



THE CHURCH  
OF ST. MICHAEL & ST. GEORGE

# The Presentation of Our Lord Jesus Christ in the Temple

February 2, 2025      5:00 pm

## The Order for Solemn Choral Evensong

### Organ Voluntary

Puer nobis nascitur

Jan Pieterszoon Sweelinck (1562-1621)

☞ *All stand as the Choir and Ministers enter*

### Introit

O nata lux de lumine,  
Jesu redemptor saeculi,  
Dignare clemens supplicum  
Laudes precesque sumere.

Qui carne quondam contegi  
Dignatus es pro perditis,  
Nos membra confer effici  
Tui beati corporis.

O Light born of Light,  
Jesus, redeemer of the world,  
with loving-kindness to receive  
suppliant praise and prayer.

Thou who once deigned to be clothed in flesh  
for the sake of the lost,  
grant us to be members  
of thy blessed body.

*Words: 10th century*

*Music: Thomas Tallis (c.1505-1585)*

### Opening Sentence

*Officiant*    The Gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising.  
*Isaiah 60:3*

## Confession of Sin

*Officiant* Let us humbly confess our sins unto Almighty God.

¶ *Officiant and People together, all kneeling*

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,  
spare thou those who confess their faults,  
restore thou those who are penitent,  
according to thy promises declared unto mankind in Christ Jesus 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.

¶ *The Officiant alone stands and says*

The Almighty and merciful Lord grant you absolution ✠ and remission of all your sins,  
true repentance, amendment of life, and the grace and consolation of his Holy Spirit.  
*People* Amen.

¶ *All stand*

## The Invitatory

Philip Moore (b.1943)

*Cantor* O Lord, open thou our lips.

*Choir* And our mouth shall show 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.

¶ *All are then seated as the Choir sings the appointed Psalms*

# The Psalmody

**Psalm 48** Chant in B-flat

Herbert Howells (1892-1983)

Great is the Lord, and highly to be praised \*  
in the city of our God, even upon his holy hill.  
The hill of Sion is a fair place, and the joy of the whole earth; \*  
upon the north side lieth the city of the great King:  
God is well known in her palaces as a sure refuge.  
For lo, the kings of the earth \*  
were gathered, and gone by together.  
They marvelled to see such things; \*  
they were astonished, and suddenly cast down.  
Fear came upon them and sorrow, \*  
as upon a woman in her travail.  
Thou dost break the ships of the sea \*  
through the east-wind.  
Like as we have heard, so have we seen  
in the city of the Lord of hosts, in the city of our God; \*  
God upholdeth the same for ever.  
We wait for thy loving-kindness, O God, \*  
in the midst of thy temple.  
O God, according to thy Name, so is thy praise unto the world's end; \*  
thy right hand is full of righteousness.  
Let the mount Sion rejoice, and the daughters of Judah be glad, \*  
because of thy judgments.  
Walk about Sion, and go round about her; \*  
and tell the towers thereof.  
Mark well her bulwarks, consider her palaces, \*  
that ye may tell them that come after.  
For this God is our God for ever and ever: \*  
he shall be our guide unto death.  
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.

Her foundations are upon the holy hills: \*  
the Lord loveth the gates of Sion more than all the dwellings of Jacob.  
Very excellent things are spoken of thee, \*  
thou city of God.  
I will make mention of Egypt and Babylon, among them that know me. \*  
Behold, Philistia also; and Tyre, with Ethiopia; lo, in Sion were they born.  
Yea, of Sion it shall be reported, this one and that one were born in her; \*  
and the Most High shall stablish her.  
The Lord shall record it, when he writeth up the peoples; \*  
lo, in Sion were they born.  
The singers also and trumpeters shall make answer: \*  
all my fresh springs are in thee.  
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 Lessons

### The First Lesson

Haggai 2:1-9

**I**n the second year of Darius the king, in the seventh month, on the twenty-first day of the month, the word of the Lord came by Haggai the prophet, “Speak now to Zerub’babel the son of She-al’ti-el, governor of Judah, and to Joshua the son of Jehoz’adak, the high priest, and to all the remnant of the people, and say, ‘Who is left among you that saw this house in its former glory? How do you see it now? Is it not in your sight as nothing? Yet now take courage, O Zerub’babel, says the Lord; take courage, O Joshua, son of Jehoz’adak, the high priest; take courage, all you people of the land, says the Lord; work, for I am with you, says the Lord of hosts, according to the promise that I made you when you came out of Egypt. My Spirit abides among you; fear not. For thus says the Lord of hosts: Once again, in a little while, I will shake the heavens and the earth and the sea and the dry land; and I will shake all nations, so that the treasures of all nations shall come in, and I will fill this house with splendor, says the Lord of hosts. The silver is mine, and the gold is mine, says the Lord of hosts. The latter splendor of this house shall be greater than the former, says the Lord of hosts; and in this place I will give prosperity, says the Lord of hosts.’”

¶ *All stand for the singing of the Office Hymn and Magnificat*

## Hymn 259

1 Hail to the Lord who comes, comes to his temple gate;  
2 but, borne up - on the throne of Ma - ry's gen - tle breast,  
3 There Jo - seph at her side in rev - erent won - der stands;  
4 O Light of all the earth, thy chil - dren wait for thee!

not with his an - gel host, not in his king - ly state;  
watched by her du - teous love, in her fond arms at rest,  
and, filled with ho - ly joy, old Si - meon in his hands  
Come to thy tem - ples here, that we, from sin set free,

no shouts pro - claim him nigh, no crowds his com - ing wait;  
thus to his Fa - ther's house he comes, the heaven - ly guest.  
takes up the prom - ised child, the glo - ry of all lands.  
be - fore thy Fa - ther's face may all pre - sent - ed be!

*Words: John Ellerton (1826-1893), alt.*

*Music: Old 120th, melody from The Whole Booke of Psalmes, 1570  
adapt. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)*

✠ My soul doth magnify the Lord,  
and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.  
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 are seated following the singing of the Magnificat*

## **The Second Lesson**

1 John 3:1-8

**S**ee what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now; it does not yet appear what we shall be, but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. And every one who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure. Every one who commits sin is guilty of lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. You know that he appeared to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. No one who abides in him sins; no one who sins has either seen him or known him. Little children, let no one deceive you. He who does right is righteous, as he is righteous. He who commits sin is of the devil; for the devil has sinned from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil.

*¶ Following the Lesson, 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 Apostles' Creed**

¶ *Sung on a monotone*

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 Prayers**

¶ *The Cantor and Choir sing the following*

*Cantor*     The Lord be with you.

*Choir*        And with thy spirit.

*Cantor*     Let us pray.

¶ *The People kneel*

*Choir* Lord have mercy upon us.  
Christ have mercy upon us.  
Lord have mercy upon us.

¶ *Then the Choir sings the short form of 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.

¶ *Then follow these Suffrages*

*Cantor* O Lord, show 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 following Collects are sung; the Choir sings "Amen."*

## **The Collect of the Day**

**A**lmighty and everliving God, we humbly beseech thee that, as thy only-begotten Son was this day presented in the temple, so we may be presented unto thee with pure and clean hearts by the same thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

















