



CHORAL EVENSONG

The Church of St. John the Divine
5:00 pm — February 1, 2026

WELCOME

We warmly welcome you to evensong this afternoon. Choral Evensong, a hallmark of the Anglican/Episcopal tradition, marks the day's end and prepares us for the coming night. The service's roots come out of ancient monastic traditions of prayer and were adapted five hundred years ago for English cathedral settings. Rest, reflect, and listen: Evensong at St. John the Divine offers time and space for quiet meditation as we are each invited to pray for our own needs and the needs of the world. Through music and spoken word, sound and silence, we invite you to find a "thin space" in which to encounter the mystery and beauty of God.

The cover photo is from the Revelation of St. John stained glass found in the balcony of the Church.



DURHAM CATHEDRAL RESIDENCY
The Choir of St. John the Divine Residency
July 2027

CHORAL EVENSONG

5:00 pm — February 1, 2026

The Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

PRELUDE Nimrod from *Enigma Variations*

Edward Elgar 1857-1934

Congregation stands.

SOLEMN PROCESSION

INTROIT

Leo Sowerby 1895-1968

Eternal Light, shine into our hearts,
Eternal Goodness, deliver us from evil,
Eternal Power, be our support,
Eternal Wisdom, scatter the darkness of our ignorance,
Eternal Pity, have mercy upon us, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Text: Alcuin of York 735-804

OPENING SENTENCE

Book of Common Prayer (BCP) 62

Officiant: 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.” —John 8:12

THE INVITATORY AND PSALTER

The Preces and Responses (*Precentor and choir*)

setting by Paul Halley b. 1952

Versicle: O Lord, open thou our lips.

Response: And our mouth shall show forth thy praise.

Versicle: O God, make speed to save us.

Response: O Lord, make haste to help us.

Versicle: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;

Response: As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be:
world without end. Amen.

Versicle: Praise ye the Lord.

Response: The Lord’s name be praised.

Phos hilaron (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 of 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: the God who dwells in the high - est heaven a - dored.
 all the earth and in the high - est heaven a - dored.

Words: Greek 3rd Century; Translation, F. Bland Tucker (1895-1898); paraphrase of *O Gracious Light*.
 Music: *The Eighth Tune*, Thomas Tallis (1505?-1585)

Congregation sits.

Psalm 84

setting by Charles Hubert Hastings Parry, 1848-1918

- 1 O how amiable are thy dwellings :
 thou LORD of hosts!
- 2 My soul hath a desire and longing to enter into the courts of the LORD :
 my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.
- 3 Yea, the sparrow hath found her an house :
 and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young :
- 4 even thy altars, O LORD of hosts :
 my King and my God.
- 5 Blessed are they that dwell in thy house :
 they will be always praising thee.
- 6 Blessed is the man whose strength is in thee :
 in whose heart are thy ways.
- 7 Who going through the vale of misery use it for a well :
 and the pools are filled with water.
- 8 They will go from strength to strength :
 and unto the God of gods appeareth every one of them in Sion.

- ⁹ O Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer :
hearken, O God of Jacob.
- ¹⁰ Behold, O God our defender :
and look upon the face of thine Anointed.
- ¹¹ For one day in thy courts :
is better than a thousand.
- ¹² I had rather be a door-keeper in the house of my God :
than to dwell in the tents of ungodliness.
- ¹³ For the Lord God is a light and defence :
the Lord will give grace and worship,
and no good thing shall he withhold from them that live a godly life.
- ¹⁴ O Lord God of hosts :
blessed is the man that putteth his trust in thee.

*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

Galatians 5:13-25

¹³ For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. ¹⁴ For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." ¹⁵ But if you bite and devour one another, watch out that you are not consumed by one another.

¹⁶ But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. ¹⁷ For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. ¹⁸ But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. ¹⁹ Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, ²⁰ idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, ²¹ envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. ²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. ²⁴ And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

²⁵ If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit.

Reader: Here ends the lesson.

Congregation stands.

Magnificat

Herbert Brewer 1865-1928

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.*

Congregation sits.

The Second Lesson

Mark 8:22-30

²² And they came to Bethsaida. And some people brought to him a blind man and begged him to touch him. ²³ And he took the blind man by the hand and led him out of the village, and when he had spit on his eyes and laid his hands on him, he asked him, "Do you see anything?" ²⁴ And he looked up and said, "I see people, but they look like trees, walking." ²⁵ Then Jesus laid his hands on his eyes again; and he opened his eyes, his sight was restored, and he saw everything clearly. ²⁶ And he sent him to his home, saying, "Do not even enter the village."

²⁷ And Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi. And on the way he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?" ²⁸ And they told him, "John the Baptist; and others say, Elijah; and others, one of the prophets." ²⁹ And he asked them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered him, "You are the Christ."

³⁰ And he strictly charged them to tell no one about him.

Reader: Here ends the lesson.

Congregation stands.

Nunc dimittis

Herbert Brewer

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 *(standing, sung by all on one note)*

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 *(Precentor and choir)*

setting by Paul Halley

Versicle: The Lord be with you.

Response: And with thy spirit.

Versicle: Let us pray. *(The people kneel.)*

Response: 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, which 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 them that trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil. Amen.

The Suffrages *(Precentor and choir)*

Versicle: O Lord, show thy mercy upon us.

Response: And grant us thy salvation.

Versicle: O Lord, save the state.

Response: And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.

Versicle: Endue thy ministers with righteousness.

Response: And make thy chosen people joyful.

Versicle: O Lord, save thy people.

Response: And bless thine inheritance.

Versicle: Give peace in our time, O Lord.

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

Versicle: O God, make clean our hearts within us.

Response: And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.

The Collects

BCP 164

Almighty and everlasting God, who dost govern all things in heaven and earth: Mercifully hear the supplications of thy people, and in our time grant us thy peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

BCP 69

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.

BCP 71

O God, who dost manifest in thy servants the signs of thy presence: Send forth upon us the Spirit of love, that in companionship with one another thine abounding grace may increase among us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Congregation sits.

THE WELCOME

The Rev. Louise Samuelson

Anthem

Edward Elgar 1857-1934

Lux aeterna luceat eis, Domine,
cum sanctis tuis in aeternum,
quia pius es.

Requiem aeternam dona eis, Domine,
et lux perpetua luceat eis.

*Let eternal light shine upon them, Lord,
with your saints for ever,
for you are merciful.*

*Grant them eternal rest, Lord,
and let perpetual light shine upon them.*

Text: from Requiem Mass

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE *Congregation stands.*

Officiant: We pray to Jesus who is present with us to eternity, saying

Jesus, Lord of life

People: In your mercy, hear us.

Officiant: Jesus, light of the world, bring the light and peace of your gospel to the nations.

Jesus, Lord of life

People: In your mercy, hear us.

Officiant: Jesus, bread of life, give food to the hungry and nourish us all with your word.

Jesus, Lord of life

People: In your mercy, hear us.

Officiant: Jesus, our way, our truth, our life, be with us and all who follow you in the way;
deepen our appreciation of your truth and fill us with your life.

Jesus, Lord of life

People: In your mercy, hear us.

Officiant: Jesus, good shepherd who gave your life for the sheep, recover the straggler,
bind up the injured, strengthen the sick and lead the healthy and strong to play.

Jesus, Lord of life

People: In your mercy, hear us.

Officiant: Jesus, the resurrection and the life, we give you thanks for all who have lived and
believed in you; raise us with them to eternal life.

Jesus, Lord of life

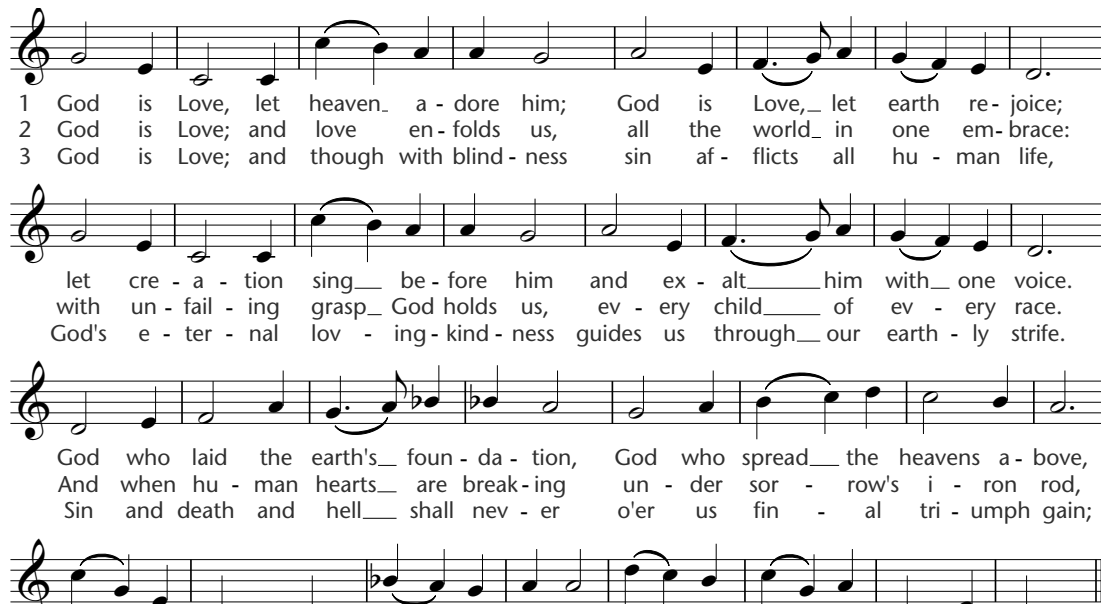
People: In your mercy, hear us, accept our prayers, and be with us always. Amen

A Prayer of St. Chrysostom *(Officiant)*

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.*

May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing through the power of the Holy Spirit. *Amen.* — *Romans 15:13*

HYMN 379



1 God is Love, let heaven a-dore him; God is Love, let earth re-joice;
 2 God is Love; and love en-folds us, all the world in one em-brace:
 3 God is Love; and though with blind-ness sin af-flicts all hu-man life,
 let cre-a-tion sing be-fore him and ex-alt him with one voice.
 with un-fail-ing grasp God holds us, ev-ery child of ev-ery race.
 God's e-ter-nal lov-ing-kind-ness guides us through our earth-ly strife.
 God who laid the earth's foun-da-tion, God who spread the heavens a-bove,
 And when hu-man hearts are break-ing un-der sor-row's i-ron rod,
 Sin and death and hell shall nev-er o'er us fin-al tri-umph gain;
 God who breathes through all cre-a-tion: God is Love, e-ter-nal Love.
 then we find that self-same ach-ing deep with-in the heart of God.
 God is Love, so Love for-ev-er o'er the u-ni-verse must reign.

Words: Timothy Rees (1874-1939); Music: Abbot's Leigh, Cyril Vincent Taylor (1907-1991)

VOLUNTARY

Dialogue sur les Mixtures

Jean Langlais 1907-1991

*Alms basins are available in the Narthex as you leave the church.
 Your offering will help support The Choir of St. John the Divine's Residency Fund.*



Please join us following the liturgy for a light reception in the Narthex.

UPCOMING

March 1, Evensong for Lent with guest conductor Richard Webster
Combined Evensong Choir and SJD Choristers

May 3, Evensong for Eastertide
Evensong Choir

May 31, Evensong for Trinity Sunday
Evensong Choir



THE CHORAL PROGRAM AT SJD

Our music program at St. John the Divine is rooted in the Anglican choral tradition, a rich, centuries old tradition that is alive and continues to inspire. Known globally for its distinctive sound and cultural impact with music from the pre-Reformation to that of later English styles, it is grounded in the liturgies and texts of The Book of Common Prayer, especially that of Choral Evensong. The cathedral choirs and churches such as St. John the Divine are key in preserving and further developing this great legacy.

We have modelled the training of our choristers at SJD to that of the English cathedral choir schools and modified it to fit our needs. As such, our chorister program with over 90 students and 30 adults is thriving. Choristers 4th grade and up sing regularly with the adults as The Choir of St. John the Divine. They sing regularly for worship and the majority of our monthly evensongs. They did a week-long residency at Salisbury Cathedral in 2024

and are scheduled for another residency the summer of 2027 at Durham Cathedral. These residencies are significant in the formation of these young musicians.

We are likewise excited to host a 5-day choral workshop (February 28 – March 1) with Richard Webster, a highly sought-after composer, church musician, conductor, and organist. Webster currently is a Lecturer in the Institute of Sacred Music (ISM) at Yale University. He retired in 2022 as Director of Music and Organist at Trinity Church, Copley Square, Boston after 17 years. During 2023-24 he served as Interim Director of Music at St. Paul's Choir School, Harvard Square, Cambridge, Massachusetts. During his time at SJD, he will work with our choirs over several rehearsals and lead the choirs for worship Sunday morning (March 1), including a Choral Eucharist at 11:15 a.m., and concluding with evensong that afternoon. Richard's enthusiasm is infectious and will inspire our singers to new heights.



Stay in touch! To learn more about music events at SJD, scan the QR code to subscribe to our newsletter.

CLERGY

The Rev. Dr. R. Leigh Spruill, *Rector*
The Rev. Reagan W. Cocke, *Senior Vice Rector*
The Rev. John D. Sundara, *Vice Rector*
The Rev. Louise Samuelson, *Associate Rector*
The Rev. Trent Pettit, *Associate Rector*
The Rev. Libby Garfield, *Associate Rector*
The Rev. Dr. Douglas W. Richnow, *Priest Associate*
The Most Rev. Josiah Idowu-Fearon, *Bishop in Residence*
The Rev. Sutton Lowe, *Curate*
The Rev. Dr. Charles M. Stiernberg, *Deacon*

MUSIC AND WORSHIP STAFF

Steven A. Newberry, *Director of Music and Worship*
John Meier, *Associate Director of Music*
Anna Teagarden, *Associate Director of Music*
Grace Jackson, *Hancock Intern for Church Music*
Sarah Gividen, *Director of Modern Music*
Nick Gividen, *Associate Director of Modern Music*



THE CHURCH OF
ST JOHN THE DIVINE

CHANGING LIVES FOR GOD IN CHRIST