

EVENSONG  
&  
BENEDICTION



Ascensiontide  
**15<sup>th</sup> March 2026**

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SAINT JOHN'S EAST MALVERN

5 FINCH STREET EAST MALVERN 3145

TELEPHONE 9571 6616

WWW.SAINTJOHNS.ORG.AU

# EVENSONG

*Please stand when the bells are rung. The Ministers enter as a hymn is sung.*

1. Let all be one in mind and heart  
with Jesus Christ, our Lord,  
who, though he was by nature God,  
God's glory laid aside.

2. He laid his heavenly glory down;  
God's servant he became;  
obediently he lived, to die  
in shame upon the cross.

3. Now God has raised him up, to bear  
the name above all names;  
at Jesus' name all knees shall bow,  
all tongues proclaim him Lord.

4. All glory now the Father shares  
with his exalted Son,  
whom God the Holy Spirit raised  
from death to Heaven's throne.

*James Quinn 1919-  
TIS 247*

V. O Lord, open thou our lips. *Here it is customary to trace a cross on the lips.*

R. And our mouth shall shew forth thy praise.

V. O ✠ God, make speed to save us. *Here it is customary to make the Sign of the Cross*

R. O Lord, make haste to help us.

*Here it is customary to make a low bow from the waist until the words '...Holy Ghost'*

V. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;

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

V. Praise ye the Lord.

R. The Lord's name be praised.

*The Officiant welcomes the congregation. Please sit as we sing together the PSALM.*

PSALM 97

THE Lord is King, the earth may be glad thereof :

yea, the multitude of the isles may be glad thereof.

Clouds and darkness are round about him :

righteousness and judgement are the habitation of his seat.

There shall go a fire before him :

and burn up his enemies on every side.

His lightnings gave shine unto the world :

the earth saw it, and was afraid.

The hills melted like wax at the presence of the Lord :

at the presence of the Lord of the whole earth.

The heavens have declared his righteousness :

and all the people have seen his glory.

Confounded be all they that worship carved images,

and that delight in vain gods :

worship him, all ye gods.

Sion heard of it, and rejoiced :

and the daughters of Judah were glad, because of thy judgements, O Lord.

For thou, Lord, art higher than all that are in the earth :

thou art exalted far above all gods.

O ye that love the Lord, see that ye hate the thing which is evil :

the Lord preserveth the souls of his saints;

he shall deliver them from the hand of the ungodly.

There is sprung up a light for the righteous :

and joyful gladness for such as are true-hearted.

Rejoice in the Lord, ye righteous :

and give thanks for a remembrance of his holiness.

*Here it is customary to bow until the words ‘...Holy Ghost’*

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.

*Remain seated for the FIRST LESSON from the Old Testament.*

Now when the Lord was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. Elijah said to Elisha, 'Stay here; for the Lord has sent me as far as Bethel.' But Elisha said, 'As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.' So they went down to Bethel. The company of prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha, and said to him, 'Do you know that today the Lord will take your master away from you?' And he said, 'Yes, I know; keep silent.'

Elijah said to him, 'Elisha, stay here; for the Lord has sent me to Jericho.' But he said, 'As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.' So they came to Jericho. The company of prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha, and said to him, 'Do you know that today the Lord will take your master away from you?' And he answered, 'Yes, I know; be silent.'

Then Elijah said to him, 'Stay here; for the Lord has sent me to the Jordan.' But he said, 'As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.' So the two of them went on. Fifty men of the company of prophets also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up, and struck the water; the water was parted to the one side and to the other, until the two of them crossed on dry ground.

When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, 'Tell me what I may do for you, before I am taken from you.' Elisha said, 'Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit.' He responded, 'You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not.' As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven. Elisha kept watching and crying out, 'Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!' But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

He picked up the mantle of Elijah that had fallen from him, and went back and stood on the bank of the Jordan. He took the mantle of Elijah that had fallen from him, and struck the water, saying, 'Where is the Lord, the God of Elijah?' When he had struck the water, the water was parted to the one side and to the other, and Elisha went over.

When the company of prophets who were at Jericho saw him at a distance, they declared, 'The spirit of Elijah rests on Elisha.' They came to meet him and bowed to the ground before him.

Here endeth the first lesson.

*Please stand to sing the MAGNIFICAT, the Song of the Blessed Virgin Mary*

SET B

W. KNYVETT. (from Handel)



MY ✕ soul doth | magnify the | Lord : *here it is customary to make the Sign of the Cross*  
and my spirit hath re | joicèd in | God my | Saviour.

For he | hath re | garded :

The | lowliness | of his | hand-maiden.

For be | hold, from | henceforth :

all gene | rations shall | call me | blessèd.

For he that is mighty hath | magni•fièd | me :

And | holy | is his | Name.

And his mercy is on | them that | fear him :

Through | out all | gene | rations.

He hath shewèd | strength • with his | arm :

he hath scatterèd the proud in the imagi | nation | of their | hearts.

He hath put down the mighty | from their | seat :

and hath ex | alted the | humble and | meek.

He hath fillèd the hungry with | good | things :

and the rich he | hath sent | empty a | way.

He re | membering his | mercy :

hath | holpen his | servant | Israel.

As he promisèd | to our | fore•fathers :

Abraham | and his | seed for | ever.

*Here it is customary to make a low bow from the waist until the words '...Holy Ghost'*

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. A | - - | men.

*Please sit for the SECOND LESSON from the New Testament.*

A reading from the Revelation to Saint John

[5.1-10]

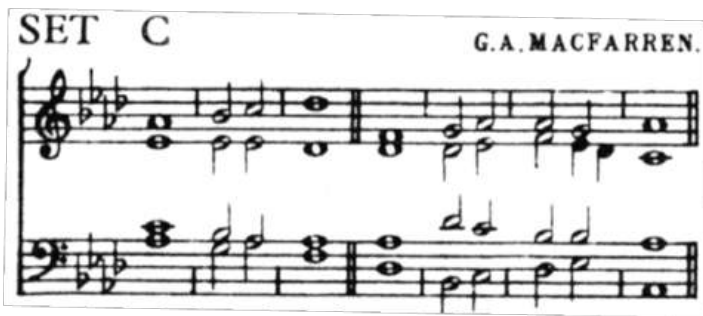
Then I saw in the right hand of the one seated on the throne a scroll written on the inside and on the back, sealed with seven seals; and I saw a mighty angel proclaiming with a loud voice, 'Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?' And no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or to look into it. And I began to weep bitterly because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or to look into it. Then one of the elders said to me, 'Do not weep. See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals.'

Then I saw between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders a Lamb standing as if it had been slaughtered, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth. He went and took the scroll from the right hand of the one who was seated on the throne. When he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell before the Lamb, each holding a harp and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. They sing a new song:

'You are worthy to take the scroll  
and to open its seals,  
for you were slaughtered and by your blood you ransomed for God  
saints from every tribe and language and people and nation;  
you have made them to be a kingdom and priests serving our God,  
and they will reign on earth.'

Here endeth the second lesson.

*Please stand to sing NUNC DIMITTIS, the Song of Simeon*



LORD now lettest thou thy servant de | part in | peace :  
 ac | cording | to thy | word.

For mine eyes have | seen thy sal | vation :

which thou hast preparèd before the | face of | all | people.

To be a light to | lighten the | Gentiles :

and to be the | glory • of thy | people | Israel.

*Here it is customary to make a low bow from the waist until the words '...Holy Ghost'*

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. A | - - | men.

*The APOSTLES' CREED is said as all face the window of 'Christ the Light of the World'*

**I BELIEVE** in God the Father almighty, Maker of heaven and earth: and  
 in *here it is customary to make a slight bow* 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  
 catholick Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the  
 resurrection ✠ *here it is customary to make the Sign of the Cross* of the body, and the  
 life everlasting. Amen.

*The VERSICLES AND RESPONSES are sung.*

V. The Lord be with you.

R. And with thy spirit.

*All kneel or sit*

V. Let us pray.

V. Lord, have mercy upon us.  
**R. Christ, have mercy upon us.**  
V. Lord, have mercy upon us.

*The LORD'S PRAYER is sung*

**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.**

V. O Lord, shew thy mercy upon us.  
**R. And grant us thy salvation.**

V. O Lord, save the King.  
**R. And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.**

V. Endue thy Ministers with righteousness.  
**R. And make thy chosen people joyful.**

V. O Lord, save thy people.  
**R. And bless thine inheritance.**

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

V. O God, make clean our hearts within us.  
**R. And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.**

*The Officiant sings the COLLECTS: the first of the Day, the second for Peace, and the third for Aid against all Perils*

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 Saviour Christ is gone before, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, one God, world without end. **Amen.**

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 both our hearts may be set to obey thy commandments, and also that by thee we being defended from the fear of our enemies may pass our time in rest and quietness; through the merits of Jesus Christ our Saviour. **Amen.**

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 Saviour, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

*Please sit for the MUSICAL REFLECTION*

*Please stand to sing the hymn as the Blessed Sacrament is placed upon the altar*

**1. Sweet Sacrament divine,  
hid in thy earthly home,  
lo, round thy lowly shrine,  
with suppliant hearts we come;  
Jesu, to thee our voice we raise,  
in songs of love and heartfelt praise,  
Sweet Sacrament divine,  
Sweet Sacrament divine.**

**2. Sweet Sacrament of peace,  
dear home for every heart,  
where restless yearnings cease,  
and sorrows all depart,  
there in thine ear all trustfully  
we tell our tale of misery,  
Sweet Sacrament of peace,  
Sweet Sacrament of peace.**

**3. Sweet Sacrament of rest,  
Ark from the ocean's roar,  
within thy shelter blest  
soon may we reach the shore;  
save us, for still the tempest raves;  
save, lest we sink beneath the waves,  
Sweet Sacrament of rest,  
Sweet Sacrament of rest.**

4. Sweet Sacrament divine,  
earth's light and jubilee,  
in thy far depths doth shine  
the Godhead's majesty;  
sweet light, so shine on us, we pray,  
that earthly joys may fade away,  
Sweet Sacrament divine,  
Sweet Sacrament divine.

*Francis Stanfield 1835-1914  
New English Hymnal 307*

## BENEDICTION

*It is customary to kneel throughout the rite of Benediction, kneelers are provided for this purpose in the front row of chairs in the chapel. However those unable to kneel may remain seated. This hymn is sung kneeling as the Blessed Sacrament is exposed and honoured with incense*

**O saving Victim, opening wide  
The gate of heaven to man below;  
Our foes press hard on every side,  
Thine aid supply, thy strength bestow.**

**All praise and thanks to thee ascend  
For evermore, blest One in Three;  
O grant us life that shall not end,  
In our true native land with thee. Amen.**

*St Thomas Aquinas 1227-74, tr. J. M. Neale 1818-66  
NEH 2*

*A LITANY or prayers are offered*

Rejoicing, let us pray to Christ who is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
**You, Christ, are the king of glory.**

King of glory, in you our mortal flesh has been lifted to the heights:  
deliver us from the corruption of sin and restore us to immortal life.  
**You, Christ, are the king of glory.**

Following the path of love, you came down to us from heaven:

let us follow that same path in our ascent to you.

**You, Christ, are the king of glory.**

You promised to draw all people to yourself:

do not let any of us be separated from your body.

**You, Christ, are the king of glory.**

You have ascended into heaven:

let us be there with you in our minds and hearts.

**You, Christ, are the king of glory.**

We await your coming in majesty on the great day of judgement:

may we then gaze upon your glory, with all the faithful departed.

**You, Christ, are the king of glory.**

Lord we thank you with reverence and love as we celebrate your Ascension and look forward to the giving of the Holy Spirit. We have been raised up with you: where you, the Head, have preceded us in glory, there we, the Body, are called in hope. To you be all glory and honour, now and to the ages of the ages. **Amen.**

*Silence*

*The LITANY concludes with the following response repeated three times*

Blessed, praised and hallowed be Jesus Christ upon His Throne of Glory  
**and in the most Holy Sacrament of the Altar.**

*The priest and people sing together as the Blessed Sacrament is honoured with incense*

**5. Therefore we, before him bending,  
This great sacrament revere:  
Types and shadows have their ending,  
For the newer rite is here;  
Faith, our outward sense befriending,  
Makes the inward vision clear.**

**6. Glory let us give and blessing  
To the Father and the Son,  
Honour, might and praise addressing,  
While eternal ages run;  
Ever too his love confessing,  
Who, from both, with both, is one. Amen.**

*St Thomas Aquinas 1227-74  
tr. J. M. Neale 1818-66  
NEH 268*

V. Thou gavest them bread from heaven.

**R. Containing in itself all sweetness.**

Let us pray.

O God, who in a wonderful sacrament hast left us a memorial of thy passion; grant us, so to worship the sacred mysteries of thy Body and Blood, that we may ever perceive within ourselves the fruit of thy redemption: who livest and reignest, world without end. **Amen.**

*Then BENEDICTION is given with the Blessed Sacrament. Bow down in profound adoration while the Priest gives Benediction. Make the sign of the Cross, and ask for your Saviour's blessing on yourself and on the whole Church.*

*While the bell rings, say in your heart:*

Blessed and praised every moment be the Most Holy and Divine Sacrament.

*The priest then says, with the people repeating each line, the DIVINE PRAISES*

Blessed be God.

**Blessed be God.**

Blessed be His Holy Name.

**Blessed be His Holy Name.**

Blessed be Jesus Christ, true God and true Man.

**Blessed be Jesus Christ, true God and true Man.**

Blessed be the Name of Jesus.

**Blessed be the Name of Jesus.**

Blessed be Jesus Christ in the Most Holy Sacrament of the Altar.

**Blessed be Jesus Christ in the Most Holy Sacrament of the Altar.**

Blessed be the Holy Ghost, the Comforter.

**Blessed be the Holy Ghost, the Comforter.**

Blessed be the Mother of God, Mary most holy.

**Blessed be the Mother of God, Mary most holy.**

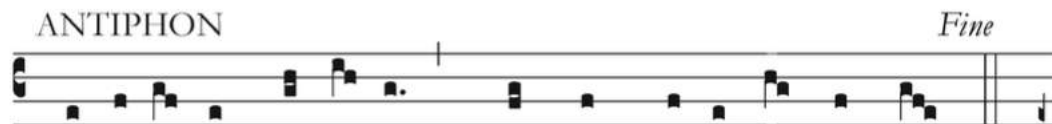
Blessed be the Name of Mary, Virgin and Mother.

**Blessed be the Name of Mary, Virgin and Mother.**

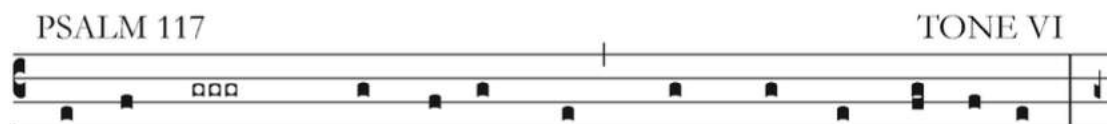
Blessed be God in His Angels and in His Saints.

**Blessed be God in His Angels and in His Saints.**

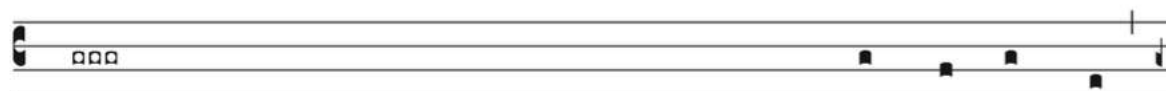
*The following is sung*



Let us a-dore for e-ver \* **the most ho-ly sac-ra-ment.**



O praise the Lord, all ye hea-then: **praise him, all ye na-tions.**



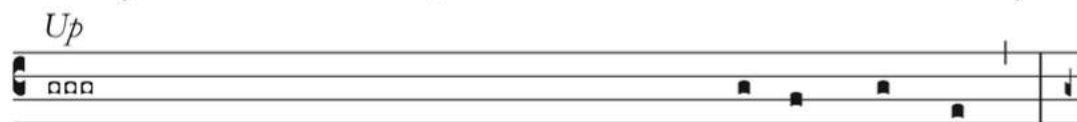
**For his merciful kindness is ever more and more to-wards us:**



**and the truth of the Lord endureth for ev-er. Praise the Lord.**



**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son: and to the Ho-ly Ghost;**



**as it was in the beginning, is now, and ev-er shall be:**



**world with-out end. A-men. Let us a-dore...**

*The organist plays the POSTLUDE*

*Please join us for cheese and wine after the service*



SAINT JOHN'S FINCH STREET

**CHORAL**

**SCHOLARS'**

**SOIREE**

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# TAIZE PRAYER FOR PENTECOST

“HOLY SPIRIT ... POUR OUT YOUR  
PEACE TO ALL HUMANITY” BR ALOIS



SAINT AGNES' GLEN HUNTLY  
SUNDAY 24 MAY 6PM

[WWW.SAINTAGNES.ORG.AU](http://WWW.SAINTAGNES.ORG.AU)

SAINT JOHN'S



FINCH STREET

## MUSIC HIGHLIGHTS 2026

**ASH WEDNESDAY** *Wednesday February 18, 6pm*

**TENEBRAE** *Tuesday March 31, 7:30pm*

**MAUNDY THURSDAY** *Thursday April 2, 7pm*

**GOOD FRIDAY DEVOTION** *Friday April 3, 10am*

**EASTER SUNDAY** *Sunday April 5, 9:30am*

**BACH CANTATA EVENSONG** *Sunday May 3, 6pm*

**SCHOLARS' SOIREE** *Friday May 22, 7pm*

**MIDWINTER COMPLINE** *Sunday June 28, 8pm*

**CHOIR SHOWCASE CONCERT** *Friday July 31, 7pm*

**CATHEDRAL EVENSONG** *Sunday September 20, 4pm*

**ALL SOULS' REQUIEM** *Sunday November 1, 7pm*

**NINE LESSONS & CAROLS** *Sunday December 20, 7:30pm*

**MIDNIGHT MASS** *Thursday December 24, 11pm*

**CHRISTMAS MORNING** *Friday December 25, 9:30am*

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