



THE CHURCH
OF ST. MICHAEL & ST. GEORGE

The Last Sunday after the Epiphany

February 15, 2026 5:00 pm

The Order for Choral Evensong

Organ Voluntary

Allein Gott in der Höh sey Ehr

Jan Pieterszoon Sweelinck (1562-1621)

☞ *All stand as the Choir and Ministers enter*

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

Richard Ayleward (1626-1669)

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 114 Chant in F minor after *Tonus Peregrinus*

David Willcocks (1919-2015)

When Israel came out of Egypt, *
and the house of Jacob from among the strange people.

Judah was his sanctuary *
and Israel his dominion.

The sea saw that and fled; *
Jordan was driven back.

The mountains skipped like rams, *
and the little hills like young sheep.

What aileth thee, O thou sea that thou fleddest? *
and thou Jordan that thou wast driven back?

Ye mountains, that ye skipped like rams, *
and ye little hills like young sheep?

Tremble, thou earth, at the presence of the Lord, *
at the presence of the God of Jacob,

Who turned the hard rock into a standing water *
and the flint-stone into a springing well.

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 115 Chant in A-flat

Michael Bedford (b.1949)

Not unto us, O Lord, not unto us,
but unto thy Name give the praise; *
for thy loving mercy, and for thy truth's sake.

Wherefore shall the heathen say, *
Where now is their God?

As for our God, he is in heaven: *
he hath done whatsoever pleased him.

Their idols are silver and gold, *
even the work of men's hands.

They have mouths and speak not; *
eyes have they and see not.

They have ears, and hear not; *
noses have they and smell not.

They have hands, and handle not;
feet have they and walk not; *
neither speak they through their throat.

They that make them are like unto them; *
and so are all such as put their trust in them.

But thou, house of Israel, trust thou in the Lord; *
he is their helper and defender.

Ye house of Aaron, put your trust in the Lord; *
he is their helper and defender.

Ye that fear the Lord, put your trust in the Lord; *
he is their helper and defender.

The Lord hath been mindful of us, and he shall bless us; *
even he shall bless the house of Israel,
he shall bless the house of Aaron.

He shall bless them that fear the Lord, *
both small and great.

The Lord shall increase you more and more, *
you and your children.

Ye are the blessed of the Lord;
who made heaven and earth.

All the whole heavens are the Lord's, *
the earth hath he given to the children of men.

The dead praise not thee, O Lord; *
neither all they that go down into silence.

But we will praise the Lord, *
from this time forth for ever more. Praise the Lord.

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

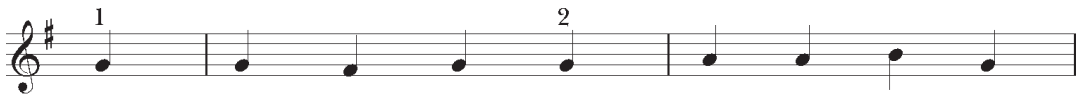
The First Lesson

2 Corinthians 3:7-18

Now if the dispensation of death, carved in letters on stone, came with such splendor that the Israelites could not look at Moses' face because of its brightness, fading as this was, will not the dispensation of the Spirit be attended with greater splendor? For if there was splendor in the dispensation of condemnation, the dispensation of righteousness must far exceed it in splendor. Indeed, in this case, what once had splendor has come to have no splendor at all, because of the splendor that surpasses it. For if what faded away came with splendor, what is permanent must have much more splendor. Since we have such a hope, we are very bold, not like Moses, who put a veil over his face so that the Israelites might not see the end of the fading splendor. But their minds were hardened; for to this day, when they read the old covenant, that same veil remains unlifted, because only through Christ is it taken away. Yes, to this day whenever Moses is read a veil lies over their minds; but when a man turns to the Lord the veil is removed. Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And we all, with unveiled face, beholding[a] the glory of the Lord, are being changed into his likeness from one degree of glory to another; for this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.

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

Hymn 25



1 O gra - cious Light, Lord Je - sus Christ, in
2 Now sun - set comes, but light shines forth, the
3 Wor - thy are you of end - less praise, O



you the Fa - ther's glo - ry shone. Im - mor - tal, ho - ly,
lamps are lit to pierce the night. Praise Fa - ther, Son, and
Son of God, Life - giv - ing Lord; where - fore you are through



blest is he, and blest are you, his ho - ly Son.
Spi - rit: God who dwells in the e - ter - nal light.
all the earth and in the high - est heaven a - dored.

This hymn may be sung unaccompanied as a four-part canon at a distance of one measure.

*Words: Greek, 3rd cent.; tr. F. Bland Tucker (1895-1984); para of O Gracious Light
Music: The Eighth Tune, Thomas Tallis (c.1505-1585), adapt. Hymnal 1982*

✠ 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 9:18-27

Now it happened that as Jesus was praying alone the disciples were with him; and he asked them, "Who do the people say that I am?" And they answered, "John the Baptist; but others say, Elijah; and others, that one of the old prophets has risen." And he said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" And Peter answered, "The Christ of God." But he charged and commanded them to tell this to no one, saying, "The Son of man must suffer many things, and be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised." And he said to all, "If any man would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it; and whoever loses his life for my sake, he will save it. For what does it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses or forfeits himself? For whoever is ashamed of me and of my words, of him will the Son of man be ashamed when he comes in his glory and the glory of the Father and of the holy angels. But I tell you truly, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the kingdom of God."

¶ Following the Lesson, all stand

Nunc dimittis Second Service

William Byrd (c.1540-1623)

✠ 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

O God, who before the passion of thy only-begotten Son didst reveal his glory upon the holy mount: Grant unto us that we, beholding by faith the light of his countenance, may be strengthened to bear our cross, and be changed into his likeness from glory to glory; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. 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

<i>Officiant</i>	<i>People</i>
	
Let us bless the Lord.	Thanks be to God.

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

Motet

Cantate Domino canticum novum;
cantate Domino omnis terra,
et benedicite nomini ejus.
Annuntiate de die in diem salutare ejus.
Annuntiate inter gentes gloriam ejus,
in omnibus populis mirabilia ejus.

Sing to the Lord a new song,
sing to the Lord all the whole earth,
and bless his name.
Declare his salvation from day to day.
Proclaim to all nations his glory,
his wonders to all peoples.

Words: Psalm 96:1-4

Music: Jan Pieterszoon Sweelinck (1562-1621)

¶ During the motet, a collection will be received

Closing Prayers

Officiant The Lord be with you.

People And with thy spirit.

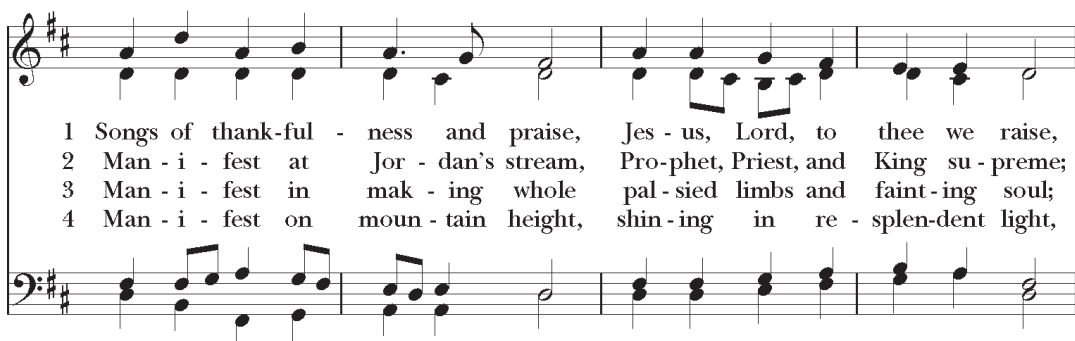
¶ The Officiant then offers prayers for mission and for the world

The Blessing

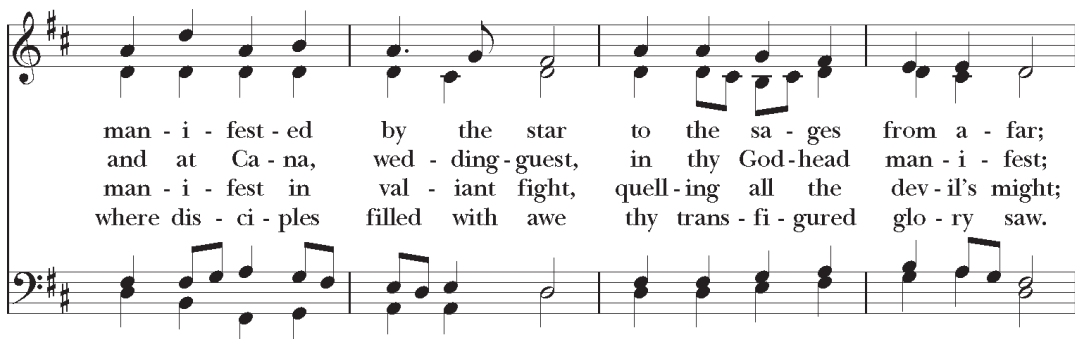
The God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, the great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant:
Make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well pleasing in his sight; and the blessing ✠ of God Almighty, the 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

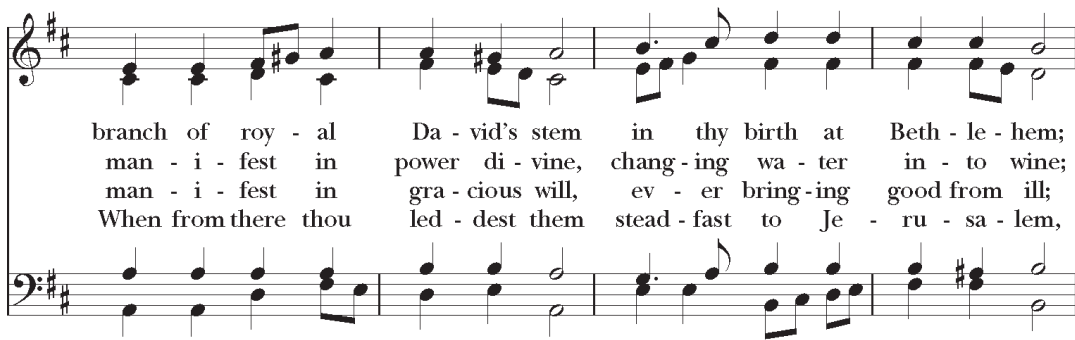
Hymn 135



1 Songs of thank-ful - ness and praise, Jes - us, Lord, to thee we raise,
 2 Man - i - fest at Jor - dan's stream, Pro-phet, Priest, and King su - preme;
 3 Man - i - fest in mak - ing whole pal - sied limbs and faint - ing soul;
 4 Man - i - fest on moun - tain height, shin - ing in re - splen - dent light,



man - i - fest - ed by the star to the sa - ges from a - far;
 and at Ca - na, wed - ding - guest, in thy God - head man - i - fest;
 man - i - fest in val - iant fight, quell - ing all the dev - il's might;
 where dis - ci - ples filled with awe thy trans - fi - gured glo - ry saw.



branch of roy - al Da - vid's stem in thy birth at Beth - le - hem;
 man - i - fest in power di - vine, chang - ing wa - ter in - to wine;
 man - i - fest in gra - cious will, ev - er bring - ing good from ill;
 When from there thou led - dest them stead - fast to Je - ru - sa - lem,



an - thems be to thee ad - dressed, God in man made man - i - fest.
 an - thems be to thee ad - dressed, God in man made man - i - fest.
 an - thems be to thee ad - dressed, God in man made man - i - fest.
 cross and Eas - ter Day at - test God in man made man - i - fest.

Words: Sts. 1-3, Christopher Wordsworth (1807-1885); st. 4, F. Bland Tucker (1894-1984)
 Music: Salzburg, melody Jakob Hintze (1622-1702); harm. Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

Organ Voluntary

Toccatà from Plymouth Suite

Percy Whitlock (1903-1946)

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

† **William Byrd** (c. 1540-1623) was one of the most influential English composers of the 16th century. Around 1575, Elizabeth I granted him and Thomas Tallis a monopoly on printed music. Royal favor allowed Byrd compositions for both Anglican and Roman Catholic liturgies in a tumultuous post-Reformation era.

† **Jan Pieterszoon Sweelinck** (1562-1621) was a Dutch organist and composer whose music reflects the shift from the Renaissance to the Baroque. For around 40 years, he was organist of the Oude Kerk in Amsterdam. This evening's motet is his five-voice, rhythmic, and contrapuntally rich setting of verses from Psalm 96.

† 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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The Rev. Andrew John Archie	<i>Rector</i>
The Rev. Peter James Speropulos	<i>Assistant Rector</i>
The Rev. Thomas Roy Albinson	<i>Assistant Rector</i>
The Rev. Dr. Stewart Douglas Clem	<i>Priest Associate; Theologian in Residence</i>
The Rev. Anne Hunter Kelsey	<i>Priest Associate</i>
Mr. Joseph Andrew Arndt	<i>Organist and Director of Music</i>
Mrs. Heather Martin Cooper	<i>Associate Organist</i>

