



ST. GEORGE'S CHURCH

30 North Ferry Street

Schenectady, NY 12305



Ascension, John Singleton Copley, 1775, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston

Choral Evensong for Ascensiontide

Choral Evensong for Ascensiontide

Saint George's Episcopal Church

21 May 2023, 3:00pm

ORGAN VOLUNTARY (2:45pm):

Intermezzo

Herbert Sumsion (1899-1995)

HYMN 410

Praise my soul, the King of heaven

Lauda anima

THE OPENING SENTENCE: Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us. *Hebrews 9:24*

THE CONFESSION OF SIN: *The Officiant says to the people*

Dear friends in Christ, here in the presence of Almighty God, let us kneel in silence, and with penitent and obedient hearts confess our sins, so that we may obtain forgiveness by his infinite goodness and mercy.

Silence may be kept

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. 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 remains kneeling and says

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

(people stand)

THE INVITATORY & PSALTER

Richard Ayleward (1626-1669)

Officiant O Lord, open thou our lips.

Choir And our mouth shall shew 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.

PHOS HILARON (O GRACIOUS LIGHT)

Sung by the Choir

O gracious Light,
pure brightness of the everliving Father in heaven,
O Jesus Christ, holy and blessed!

Now as we come to the setting of the sun,
and our eyes behold the vesper light,
we sing thy praises, O God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Thou art worthy at all times to be praised by happy voices,
O Son of God, O Giver of life,
and to be glorified through all the worlds.

The congregation may be seated.

PSALM: 19

1 **T**he heavens are telling the glory of God; and the
firmament proclaims his handiwork.
2 Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night
declares knowledge.
3 There is no speech, nor are there words; their voice is
not heard;
4 yet their voice goes out through all the earth, and their
words to the end of the world. In the heavens he has set a
tent for the sun,
5 which comes out like a bridegroom from his wedding
canopy, and like a strong man runs its course with joy.
6 Its rising is from the end of the heavens, and its circuit
to the end of them; and nothing is hid from its heat.
7 The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul; the
decrees of the LORD are sure, making wise the simple;

8 the precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart;
the commandment of the LORD is clear, enlightening the
eyes;
9 the fear of the LORD is pure, enduring forever; the
ordinances of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.
10 More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine
gold; sweeter also than honey, and drippings of the
honeycomb.
11 Moreover by them is your servant warned; in keeping
them there is great reward.
12 But who can detect their errors? Clear me from hidden
faults.
13 Keep back your servant also from the insolent; do not
let them have dominion over me. Then I shall be
blameless, and innocent of great transgression.
14 Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my
heart be acceptable to you, O LORD, my rock and my
redeemer.

PSALM: 46

1 **G**od is our refuge and strength, a very present help in
trouble.
2 Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should
change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the
sea;
3 though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains
tremble with its tumult.
4 There is a river whose streams make glad the city of
God, the holy habitation of the Most High.
5 God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved;
God will help it when the morning dawns.

6 The nations are in an uproar, the kingdoms totter; he
utters his voice, the earth melts.
7 The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our
refuge.
8 Come, behold the works of the LORD; see what
desolations he has brought on the earth.
9 He makes wars cease to the end of the earth; he breaks
the bow, and shatters the spear; he burns the shields with
fire.
10 "Be still, and know that I am God! I am exalted among
the nations, I am exalted in the earth."
11 The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our
refuge.

THE FIRST LESSON*(people sit)***EZEKIEL 3:16-27**

At the end of seven days, the word of the LORD came to me: Mortal, I have made you a sentinel for the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. When I say to the wicked, “You shall surely die,” and you give them no warning and do not speak to warn the wicked from their wicked way in order to save their lives, those wicked persons shall die for their iniquity, but their blood I will require at your hand. But if you warn the wicked and they do not turn from their wickedness or from their wicked way, they shall die for their iniquity, but you will have saved your life.

Again, if the righteous turn from their righteousness and commit iniquity and I lay a stumbling block before them, they shall die; because you have not warned them, they shall die for their sin, and their righteous deeds that they have done shall not be remembered, but their blood I will require at your hand. If, however, you warn the righteous not to sin and they do not sin, they shall surely live because they took warning, and you will have saved your life.

Then the hand of the LORD was upon me there, and he said to me, “Rise up, go out into the valley, and there I will speak with you.” So I rose up and went out into the valley, and the glory of the LORD stood there, like the glory that I had seen by the River Chebar, and I fell on my face.

The spirit entered into me and set me on my feet, and he spoke with me and said to me: “Go, shut yourself inside your house. As for you, mortal, cords shall be placed on you, and you shall be bound with them so that you cannot go out among the people, and I will make your tongue cling to the roof of your mouth so that you shall be speechless and unable to reprove them, for they are a rebellious house. But when I speak with you, I will open your mouth, and you shall say to them, ‘Thus says the Lord GOD’; let those who will hear, hear, and let those who refuse to hear, refuse, for they are a rebellious house.

Lector Here endeth the Lesson.

THE MAGNIFICAT*(people stand)**Herbert Sumsion (1899-1995)*

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 shewed 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*(people sit)***EPHESIANS 2:1-10**

You were dead through the trespasses and sins in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else.

But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ-- by grace you have been saved-- and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God-- not the result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

Lector Here endeth the Lesson.

THE NUNC DIMITTIS*(people stand)**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

(people stand)

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

Sung by the Choir

*(people kneel)**Richard Ayleward (1626-1669)*

Officiant: The Lord be with you.

Choir: And with thy spirit.

Officiant: Let us pray.

Choir: Lord have mercy upon us.

Christ have mercy upon us.

Lord have mercy upon us.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Sung by the Choir

Our Father who 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 those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

THE SUFFRAGES

☩. O Lord, shew thy mercy upon us

☩. And grant us thy salvation

☩. O Lord, save the State.

☩. And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.

☩. Endue thy ministers with righteousness.

☩. And make thy chosen people joyful.

☩. O Lord, save thy people.

☩. And bless thine inheritance.

☩. Give peace in our time, O Lord.

☩. Because there is none other that fighteth for us, but only thou, O God.

☩. O God, make clean our hearts within us.

☩. And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.

THE COLLECTS

Sung by the Officiant

(people kneel)

The Collect for the Sunday after Ascension Day

O God, the King of glory, who hast exalted thine only Son Jesus Christ with great triumph unto thy kingdom in heaven: We beseech thee, leave us not comfortless, but send to us thine Holy Ghost to comfort us, and exalt us unto the same place whither our Savior Christ is gone before; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the same Holy Ghost, one God, world without end. **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 perils and dangers of this night; for the love of thy only Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ. **Amen**

A Collect for the Presence of Christ

Lord Jesus, stay with us, for evening is at hand and the day is past; be our companion in the way, kindle our hearts, and awaken hope, that we may know thee as thou art revealed in Scripture and the breaking of bread. Grant this for the sake of thy love. **Amen.**

*The congregation is seated
Announcements may be made at this time*

HYMN 215

See the Conqueror mounts in triumph

In Babilone

*An address by Mike Saccocio, the Executive Director of the City Mission of Schenectady,
a non-profit organization that is dedicated to sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ
by comprehensively meeting the needs of the poor in a manner
that dignifies and strengthens the individual and the family.*

*50 % of the offering from today's Evensong will be given to the City Mission of Schenectady
for their service to our community.*

THE ANTHEM:

King of glory, King of peace

T. Frederick H. Candlyn

- 1 King of glory, King of peace, I will love thee;
and that love may never cease, I will move thee.
Thou hast granted my request, thou hast heard me;
thou didst note my working breast, thou hast spared me.
- 2 Wherefore with my utmost art, I will sing thee;
and the cream of all my heart, I will bring thee.
Though my sins against me cried, thou didst clear me;
and alone, when they replied, thou didst hear me.
- 3 Seven whole days, not one in seven, I will praise thee;
in my heart, though not in heaven, I can raise thee.
Small it is in this poor sort to enroll thee;
e'en eternity's too short to extol thee.

Text: George Herbert (1593-1633)

A GENERAL THANKSGIVING

Said by all

(people kneel)

Almighty God, Father of all mercies, we thine unworthy servants do give thee most humble and hearty thanks for all thy goodness and loving-kindness to us and to all men. We bless thee for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all for thine inestimable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ; for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory. And, we beseech thee, give us that due sense of all thy mercies, that our hearts may be unfeignedly thankful; and that we show forth thy praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives, by giving up ourselves to thy service, and by walking before thee in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. **Amen.**

A PRAYER OF ST. CHRYSOSTOM

Said by Officiant

(people kneel)

Almighty God, who hast given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication unto thee, and hast promised through thy well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name thou wilt be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, the desires and petitions of thy servants as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of thy truth, and in the world to come life everlasting. **Amen.**

Officiant: **T**he ✠ grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Ghost, be with us all evermore. **Amen**

HYMN 625

Ye holy angels bright

Darwall's 148th

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

Final, from Organ Symphony, no. 5 (Opus 14, no. 6)

Louis Vierne (1870-1937)

Following today's Evensong, the Choir will host a reception of tea and goodies in the Great Hall.

Officiant: David G. Kennison
Crucifer: Anne Kennison
Thurifer: Christopher Henry
Lector: Bob Lemmerman
Director of Music Ministry: Dr Brian J. Taylor AAGO
The Saint Cecilia Choir



*Ascension of Christ,
Dosso Dossi, 1542*