

EVENSONG & BENEDICTION



Mary, Mother of Our Lord
16th August 2026

SAINT JOHN'S EAST MALVERN

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EVENSONG

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

1. Praise to the Lord, the Almighty,
the King of creation;
O my soul, praise him,
for he is your health and salvation.
Come all who hear,
brothers and sisters draw near,
praise him in glad adoration.

2. Praise to the Lord who in all things
is wondrously reigning
and, as on wings of an eagle,
uplifting, sustaining:
have you not seen
all that is needed has been
sent by his gracious ordaining?

3. Praise to the Lord, who will prosper
our work and defend us;
surely his goodness and mercy
shall daily attend us:
ponder anew
what the Almighty can do
as with his love he befriends us.

4. Praise to the Lord, who when darkness
of sin is abounding,
who, when the godless do triumph,
our best hopes confounding,
sheds forth his light,
scatters the horrors of night,
saints with his mercy surrounding.

5. Praise to the Lord! O let all that is
in me adore him!
All that has life and breath, come now

with praises before him.
Let the Amen
sound from his people again:
gladly for ever adore him.

Joachim Neander 1650-80
tr. Catherine Winkworth 1827-78 and others
TIS 111

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 72

GIVE the King thy judgements, O God :

and thy righteousness unto the King's son.

Then shall he judge thy people according unto right :

and defend the poor.

The mountains also shall bring peace :

and the little hills righteousness unto the people.

He shall keep the simple folk by their right :

defend the children of the poor, and punish the wrong-doer.

They shall fear thee, as long as the sun and moon endureth :

from one generation to another.

He shall come down like the rain into a fleece of wool :

even as the drops that water the earth.

In his time shall the righteous flourish :
yea, and abundance of peace, so long as the moon endureth.
His dominion shall be also from the one sea to the other :
and from the flood unto the world's end.
They that dwell in the wilderness shall kneel before him :
his enemies shall lick the dust.
The kings of Tharsis and of the isles shall give presents :
the kings of Arabia and Saba shall bring gifts.
All kings shall fall down before him :
all nations shall do him service.
For he shall deliver the poor when he crieth :
the needy also, and him that hath no helper.
He shall be favourable to the simple and needy :
and shall preserve the souls of the poor.
He shall deliver their souls from falsehood and wrong :
and dear shall their blood be in his sight.
He shall live, and unto him shall be given of the gold of Arabia :
prayer shall be made ever unto him, and daily shall he be praised.
There shall be an heap of corn in the earth, high upon the hills :
his fruit shall shake like Libanus, and shall be green in the city like grass
upon the earth.
His Name shall endure for ever;
his Name shall remain under the sun among the posterities:
which shall be blessed through him; and all the heathen shall praise him.
Blessed be the Lord God, even the God of Israel :
which only doeth wondrous things;
And blessed be the Name of his majesty for ever :
and all the earth shall be filled with his majesty. Amen, Amen.
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.

The voice of my beloved!

Look, he comes,
leaping upon the mountains,
bounding over the hills.

My beloved is like a gazelle
or a young stag.

Look, there he stands
behind our wall,
gazing in at the windows,
looking through the lattice.

My beloved speaks and says to me:

‘Arise, my love, my fair one,
and come away;

for now the winter is past,
the rain is over and gone.

The flowers appear on the earth;
the time of singing has come,
and the voice of the turtle-dove
is heard in our land.

The fig tree puts forth its figs,
and the vines are in blossom;
they give forth fragrance.

Arise, my love, my fair one,
and come away.

O my dove, in the clefts of the rock,
in the covert of the cliff,

let me see your face,
let me hear your voice;

for your voice is sweet,
and your face is lovely.

Here endeth the first lesson.

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



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 Book of Acts

[1.1-14]

In the first book, 'Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had

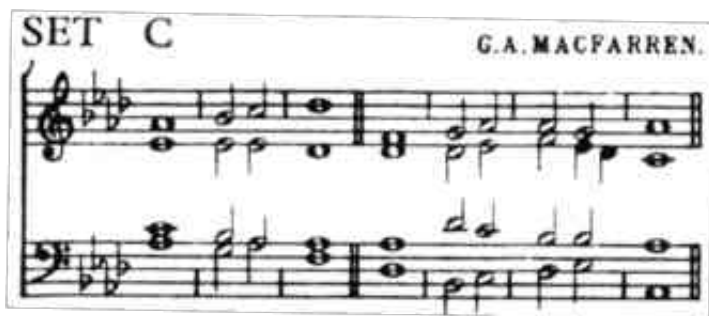
chosen. After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them over the course of forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. ‘This’, he said, ‘is what you have heard from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.’

So when they had come together, they asked him, ‘Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?’ He replied, ‘It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.’ When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up towards heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, ‘Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up towards heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.’

Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day’s journey away. When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying, Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

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

Almighty God, who didst look upon the lowliness of the Blessed Virgin Mary and didst choose her to be the mother of thy only Son: grant that we who are redeemed by his blood may share with her in the glory of thine eternal kingdom; through Jesus Christ thy Son our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **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

Let us praise God the Father who chose Mary as the mother of his Son and wanted all generations to call her blessed. With confidence we pray:

May the Virgin Mary intercede for us.

May the Virgin Mary intercede for us.

Lord, your heavenly Father did great things for the Virgin Mary and brought her to the glory of heaven; may our hearts be filled with the hope of your glory.

May the Virgin Mary intercede for us.

Through the prayers of Mary, our mother, heal the sick, comfort the sorrowful, pardon sinners; grant peace and salvation to all.

May the Virgin Mary intercede for us.

Mary was favoured by the Father with the fullness of grace; bestow on all people your overflowing blessings.

May the Virgin Mary intercede for us.

May your Church be united heart and soul, held fast by love; and may your faithful be joined in continuous prayer, with Mary your mother.

May the Virgin Mary intercede for us.

God the Father exalted the Virgin Mary and crowned her queen of heaven; may the dead enter your kingdom and rejoice with your saints for ever.

May the Virgin Mary intercede for us.

Grant us Lord, we pray, continued health of mind and body and through the intercession of Blessed Mary, true Virgin, free us of temporal sadness and bring us to the enjoyment of eternal joy.

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.

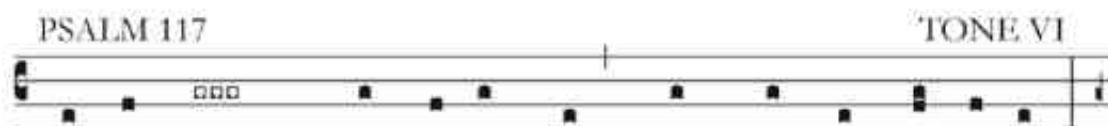
Blessed be God in His Angels and in His Saints.

Blessed be God in His Angels and in His Saints.

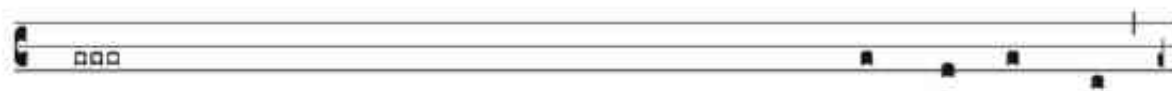
The following is sung



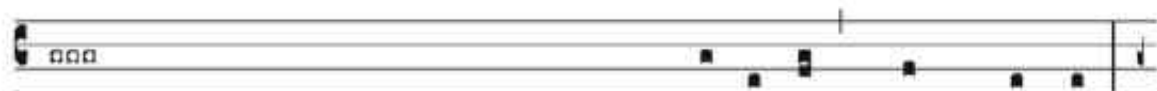
Let us a-dore for e-ver * the most ho-ly sac-ra-ment.



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:



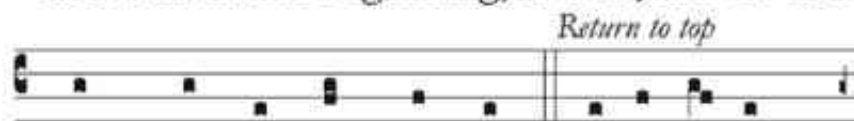
and the truth of the Lord endureth for ev-er. Praise the Lord.



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 J_OHN'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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