



CHORAL EVENSONG

See Page 5 for monthly insert

Welcome to this service. Evensong hangs on the wall of English life like an old, familiar cloak passed through the generations. Rich with prayer and scripture, it is nevertheless totally nonthreatening. It is a service into which all can stumble without censure--a rambling old house where everyone can find some corner to sit and think, to listen with half-attention, trailing a few absentminded fingers of faith or doubt in its passing stream. Most religious celebrations gather us around a table of some sort. They hand us a book or a plate, or speak a word of demanding response. They want to 'touch' us. Choral Evensong is a liturgical expression of Christ's *Nolle me tangere* -- 'Do not touch me. I have not yet ascended to my Father' (St. John 20:17). It reminds us that thresholds can be powerful places of contemplation; and that leaving someone alone with their thoughts is not always denying them hospitality or welcome. Please join in the parts of the service printed in bold type. *Stephen Hough*

The service begins with an organ prelude. Please stand when the choir and clergy enter the Cathedral.

OPENING PRECES - *Sung by the choir*

OFFICE HYMN - *Sung by everyone from the insert*

The congregation may be seated and remain seated until the prayers.

PSALM - *Sung by the choir*

FIRST LESSON

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People **Thanks be to God**

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. *Gloria.*

SECOND LESSON

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People **Thanks be to God.**

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. *Gloria*

Please stand.

APOSTLE'S CREED - *Spoken by all*

**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 power of 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.

RESPONSES, LORD'S PRAYER, AND COLLECTS - *Sung by the choir*

Please be seated.

GREETING

ANTHEM

After the anthem, please stand or kneel.

SPOKEN PRAYERS *Everyone joins on one of the following prayers:*

1) A General Thanksgiving

God of all mercies, we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks for all your goodness and loving kindness to us and to all whom you have made. We bless you for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all for your immeasurable 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 pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies, that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives, by giving up our selves to your service, and by walking before you in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.

2) Night Prayer (New Zealand Prayer Book)

Be present, Spirit of God, within us, your dwelling place and home, that this house may be one where all darkness is penetrated by your light, all troubles calmed by your peace, all evil redeemed by your love, all pain transformed in your suffering, and all dying glorified in your risen life. Amen.

3) Night Prayer (New Zealand Prayer Book)

Lord, it is night. The night is for stillness. Let us be still in the presence of God. It is night after a long day. What has been done has been done; what has not been done has not been done; let it be. The night is dark. Let our fears of the darkness of the world and of our own lives rest in you. The night is quiet. Let the quietness of your peace enfold us, all dear to us, and all who have no peace. The night heralds the dawn. Let us look expectantly to a new day, new joys, new possibilities. In your name we pray. Amen.

4) A Thanksgiving (New Zealand Prayer Book)

Dear God, thank you for all that is good, for our creation and our humanity, for the stewardship you have given us of this planet earth, for the gifts of life and of one another, for your love which is unbounded and eternal. O most holy and beloved, our Companion, our Guide upon the way, our bright evening star. Amen.

5) Collect (John Donne)

Bring us, O Lord God, at our last awakening into the house and gate of heaven. To enter into that gate and dwell in that house where there shall be no darkness or dazzling, but one equal light; no noise or silence, but one equal music; no fears, nor hopes, but one equal possession; no ends nor beginnings, but one equal eternity; in the habitations of thy glory and dominion, world without end. Amen.

CONCLUDING VERSICLE AND RESPONSE

Cantor:

Let us bless the Lord.

EVERYONE:

Thanks be to God.

BLESSING

HYMN - *Sung by everyone from the insert*

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

Please remain standing while the choir and clergy leave the Cathedral.

Please return this leaflet. It will be re-used for the next Choral Evensong service.

CHORAL EVENSONG AT TRINITY CATHEDRAL
Cleveland, Ohio
May 2023

3 May **Elisabeth Cruciger**
Choir Trinity Chamber Singers
Officiant The Rev. Peter Faass
Hymns The Only Son from Heaven, Give Thanks for Music-making Art
Psalm 26
Responses James Buonemani (b. 1956)
Service Herbert Howells, Collegium Regale (1892-1983)
Anthem Blest Pair of Sirens – Charles Hubert H. Parry (1848-1918)

10 May **Johann Arndt and Jacob Boehme**
Choir Illuminare Chamber Choir (Youngstown, OH)
Officiant The Very Rev. Bernard J. Owens
Hymns 669, 677
Psalm 119:137-44
Responses Jack Richard Hodkinson
Service E. J. Moeran in D (1894-1950)
Anthem O Strength and Stay – Eric Thiman (1900-1975)

Thursday, 18 May, 6PM

Choral Eucharist for Ascension Day

Anthems

3 May: Blest Pair of Sirens – Charles Hubert H. Parry (1848-1918)

John Milton, "At a Solemn Musick"

Blest pair of Sirens, pledges of Heav'n's joy,
Sphere-born, harmonious sisters, Voice and Verse,
Wed your divine sounds, and mixt power employ,
Dead things with inbreathed sense able to pierce.
And to our high-raised phantasy present
That undisturbèd song of pure concent,
Aye sung before the sapphire-coloured throne
To Him that sits thereon,
With saintly shout and solemn jubilee;
Where the bright Seraphim, in burning row,
Their loud, uplifted angel-trumpets blow,
And the Cherubic host, in thousand quires,
Touch their immortal harps of golden wires,
With those just spirits that wear victorious palms,
Hymns devout and holy psalms
Singing everlastingly.
That we on earth with undiscording voice
May rightly answer that melodious noise;
As once we did, till disproportioned sin
Jarred against nature's chime, and with harsh din
Broke the fair music that all creatures made
To their great Lord, whose love their motion swayed
In perfect diapason, whilst they stood
In first obedience, and their state of good.
O may we soon again renew that song,
And keep in tune with Heav'n, till God ere long
To His celestial concert us unite,
To live with Him, and sing in endless morn of light.

10 May: O Strength and Stay – Eric Thiman (1900-1975)

O strength and stay upholding all creation,
who ever dost thyself unmoved abide,
yet day by day the light in due gradation
from hour to hour through all its changes guide;

Grant to life's day a calm unclouded ending,
an eve untouched by shadows of decay,
the brightness of a holy death-bed blending
with dawning glories of the eternal day.

Hear us, O Father, gracious and forgiving,
through Jesus Christ thy co-eternal Word,
who with the Holy Ghost by all things living
now and to endless ages art adored.