THE CHURCH
OF ST. MICHAEL & ST. GEORGE

The Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost

November 16, 2025 5:00 pm

The Order for Choral Evensong

Organ Voluntary

Intermezzo — Herbert Sumsion (1899-1995)

¶ All stand as the Choir and Ministers enter

Opening Sentence

Officiant O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness; let the whole earth stand in awe of him. *Psalm 96:9*

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 Maxine Thévenot (b.1969)

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 19 Chant in G Robert W. Lehman (b.1960)

The heavens declare the glory of God, *
and the firmament showeth his handywork.
One day telleth another; *
and one night certifieth another.
There is neither speech nor language; *
but their voices are heard among them.
Their sound is gone out into all lands; *
and their words into the ends of the world.
In them hath he set a tabernacle for the sun; *
which cometh forth as a bridegroom out of his chamber,
and rejoiceth as a giant to run his course.
It goeth forth from the uttermost part of the heaven,
and runneth about unto the end of it again; *
and there is nothing hid from the heat thereof.

The law of the Lord is an undefiled law, converting the soul; *
the testimony of the Lord is sure, and giveth wisdom unto the simple.
The statutes of the Lord are right, and rejoice the heart; *
the commandment of the Lord is pure, and giveth light unto the eyes.
The fear of the Lord is clean, and endureth forever; *
the judgments of the Lord are true, and righteous altogether.
More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold; *
sweeter also than honey, and the honeycomb.
Moreover, by them is thy servant taught; *
and in keeping them there is great reward.
Who can tell how oft he offendeth?
O cleanse thou me from my secret faults.
Keep thy servant also from presumptuous sins,
lest they get the dominion over me; *
so shall I be undefiled, and innocent from the great offence.
Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart,
be alway acceptable in thy sight, *
O Lord, my strength and my redeemer.
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.

Psalm 46 Chant in C after *Ein feste Burg* Martin Luther (1483-1546)

God is our hope and strength, *
a very present help in trouble.
Therefore will we not fear, though the earth be moved, *
and though the hills be carried into the midst of the sea.
Though the waters thereof rage and swell, *
and though the mountains shake at the tempest of the same.
There is a river, the streams whereof make glad the city of God; *
the holy place of the tabernacle of the Most Highest.
God is in the midst of her, therefore shall she not be removed; *
God shall help her and that right early.
The nations make much ado, and the kingdoms are moved; *
but God hath showed his voice, and the earth shall melt away.
The Lord of hosts is with us; *
the God of Jacob is our refuge.

O come hither, and be hold the works of the Lord, *
what destruction he hath brought upon the earth.
He maketh wars to cease in all the world; *
he breaketh the bow, and knappeth the spear in sunder,
and burneth the chariots in the fire.
Be still then, and know that I am God: *
I will be exalted among the nations,
and I will be exalted in the earth.
The Lord of hosts is with us; *
the God of Jacob is our refuge.
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 Acts 28:14-23

There we found brethren, and were invited to stay with them for seven days. And so we came to Rome. And the brethren there, when they heard of us, came as far as the Forum of Ap'pius and Three Taverns to meet us. On seeing them Paul thanked God and took courage. And when we came into Rome, Paul was allowed to stay by himself, with the soldier that guarded him. After three days he called together the local leaders of the Jews; and when they had gathered, he said to them, "Brethren, though I had done nothing against the people or the customs of our fathers, yet I was delivered prisoner from Jerusalem into the hands of the Romans. When they had examined me, they wished to set me at liberty, because there was no reason for the death penalty in my case. But when the Jews objected, I was compelled to appeal to Caesar—though I had no charge to bring against my nation. For this reason therefore I have asked to see you and speak with you, since it is because of the hope of Israel that I am bound with this chain." And they said to him, "We have received no letters from Judea about you, and none of the brethren coming here has reported or spoken any evil about you. But we desire to hear from you what your views are; for with regard to this sect we know that everywhere it is spoken against." When they had appointed a day for him, they came to him at his lodging in great numbers. And he expounded the matter to them from morning till evening, testifying to the kingdom of God and trying to convince them about Jesus both from the law of Moses and from the prophets.

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

Hymn 36

Words: Greek, 3rd cent.; tr. Robert Seymour Bridges (1844-1930); para. of O Gracious Light
Music: Le Cantique de Siméon, melody Louis Bourgeois (1510?-1561?);
harm. Claude Goudimel (1514-1572)

Magnificat Canticles in A Herbert Sumsion (1899-1995)

✢ 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 Luke 16:1-13

Jesus also said to the disciples, "There was a rich man who had a steward, and charges were brought to him that this man was wasting his goods. And he called him and said to him, 'What is this that I hear about you? Turn in the account of your stewardship, for you can no longer be steward.' And the steward said to himself, 'What shall I do, since my master is taking the stewardship away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. I have decided what to do, so that people may receive me into their houses when I am put out of the stewardship.' So, summoning his master's debtors one by one, he said to the first, 'How much do you owe my master?' He said, 'A hundred measures of oil.' And he said to him, 'Take your bill, and sit down quickly and write fifty.' Then he said to another, 'And how much do you owe?' He said, 'A hundred measures of wheat.' He said to him, 'Take your bill, and write eighty.' The master commended the dishonest steward for his shrewdness; for the sons of this world are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than the sons of light. And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of unrighteous mammon, so that when

it fails they may receive you into the eternal habitations. He who is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much; and he who is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. If then you have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will entrust to you the true riches? And if you have not been faithful in that which is another's, who will give you that which is your own? No servant can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon."

¶ Following the Lesson, all stand

Nunc dimittis Canticles in A Herbert Sumsion (1899-1995)

✠ 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

¶ Said 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 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

Blessed Lord, who hast caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant that we may in such wise hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them; that, by patience and comfort of thy holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which thou hast given us in our Savior Jesus Christ; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *¶ People* Amen.

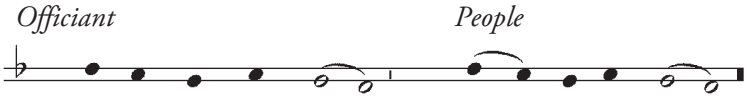
A Collect for Peace

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 all enemies, may pass our time in rest and quietness; through the merits of Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

A 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 Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

Benedicamus Domino



The Grace

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. *People* Amen.

¶ Then the Congregation is seated

The Greeting

Anthem

Verleih uns Frieden gnädiglich,
Herr Gott, zu unsern Zeiten.
Es ist doch ja kein andrer nicht,
der für uns könnte streiten,
denn du, unser Gott, alleine.

Mercifully grant us peace,
Lord God, in our times.
For there is no other
Who could fight for us
But you alone, our God.

Words: Martin Luther (1483-1546)
Music: Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)

¶ During the anthem, a collection will be received

Closing Prayers

Officiant The Lord be with you.
People And with thy spirit.

¶ The Officiant then offers prayers for mission and for the world

The Blessing

The God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, the great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant: Make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well pleasing in his sight; and the blessing ✠ of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. *¶ People* Amen.

¶ All stand and join in the singing of the Hymn overleaf

Hymn 655

Words: John Ernest Bode (1816-1874);
Music: Nyland, Finnish folk melody; adapt. and harm. David Evans (1874-1948)

Organ Voluntary

Sonata no. 2 in C minor — Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)
I. Grave
II. Adagio

Holy Eucharist will be offered in St. George's Chapel immediately following this service.
All are invited into the Great Hall following the service for a reception.

Participants in the Service

The Rev. Dr. Stewart Douglas Clem, Officiant
Joseph Arndt, Choirmaster
The Choir of St. Michael & St. George
David Sinden, Organist

This Evening's Liturgy

† **Felix Mendelssohn** (1809-1847) was a leading German composer of the early Romantic period. Credited for reviving interest in Bach, he conducted an important performance of the St. Matthew Passion in 1829. Mendelssohn composed his work 'Verleih uns Frieden' in 1831, utilizing a prayer by **Martin Luther** (1483-1546). This prayer was frequently said at the end of Lutheran worship in Mendelssohn's day.

† The Office of Evensong is sung at the close of each day in cathedrals, collegiate chapels, monastic communities, and parish churches throughout the Anglican Communion. Derived from the ancient offices of Vespers and Compline, it is a service of rare beauty offered through the singing of psalms and canticles, the reading of scripture, and prayer. This liturgy of sung prayer has been offered daily throughout the Christian era and it enables us to join with all those who have gone before, those today who offer their evening prayers, and those who will continue their sung praise, petitions, and thanksgivings in times to come.

† The worshipper offers praise through association with the choir and sits awash in sung prayer as it resonates throughout this sacred space. Natural time is suspended as word and music combine to capture the holy rhythms of the spheres and the worshipper is transported beyond chronological time to a place where creation and eternity coalesce into one.

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