

The Church of St. John the Divine  
**Choral Evensong**  
**Sept 13, 2020 ■ First Evening Prayer of Holy Cross Day**  
*We acknowledge these ancestral territories of the Lekwungen people.*

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Officiants: The Rev'd Andrew Gates

Reader: Elizabeth Mcauley

Music: Choral and Organ Scholars of the Church of St. John the Divine

**A note about COVID-19 safety:** *Please remain in your places through the service except in case of emergency. The toilet, located through the door at the front left, is for emergency use only. At the end of the service, the usher will indicate when it is your turn to leave.*

*Listed music is subject to substitution in the event of changes of personnel or situation.*

**A note about language:** *In our worship, we use language which is poetic and filled with metaphor and wonder – realising that any language about God is limited. We use some ancient words which may seem odd, or may seem to refer to God as male, or in terms which elsewhere we might not choose to use. The poetry and the metaphor are there not to restrict or define our understanding of God, but to remind us that our words are never enough to talk about the Divine: instead we use the beauty of the words and music in our worship to help us glimpse just a little of the God beyond all words.*

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## ORDER OF SERVICE

### ORGAN PRELUDE

*Please stand as the clergy enter.*

### THE RESPONSES

*Musical setting: Thos. Tallis (1505-85)*

*Cantor:* O Lord, open thou our lips

*Choir:* And our mouth shall show forth thy praise.

*Cantor:* O God, make speed to save us.

*Choir:* O Lord, make haste to help us.

*Cantor:* 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.  
Praise ye the Lord.

### PSALM

*Psalm 66.1-8*

*Please sit for the Psalm, but stand at the final 'Glory be to the Father...'*

### FIRST LESSON

*Isaiah 52.13-end of 53*

*Please sit during the reading of the lesson.*

## MAGNIFICAT

*Text: Lk. 1:46-55 Music: Anonymous*

*Please stand.*

MY SOUL doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour. 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 the 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.

## SECOND LESSON

*Ephesians 2.11-end*

*Please sit during the reading of the lesson.*

## NUNC DIMITTIS

*Text: Matthew 5:1-12. Music: Amy Beach*

*Please stand.*

LORD, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word. For mine eyes have seen thy salvation, which thou has 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.

## APOSTLES' CREED

*All may join in reciting the creed.*

**All: 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.**

## RESPONSES, LORD'S PRAYER, AND COLLECTS

*Cantor:* The Lord be with you;

*Choir:* And with thy spirit.

*Cantor:* Let us pray.

*Please sit or kneel for the prayers.*

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

**All: 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 them that trespass against us; And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil. Amen.**

*Cantor:* O Lord, show thy mercy upon us;

*Choir:* And grant us thy salvation.

*Cantor:* O Lord, save the Queen;

*Choir:* And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.

*Cantor:* Endue thy Ministers with righteousness;

*Choir:* And make thy chosen people joyful.

*Cantor:* O Lord, save thy people;

*Choir:* And bless thine inheritance.

*Cantor:* Give peace in our time, O Lord;

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

*Cantor:* O God, make clean our hearts within us;

*Choir:* And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.

*First Collect, of the day:*

ALMIGHTY GOD, whose Son our Saviour Jesus Christ was lifted high upon the cross that he might draw the whole world to himself, may we who rejoice in the mystery of our redemption, have grace to take up our cross and follow him, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

*Second 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 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.

*Third Collect, for Aid Against All Perils:*

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.

## ANTHEM

*Text: Antiphon at Feasts of the Holy Cross. Music: C. Monteverdi (1567-1643)*

*Please sit as the choir sings the anthem.*

Christe, adoramus te, et benedicimus tibi, quia per sanctam crucem tuam redemisti mundum. Domine, miserere nobis.

*[Christ, we adore you and we bless you, because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world. Lord have mercy on us.]*

## INTERCESSIONS

*Please sit or kneel for the intercessions.*

## FINAL HYMN

SONG 13 *Text W. H. Vanstone (b.1923); Music O. Gibbons (1583-1625)*

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*In line with current Covid regulations the congregation is asked not sing; words are provided for meditation on the text of the hymn.*

*Please sit as the choir sings.*

Morning glory, starlit sky, soaring music, scholar's truth,  
Flight of swallows, autumn leaves, memory's treasure, grace of youth:

Open are the gifts of God, gifts of love to mind and sense;  
hidden is love's agony, love's endeavour, love's expense.

Love that gives, gives ever more, gives with zeal, with eager hands,  
spares not, keeps not, all outpours, ventures all, its all expends.

Drained is love in making full, found in setting others free,  
poor in making many rich, weak in giving power to be.

Therefore he who shows us God helpless hangs upon the tree;  
and the nails and crown of thorns tell of what God's love must be.

Here is God: no monarch he, throned in easy state to reign;  
here is God, whose arms of love aching, spent, the world sustain.

## BLESSING

*Please stand.*

## ORGAN VOLUNTARY

*Please remain seated in your places until your turn to leave is indicated by an usher.*

*There are recycling bins for this service sheet by the exit, as well as hand-sanitizing stations.*