St. John's Episcopal Church

"Our mission is to know and to share the love of Jesus Christ"

November 22, 2026
Choral Evensong

Organ Voluntary

Pavan - William Byrd

Processional Hymn

Blue Hymnal #42 - *Now the day is over*

Now the day is over,
night is drawing nigh,
shadows of the evening
steal across the sky.

Jesus, give the weary
calm and sweet repose;
with thy tenderest blessing
may our eyelids close.

Grant to little children
visions bright of thee;
guard the sailors tossing
on the deep, blue sea.

Comfort every sufferer
watching late in pain;
those who plan some evil
from their sin restrain.

Through the long night watches
may thine angels spread
their white wings above me,
watching round my bed.

When the morning wakens,
then may I arise
pure, and fresh, and sinless
in thy holy eyes.

Opening Sentences

Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus said, "I am the light of the world; he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life."

The Apologist's Evening Prayer - by C.S. Lewis (1898-1963)

Read by Rev. James Haddix, PhD, Minister Emeritus, All Souls Church

From all my lame defeats and oh! much more
From all the victories that I seemed to score;
From cleverness shot forth on Thy behalf
At which, while angels weep, the audience laugh;
From all my proofs of Thy divinity,
Thou, who wouldst give no sign, deliver me.

Thoughts are but coins. Let me not trust, instead
Of Thee, their thin-worn image of Thy head.
From all my thoughts, even from my thoughts of Thee,
O thou fair Silence, fall, and set me free.
Lord of the narrow gate and the needle's eye,
Take from me all my trumpery lest I die.

Preces - William Byrd (1540 - 1623)

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.
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.
Praise ye the Lord.
The Lord's Name be praised.

Phos Hilaron

Blue Hymnal #25 - O gracious Light, Lord Jesus Christ
Sung by the choir

O gracious Light, Lord Jesus Christ,
in you the Father's glory shone.
Immortal, holy, blest is he,
and blest are you, his holy Son.

Now sunset comes, but light shines forth,
the lamps are lit to pierce the night.

Praise Father, Son, and Spirit: God
who dwells in the eternal light.

Worthy are you of endless praise,
O Son of God, Life-giving Lord;
wherefore you are through all the earth
and in the highest heaven adored.

† *Please be seated.*

Psalm 145

1 I will extol you, my God and King,
and bless your name for ever and ever.
2 Every day I will bless you,
and praise your name for ever and ever.
3 Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised;
his greatness is unsearchable.
4 One generation shall laud your works to another,
and shall declare your mighty acts.
5 On the glorious splendour of your majesty,
and on your wondrous works, I will meditate.
6 The might of your awesome deeds shall be proclaimed,
and I will declare your greatness.
7 They shall celebrate the fame of your abundant goodness,
and shall sing aloud of your righteousness.
8 The LORD is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
9 The LORD is good to all,
and his compassion is over all that he has made.
10 All your works shall give thanks to you, O LORD,
and all your faithful shall bless you.
11 They shall speak of the glory of your kingdom,
and tell of your power,
12 to make known to all people your[a] mighty deeds,
and the glorious splendour of your[b] kingdom.
13 Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom,
and your dominion endures throughout all generations.
The LORD is faithful in all his words,
and gracious in all his deeds.[c]
14 The LORD upholds all who are falling,
and raises up all who are bowed down.
15 The eyes of all look to you,
and you give them their food in due season.
16 You open your hand,
satisfying the desire of every living thing.
17 The LORD is just in all his ways,
and kind in all his doings.
18 The LORD is near to all who call on him,

to all who call on him in truth.
19 He fulfils the desire of all who fear him;
he also hears their cry, and saves them.
20 The LORD watches over all who love him,
but all the wicked he will destroy.
21 My mouth will speak the praise of the LORD,
and all flesh will bless his holy name for ever and ever.

First Lesson : A reading of C.S. Lewis

Read by Rev. James Haddix

"Hope is one of the Theological virtues. This means that a continual looking forward to the eternal world is not (as some modern people think) a form of escapism or wishful thinking, but one of the things a Christian is meant to do. It does not mean that we are to leave the present world as it is. If you read history you will find that the Christians who did most for the present world were just those who thought most of the next. The Apostles themselves, who set on foot the conversion of the Roman Empire, the great men who built up the Middle Ages, the English Evangelicals who abolished the Slave Trade, all left their mark on Earth, precisely because their minds were occupied with Heaven. It is since Christians have largely ceased to think of the other world that they have become so ineffective in this. Aim at Heaven and you will get earth 'thrown in': aim at earth and you will get neither." –from *Mere Christianity*

† *Please stand.*

Blue Hymnal #29 - *O Trinity of bless'd light*

O Trinity of blesséd light,
O Unity of princely might,
the fiery sun now goes his way;
shed thou within our hearts thy ray.

To thee our morning song of praise,
to thee our evening prayer we raise;
O grant us with thy saints on high
to praise thee through eternity.

To God the Father, heavenly Light,
to Christ revealed in earthly night,
to God the Holy Ghost we raise
our equal and unceasing praise.

Magnificat - Thomas Tallis (1505 - 1585)

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 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 to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. **Amen.**

† *Please be seated.*

Second Lesson: Matthew 21:1-13

When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, 'Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, just say this, "The Lord needs them." And he will send them immediately. This took place to fulfil what had been spoken through the prophet, saying, 'Tell the daughter of Zion, Look, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.'

The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting, 'Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!'

When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, 'Who is this?' The crowds were saying, 'This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.' Then Jesus entered the temple and drove out all who were selling and buying in the temple, and he overturned the tables of the money-changers and the seats of those who sold doves. He said to them, 'It is written, "My house shall be called a house of prayer"; but you are making it a den of robbers.'

Reader: The Word of the Lord.
All: **Thanks be to God.**

Nunc Dimittis - Thomas Tallis (1505 - 1585)

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 to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. **Amen.**

The Apostles' Creed - John Merbecke (c.1510 - c.1585)

† *Please stand; sung by the choir.*

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

All the following set by William Byrd (1540 - 1623)

Salutation

Officiant: The Lord be with you.
Choir: And with thy spirit.
Officiant: Let us pray.

The Lesser Litany

Choir: Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us

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.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.

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 Collects

A Collect for Sundays

Lord God, whose Son our Savior Jesus Christ triumphed over the powers of death and prepared for us our place in the new Jerusalem: Grant that we, who have this day given thanks for his resurrection, may praise thee in that City of which he is the light; and where he liveth and reigneth for ever and ever.

A Collect for Peace

Almighty God, kindle, we pray, in every heart the true love of peace, and guide with your wisdom those who take counsel for the nations of the earth, that in tranquillity your dominion may increase until the earth is filled with the knowledge of your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

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.

† *Please be seated.*

Anthem

What God of Heav'n
Text and music by William Somes

The Grace

Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine: Glory to him from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever. Amen.

Welcome

Read by Rev. James Haddix, Ruth Graebert, Eric Graebert

"Please, Lamb," said Lucy, "is this the way to Aslan's country?" "Not for you," said the Lamb. "For you the door into Aslan's country is from your own world." "What!" said Edmund. "Is there a way into Aslan's country from our world too?" "There is a way into my country from all the worlds," said the Lamb; but as he spoke his snowy white flushed into tawny gold and his size changed, and he was Aslan himself, towering above them and scattering light from his mane. "Oh, Aslan," said Lucy. "Will you tell us how to get into your country from our world?" "I shall be telling you all the time," said Aslan. "But I will not tell you how long or short the way will be; only that it lies across a river. But do not fear that, for I am the great Bridge Builder…. This was the very reason why you were brought to Narnia, that by knowing me here for a little, you may know me better there."'
— from *The Voyage of the Dawn Treader*

Final Hymn

Blue Hymnal #662 - *Abide with me*

Abide with me: fast falls the eventide;
the darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide:
when other helpers fail and comforts flee,
help of the helpless, O abide with me.

I need thy presence every passing hour;
what but thy grace can foil the tempter's power?
Who, like thyself, my guide and stay can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, Lord, abide with me.

I fear no foe, with thee at hand to bless;
ills have no weight, and tears no bitterness.
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory?
I triumph still, if thou abide with me.

Hold thou thy cross before my closing eyes;
shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies;
heaven's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee;
in life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.

Organ Voluntary

The Galliard - William Byrd

† Please stand as the choir and clergy leave in procession.

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The Ministers: *All the members of this church because we believe in the "priesthood of all believers" (1 Peter 2:5).*

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