

THE CHURCH
OF ST. MICHAEL & ST. GEORGE

The Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost

November 15, 2026 5:00 pm

The Order for Solemn Choral Evensong

Organ Voluntary

Chorale Prelude on *Down Ampney* 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 Preces and Responses Bernard Rose (1916-1996)

Officiant O Lord, open thou our lips.
Choir And our mouth shall show forth thy praise.

Officiant O God, make speed to save us.
Choir O Lord, make haste to help us.

Officiant 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.

Officiant Praise ye the Lord.
Choir The Lord's name be praised.

¶ All are then seated as the Choir sings the appointed Psalm

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 Philippians 3:13-4:1

Brethren, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but one thing I do, forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. Let those of us who are mature be thus minded; and if in anything you are otherwise minded, God will reveal that also to you. Only let us hold true to what we have attained. Brethren, join in imitating me, and mark those who so live as you have an example in us. For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears, live as enemies of the cross of Christ. Their end is destruction, their god is the belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things. But our commonwealth is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will change our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power which enables him even to subject all things to himself. Therefore, my brethren, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm thus in the Lord, my beloved.

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

Hymn 29



Words: Latin, 6th cent. tr. John Mason Neale (1818-1866).
St. 3, Charles Coffin (1676-1749); tr. John Chandler (1806-1876)
Music: Bromley, Franz Joseph Haydn (1732-1809)

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 Matthew 23:13-24

Jesus said, "But woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! because you shut the kingdom of heaven against men; for you neither enter yourselves, nor allow those who would enter to go in. Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for you traverse sea and land to make a single proselyte, and when he becomes a proselyte, you make him twice as much a child of hell as yourselves. Woe to you, blind guides, who say, 'If any one swears by the temple, it is nothing; but if any one swears by the gold of the temple, he is bound by his oath.' You blind fools! For which is greater, the gold or the temple that has made the gold sacred? And you say, 'If any one swears by the altar, it is nothing; but if any one swears by the gift that is on the altar, he is bound by his oath.' You blind men! For which is greater, the gift or the altar that makes the gift sacred? So he who swears by the altar, swears by it and by everything on it; and he who swears by the temple, swears by it and by him who dwells in it; and he who swears by heaven, swears by the throne of God and by him who sits upon it. Woe to you, scribes and

Pharisees, hypocrites! for you tithe mint and dill and cummin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law, justice and mercy and faith; these you ought to have done, without neglecting the others. You blind guides, straining out a gnat and swallowing a camel"

¶ 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 Officiant and Choir sing the following

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

Officiant O Lord, show thy mercy upon us.
Choir And grant us thy salvation.

Officiant O Lord, save the State.
Choir And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.

Officiant Endue thy ministers with righteousness.
Choir And make thy chosen people joyful.

Officiant O Lord, save thy people.
Choir And bless thine inheritance.

Officiant Give peace in our time, O Lord.
Choir Because there is none other that fighteth for us, but only thou, O God.

Officiant 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.

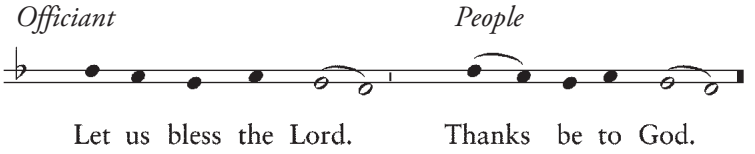
A Collect for Peace

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

Prelude in G, BWV 541 — Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

Holy Eucharist will be offered in the Taylor Room immediately following this service.
All are invited into the Great Hall following the service for a reception.

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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