them that trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

Please stand

Preces sung by the Choir

Thomas Tallis (1505-1585)

Cantor: O Lord, open thou our lips
Choir: and our mouth shall shew forth thy praise.
Cantor: O God, make speed to save us.
Choir: O Lord, make haste to help us.
Cantor: 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.
Cantor: Praise ye the Lord!
Choir: The Lord's name be praised.

Please sit for the Psalm, Lessons, Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis.

Psalm 13 *Usquequo, Domino?* sung by the Choir

- 1 How long, O LORD? will you forget me for ever? *
how long will you hide your face from me?
- 2 How long shall I have perplexity in my mind,
and grief in my heart, day after day? *
how long shall my enemy triumph over me?
- 3 Look upon me and answer me, O LORD my God; *
give light to my eyes, lest I sleep in death;
- 4 Lest my enemy say, "I have prevailed over him," *
and my foes rejoice that I have fallen.
- 5 But I put my trust in your mercy; *
my heart is joyful because of your saving help.
- 6 I will sing to the LORD, for he has dealt with me richly; *
I will praise the Name of the Lord Most High.

The First Lesson: Genesis 6:5-22

And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. And it repented the LORD that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart. And the LORD said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air; for it repenteth me that I have made them. But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD.

These are the generations of Noah: Noah was a just man and perfect in his generations, and Noah walked with God. And Noah begat three sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth.

The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence. And God looked upon the earth, and, behold, it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted his way upon the earth. And God said unto Noah, The end of all flesh is come before me; for the earth is filled with violence through them; and, behold, I will destroy them with the earth. Make thee an ark of gopher wood; rooms shalt thou make in the ark, and shalt pitch it within and without with pitch. And this is the fashion which thou shalt make it of: The length of the ark shall be three hundred cubits, the breadth of it fifty cubits, and the height of it thirty cubits. A window shalt thou make to the ark, and in a cubit shalt thou finish it above; and the door of the ark shalt thou set in the side thereof; with lower, second, and third stories shalt thou make it. And, be-

hold, I, even I, do bring a flood of waters upon the earth, to destroy all flesh, wherein is the breath of life, from under heaven; and every thing that is in the earth shall die. But with thee will I establish my covenant; and thou shalt come into the ark, thou, and thy sons, and thy wife, and thy sons' wives with thee. And of every living thing of all flesh, two of every sort shalt thou bring into the ark, to keep them alive with thee; they shall be male and female. Of fowls after their kind, and of cattle after their kind, of every creeping thing of the earth after his kind, two of every sort shall come unto thee, to keep them alive. And take thou unto thee of all food that is eaten, and thou shalt gather it to thee; and it shall be for food for thee, and for them. Thus did Noah; according to all that God commanded him, so did he.

Here endeth the First Lesson.

Magnificat sung by the Choir

Harold Friedell (1905-1958)

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.

The Second Lesson: Luke 17:20-37

And when he was demanded of the Pharisees, when the kingdom of God should come, he answered them and said, The kingdom of God cometh not with observation: Neither shall they say, Lo here! or, lo there! for, behold, the kingdom of God is within you.

And he said unto the disciples, The days will come, when ye shall desire to see one of the days of the Son of man, and ye shall not see it. And they shall say to you, See here; or, see there: go not after them, nor follow them. For as the lightning, that lighteneth out of the one part under heaven, shineth unto the other part under heaven; so shall also the Son of man be in his day. But first must he suffer many things, and be rejected of this generation. And as it was in the days of Noe, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man. They did eat, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered into the ark, and the flood came, and destroyed them all. Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded; but the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all. Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed. In that day, he which shall be upon the housetop, and his stuff in the house, let him not come down to take it away: and he that is in the field, let him likewise not return back. Remember Lot's wife. Whosoever shall seek to save his life shall lose it; and whosoever shall

lose his life shall preserve it. I tell you, in that night there shall be two men in one bed; the one shall be taken, and the other shall be left. Two women shall be grinding together; the one shall be taken, and the other left. Two men shall be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left. And they answered and said unto him, Where, Lord? And he said unto them, Wheresoever the body is, thither will the eagles be gathered together.

Here endeth the Second Lesson.

Nunc dimittis sung by the Choir

Harold Friedell (1905-1958)

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.

The Apostles' Creed (*Please stand as you are able*)

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.

Cantor: The Lord be with you.

Choir: And with thy spirit.

Cantor: Let us pray

Please kneel or sit

Choir: Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.

Our Father, which art in heaven,

hallowed be thy name;

thy kingdom come;

thy will be done,

in earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses,

as we forgive them that trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation;

but deliver us from evil. Amen.

Cantor: O Lord, shew thy mercy upon us.

Choir: And grant us thy salvation.

Cantor: O Lord, save the State.

Choir: And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.

Cantor: Endue thy ministers with righteousness.

Choir: And make thy chosen people joyful.

Cantor: O Lord, save thy people.
Choir: And bless thine inheritance.
Cantor: Give peace in our time, O Lord.
Choir: Because there is none other that fighteth for us, but only thou, O God.
Cantor: O God, make clean our hearts within us.
Choir: And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.

The Collect for the Next Sunday before Lent (Quinquagesima)

O Lord, who hast taught us that all our doings without charity are nothing worth: Send thy Holy Ghost and pour into our hearts that most excellent gift of charity, the very bond of peace and of all virtues, without which whosoever liveth is counted dead before thee. Grant this for thine only son Jesus Christ's sake. 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 both, 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 Saviour. Amen.

The Collect for Aid against 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 Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Choir Anthem: "Ye Servants of Th'all Bounteous Lord" Samuel Webbe, Jr. (1770-1843)

Offertory Hymn: "My faith looks up to thee" Hymnal 691

The Intercessions

Please kneel or sit.

A Prayer of St Chrysostom

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.**

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.**

Closing Hymn: "Immortal, invisible, God only wise" Hymnal 423

Organ Postlude

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