



ST. THOMAS EPISCOPAL CHURCH
in the City of Battle Creek—the Diocese of Western Michigan

CHORAL EVENSONG

sung by
The St. Thomas Choristers

The Third Sunday of Easter
18 April 2021
5:00pm

A note concerning the service

Based on the services held daily in the medieval Church, Choral Evensong (as arranged in the Book of Common Prayer) has been sung regularly since the Sixteenth Century. Many people enjoy Choral Evensong because it provides opportunity for contemplation and reflection. The service utilizes the 1662 Book of Common Prayer and includes readings (just as would occur at Evening Prayer) and prayers led by a priest. A Psalm, anthem, and a setting of the *Magnificat* and the *Nunc dimittis* are sung by the choir.

Participants in today's service:

Officiant: Fr. Brian Coleman
Lector: Keith Phillips
Organist & Choirmaster Dr. Stephen White
The St. Thomas Choristers
Ciara Bowen
Halle Burrows
Esther Hedin
Naomi (Milo) Hedin
Caroline Leblanc
Quinn Nickerson
Macarena Ortiz-Sosa
Anayah Taylor
Nicole Wiley

☞ ORDER OF SERVICE ☞

Voluntary *Der Tag, der ist so Freudenreich, BWV 605* J. S. Bach
(1685-1750)

Welcome

The Preces Michael Cowgill
(b. 1951)

V O Lord, open thou our lips;
R And our mouth shall show forth thy praise.
V O God, make speed to save us:
R O Lord, make haste to help us.
R Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Ghost:
R As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be:
world without end. Amen.
R Praise ye the Lord.
R The Lord's name be praised.

Psalm 114 Anglican chant: William Boyce
(1711-1779)

- 1 Hallelujah! When Israel came out of Egypt,*
the house of Jacob from a people of strange speech.
- 2 Judah became God's Sanctuary*
and Israel his dominion.
- 3 The sea beheld it and fled;*
Jordan turned and went back.
- 4 The mountains skipped like rams,*
and the little hills like young sheep.
- 5 What ailed you, O seas, that you fled?*
- O Jordan, that you turned back?
- 6 You mountains, that you skipped like rams?*
- you little hills like young sheep?
- 7 Tremble, O earth, at the presence of the LORD,*
at the presence of the God of Jacob,
- 8 Who turned the hard rock into a pool of water*
and flint-stone into a flowing spring.

Psalm 115

Anglican chant: William Crotch
(1775-1847)

- 1 Not to us, O LORD, not to us, but to your Name give glory; *
because of your love and because of your faithfulness.
- 2 Why should the heathen say, *
“Where then is their God?”
- 3 Our God is in heaven; *
whatever he wills to do he does.
- 4 Their idols are silver and gold, *
the work of human hands.
- 5 They have mouths, but they cannot speak; *
eyes have they, but they cannot see;
- 6 They have ears, but they cannot hear; *
noses, but they cannot smell;
- 7 They have hands, but they cannot feel; feet, but they cannot walk; *
they make no sound with their throat.
- 8 Those who make them are like them, *
and so are all who put their trust in them.
- 9 O Israel, trust in the LORD; *
he is their help and their shield.
- 10 O house of Aaron, trust in the LORD; *
he is their help and their shield.
- 11 You who fear the LORD, trust in the LORD; *
he is their help and their shield.
- 12 The LORD has been mindful of us, and he will bless us; *
he will bless the house of Israel;
he will bless the house of Aaron;
- 13 He will bless those who fear the LORD, *
both small and great together.
- 14 May the LORD increase you more and more, *
you and your children after you.
- 15 May you be blessed by the LORD, *
the maker of heaven and earth.
- 16 The heaven of heavens is the LORD’S, *
but he entrusted the earth to its peoples.

- 17 The dead do not praise the LORD, *
nor all those who go down into silence;
- 18 But we will bless the LORD, *
from this time forth for ever/more. Hallelujah!
- Glory to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit.
- As it was in the beginning is now
and will be for ever. Amen.

The First Lesson

Daniel 4:1-18

King Nebuchadnezzar to all peoples, nations, and languages that live throughout the earth: May you have abundant prosperity! The signs and wonders that the Most High God has worked for me I am pleased to recount. How great are his signs, how mighty his wonders! His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and his sovereignty is from generation to generation. I, Nebuchadnezzar, was living at ease in my home and prospering in my palace. I saw a dream that frightened me; my fantasies in bed and the visions of my head terrified me. So I made a decree that all the wise men of Babylon should be brought before me, in order that they might tell me the interpretation of the dream. Then the magicians, the enchanters, the Chaldeans, and the diviners came in, and I told them the dream, but they could not tell me its interpretation. At last Daniel came in before me—he who was named Belteshazzar after the name of my god, and who is endowed with a spirit of the holy gods—and I told him the dream: “O Belteshazzar, chief of the magicians, I know that you are endowed with a spirit of the holy gods and that no mystery is too difficult for you. Hear the dream that I saw; tell me its interpretation. Upon my bed this is what I saw; there was a tree at the center of the earth, and its height was great. The tree grew great and strong, its top reached to heaven, and it was visible to the ends of the whole earth. Its foliage was beautiful, its fruit abundant, and it provided food for all. The animals of the field found shade under it, the birds of the air nested in its branches, and from it all living beings were fed. “I continued looking, in the visions of my head as I lay in bed, and there was a holy watcher, coming down from heaven. He cried aloud and said: ‘Cut down the tree and chop off its branches, strip off its foliage and scatter its fruit. Let the animals flee from beneath it and the birds from its branches. But leave its stump and roots in the ground, with a band of iron and bronze, in the tender grass of the field. Let him be bathed with the dew of heaven, and let his lot be with the animals of the field in the grass of the earth. Let his mind be changed from that of a human, and let the mind of an animal be given to him. And let seven times pass over him. The sentence is rendered by decree of the watchers, the decision is given by order of the holy ones, in

order that all who live may know that the Most High is sovereign over the kingdom of mortals; he gives it to whom he will and sets over it the lowliest of human beings.’ “This is the dream that I, King Nebuchadnezzar, saw. Now you, Belteshazzar, declare the interpretation, since all the wise men of my kingdom are unable to tell me the interpretation. You are able, however, for you are endowed with a spirit of the holy gods.”

A brief silence follows the Lesson.

Magnificat

*Service in C minor, George Dyson
(1883-1964)*

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.

The Second Lesson

John 21:15-25

When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my lambs.” A second time he said to him, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Tend my sheep.” He said to him the third time, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, “Do you love me?” And he said to him, “Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him,

“Feed my sheep. Very truly, I tell you, when you were younger, you used to fasten your own belt and to go wherever you wished. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not wish to go.” (He said this to indicate the kind of death by which he would glorify God.) After this he said to him, “Follow me.” Peter turned and saw the disciple whom Jesus loved following them; he was the one who had reclined next to Jesus at the supper and had said, “Lord, who is it that is going to betray you?” When Peter saw him, he said to Jesus, “Lord, what about him?” Jesus said to him, “If it is my will that he remain until I come, what is that to you? Follow me!” So the rumor spread in the community that this disciple would not die. Yet Jesus did not say to him that he would not die, but, “If it is my will that he remain until I come, what is that to you?” This is the disciple who is testifying to these things and has written them, and we know that his testimony is true. But there are also many other things that Jesus did; if every one of them were written down, I suppose that the world itself could not contain the books that would be written.

A brief silence follows the Lesson.

Nunc dimittis

G. Dyson

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 Apostles' Creed

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.

The Lesser Litany

M. Cowgill

V The Lord be with you.
R And with thy spirit.
V Let us pray.
R Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy
upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.

The Lord's Prayer

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.

The Responses

M. Cowgill

V O Lord, show thy mercy upon us;
R And grant us thy salvation.
V O Lord, save the State;
R And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.
V Endue thy ministers with righteousness;
R And make thy chosen people joyful.
V O Lord, save thy people;
R And bless thine inheritance.
V Give peace in our time, O Lord;
R Because there is none other that fighteth for us,
but only thou, O God.
V O God, make clean our hearts within us;
R And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.

The Collects

Anthem

It Is I!

Carson Cooman
(b. 1982)

*It is I, says Christ, I who have destroyed Death,
and triumphed over the enemy! I have brought you to the heights of heaven.
I, your purification, I, your life, I, your resurrection, I, your light,
I, your salvation, I, your King!*

Intercessions and Thanksgivings

Hymn No. 190

Fisk of Gloucester

The Grace

Voluntary

Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain

Robert B. Farlee
(b. 1950)

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