



St. Paul's Within the Walls Episcopal Church

CHORAL MATINS FOR ASCENSION DAY
THURSDAY 21ST MAY, 2020

Welcome to this podcast service of Choral Matins, on the feast of the Ascension of our Lord Jesus Christ.

With the continued absence of our choir, music for this morning is provided by our organist, Stefano Vasselli, organ scholar, Frederick Frostwick, and musician in residence, Eric Foster. The readings have been recorded off-site and, where necessary, social distancing measures have been observed in the recording process.

In this particularly difficult time we are more reliant than ever on individual donations to support our ministry and the continued upkeep of our building; if you are able, we would greatly appreciate any financial help you are willing to give. To donate, please visit our website, www.stpaulsrome.it/donate.

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

Majesté du Christ demandant sa gloire à son Père from L'ascension
Olivier Messiaen

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION OF SINS

I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee, and am no more worthy to be called thy son. *St. Luke* xv. 18, 19.

DEARLY beloved brethren, the Scripture moveth us, in sundry places, to acknowledge and confess our manifold sins and wickedness; and that we should not dissemble nor cloak them before the face of Almighty God our heavenly Father; but confess them with an humble, lowly, penitent, and

obedient heart; to the end that we may obtain forgiveness of the same, by his infinite goodness and mercy. And although we ought, at all times, humbly to acknowledge our sins before God; yet ought we chiefly so to do, when we assemble and meet together to render thanks for the great benefits that we have received at his hands, to set forth his most worthy praise, to hear his most holy Word, and to ask those things which are requisite and necessary, as well for the body as the soul. Wherefore I pray and beseech you, as many as are here present, to accompany me with a pure heart, and humble voice, unto the throne of the heavenly grace, saying after me;

ALMIGHTY and most merciful Father; We have erred, and strayed from thy ways like lost sheep. We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts. We have offended against thy holy laws. We have left undone those things which we ought to have done; And we have done those things which we ought not to have done; And there is no health in us. But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us, miserable offenders. Spare thou them, O God, who confess their faults. Restore thou them that are penitent; According to thy promises declared unto mankind in Christ Jesu our Lord. And grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake; That we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life, To the glory of thy holy Name. Amen.

ALMIGHTY God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who desireth not the death of a sinner, but rather that he may turn from his wickedness, and live; and hath given power, and commandment, to his Ministers, to declare and pronounce to his people, being penitent, the Absolution and Remission of their sins : He pardoneth and absolveth all them that truly repent, and unfeignedly believe his holy Gospel. Wherefore let us beseech him to grant us true repentance, and

his Holy Spirit, that those things may please him, which we do at this present; and that the rest of our life hereafter may be pure, and holy; so that at the last we may come to his eternal joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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

THE PRECES

J. Bertalot

OFFICE HYMN

O LORD most high, eternal King,
By Thee redeemed Thy praise we sing;
The bonds of death are burst by Thee,
And grace has won the victory.

Ascending to the Father's throne
Thou claim'st the kingdom as Thine own;
And angels wonder when they see
How changed is our humanity.

Be Thou our Joy, O mighty Lord,
As Thou wilt be our great Reward;
Let all our glory be in Thee
Both now and through eternity.

All praise from every heart and tongue
To Thee, ascended Lord, be sung;
All praise to God the Father be
And Holy Ghost eternally. Alleluia.

O risen Christ, ascended Lord,
All praise to thee let earth accord,
Who art, while endless ages run,
With Father and with Spirit, One. Alleluia!

‘Gonfalon Royal’
Percy Buck

Latin c 5th century
Tr. J.M. Neale

Venite, exultemus domino

Psalm 95

O COME, let us sing unto the Lord : let us heartily
rejoice in the strength of our salvation.

Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving : and
shew ourselves glad in him with Psalms.

For the Lord is a great God : and a great King above all
gods.

In his hand are all the corners of the earth : and the
strength of the hills is his also.

The sea is his, and he made it : and his hands prepared the
dry land.

O come, let us worship and fall down : and kneel before
the Lord our Maker.

For he is the Lord our God : and we are the people of his
pasture, and the sheep of his hand.

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.

Chant by R. Goodson

Domine, Dominus noster

Psalm 8

O LORD our Governor, how excellent is thy Name in all the world : thou that hast set thy glory above the heavens!

Out of the mouth of very babes and sucklings hast thou ordained strength, because of thine enemies : that thou mightest still the enemy and the avenger.

For I will consider thy heavens, even the works of thy fingers : the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained.

What is man, that thou art mindful of him : and the son of man, that thou visitest him?

Thou madest him lower than the angels : to crown him with glory and worship.

Thou makest him to have dominion of the works of thy hands : and thou hast put all things in subjection under his feet;

All sheep and oxen : yea, and the beasts of the field;

The fowls of the air, and the fishes of the sea : and whatsoever walketh through the paths of the seas.

O Lord our Governor : how excellent is thy Name in all the world!

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.

Chant by J. Corfe (from H. Lawes)

Domine, quis habitabit?

Psalm 15

LORD, who shall dwell in thy tabernacle : or who shall rest upon thy holy hill?

Even he that leadeth an uncorrupt life : and doeth the thing which is right, and speaketh the truth from his heart.

He that hath used no deceit in his tongue, nor done evil to his neighbour : and hath not slandered his neighbour.

He that setteth not by himself, but is lowly in his own eyes : and maketh much of them that fear the Lord.

He that sweareth unto his neighbour, and disappointeth him not : though it were to his own hindrance.

He that hath not given his money upon usury : nor taken reward against the innocent.

Whoso doeth these things : shall never fall.

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.

Chant by C. Gibbons

Domine, in virtute tua

Psalm 21

THE King shall rejoice in thy strength, O Lord :
exceeding glad shall he be of thy salvation.

Thou hast given him his heart's desire : and hast not denied him the request of his lips.

For thou shalt prevent him with the blessings of goodness : and shalt set a crown of pure gold upon his head.

He asked life of thee, and thou gavest him a long life : even for ever and ever.

His honour is great in thy salvation : glory and great worship shalt thou lay upon him.

For thou shalt give him everlasting felicity : and make him glad with the joy of thy countenance.

And why? because the King putteth his trust in the Lord : and in the mercy of the most Highest he shall not miscarry.

All thine enemies shall feel thine hand : thy right hand shall find out them that hate thee.

Thou shalt make them like a fiery oven in time of thy wrath : the Lord shall destroy them in his displeasure, and the fire shall consume them.

Their fruit shalt thou root out of the earth : and their seed from among the children of men.

For they intended mischief against thee : and imagined such a device as they are not able to perform.

Therefore shalt thou put them to flight : and the strings of thy bow shalt thou make ready against the face of them.

Be thou exalted, Lord, in thine own strength : so we will sing, and praise thy power.

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.

Chant by J. Goss

THE FIRST LESSON
2 Kings 2:1-15 (NRSV)

NOW when the LORD was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. ²Elijah 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. ³The 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.”

⁴Elijah 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. ⁵The 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.”

⁶Then 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. ⁷Fifty men of the company of prophets also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. ⁸Then 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.

⁹When 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.” ¹⁰He 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.” ¹¹As 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. ¹²Elisha 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.

¹³He picked up the mantle of Elijah that had fallen from him, and went back and stood on the bank of the Jordan. ¹⁴He 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.

¹⁵When 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.

TE DEUM

C. V. Stanford, from the Service in D

THE SECOND LESSON

Ephesians 4:1-16 (NRSV)

I THEREFORE, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, ²with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, ³making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. ⁴There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, ⁵one Lord, one faith, one baptism, ⁶one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.

⁷But each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ's gift. ⁸Therefore it is said,

“When he ascended on high he made captivity itself a captive;
he gave gifts to his people.”

⁹(When it says, “He ascended,” what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower parts of the earth? ¹⁰He who descended is the same one who ascended far above all the heavens, so that he might fill all things.) ¹¹The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, ¹²to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, ¹³until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ. ¹⁴We must no longer be children, tossed to and fro and blown about by every wind of doctrine, by people's trickery, by their craftiness in deceitful scheming. ¹⁵But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every

way into him who is the head, into Christ, ¹⁶ from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love.

JUBILATE

C. V. Stanford, from the Service in D

CREED OF ST. ATHANASIUS

WHOSOEVER will be saved : before all things it is necessary that he hold the Catholick Faith.

Which Faith except every one do keep whole and undefiled : without doubt he shall perish everlastingly.

And the Catholick Faith is this: That we worship one God in Trinity, and Trinity in Unity;

Neither confounding the Persons : nor dividing the Substance.

For there is one Person of the Father, another of the Son : and another of the Holy Ghost.

But the Godhead of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, is all one : the Glory equal, the Majesty co-eternal.

Such as the Father is, such is the Son : and such is the Holy Ghost.

The Father uncreate, the Son uncreate : and the Holy Ghost uncreate.

The Father incomprehensible, the Son incomprehensible : and the Holy Ghost incomprehensible.

The Father eternal, the Son eternal : and the Holy Ghost eternal.

And yet they are not three eternal : but one eternal.

As also there are not three incomprehensibles, nor three uncreated : but one uncreated, and one

incomprehensible.

So likewise the Father is Almighty, the Son Almighty : and the Holy Ghost Almighty.

And yet they are not three Almighties : but one Almighty.

So the Father is God, the Son is God : and the Holy Ghost is God.

And yet they are not three Gods : but one God.

So likewise the Father is Lord, the Son Lord : and the Holy Ghost Lord.

And yet not three Lords : but one Lord.

For like as we are compelled by the Christian verity to acknowledge every Person by himself to be both God and Lord;

So are we forbidden by the Catholick Religion : to say, There be three Gods, or three Lords.

The Father is made of none : neither created, nor begotten.

The Son is of the Father alone : not made, nor created, but begotten.

The Holy Ghost is of the Father and of the Son : neither made, nor created, nor begotten, but proceeding.

So there is one Father, not three Fathers; one Son, not three Sons : one Holy Ghost, not three Holy Ghosts.

And in this Trinity none is afore, or after other : none is greater, or less than another;

But the whole three Persons are co-eternal together : and co-equal.

So that in all things, as is aforesaid : the Unity in Trinity and the Trinity in Unity is to be worshipped.

He therefore that will be saved : must think thus of the Trinity.

Furthermore, it is necessary to everlasting salvation : that he also believe rightly the Incarnation of our Lord

Jesus Christ.

For the right Faith is, that we believe and confess :
that our Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is God and
Man;

God, of the substance of the Father, begotten before
the worlds : and Man of the substance of his Mother,
born in the world;

Perfect God and perfect Man : of a reasonable soul
and human flesh subsisting.

Equal to the Father, as touching his Godhead : and
inferior to the Father, as touching his manhood;

Who, although he be God and Man : yet he is not two,
but one Christ;

One, not by conversion of the Godhead into flesh : but
by taking of the Manhood into God;

One altogether; not by confusion of Substance : but by
unity of Person.

For as the reasonable soul and flesh is one man : so
God and Man is one Christ;

Who suffered for our salvation : descended into hell,
rose again the third day from the dead.

He ascended into heaven, he sitteth at the right hand
of the Father, God Almighty : from whence he will come
to judge the quick and the dead.

At whose coming all men will rise again with their
bodies : and shall give account for their own works.

And they that have done good shall go into life
everlasting : and they that have done evil into
everlasting fire.

This is the Catholick Faith : which except a man
believe faithfully, he cannot be saved.

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 RESPONSES

J. Bertalot

COLLECT OF THE DAY

GRANT, we beseech thee, Almighty God, that like as we do believe thy only-begotten Son our Lord Jesus Christ to have ascended into the heavens; so we may also in heart and mind thither ascend, and with him continually dwell, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, one God, world without end. *Amen.*

COLLECT FOR PEACE

O GOD, who art the author of peace and lover of concord, in knowledge of whom standeth our eternal life, whose service is perfect freedom; Defend us thy humble servants in all assaults of our enemies; that we, surely trusting in thy defence, may not fear the power of any adversaries, through the might of Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

COLLECT FOR GRACE

O LORD, our heavenly Father, Almighty and everlasting God, who hast safely brought us to the beginning of this day; Defend us in the same with thy mighty power; and grant that this day we fall into no sin, neither run into any kind of danger; but that all our doings may be ordered by thy governance, to do always that is righteous in thy sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

THE ANTHEM

Haec Dies

T. Morley

A PRAYER FOR CLERGY AND PEOPLE

ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, who alone workest great marvels; Send down upon our Bishops, and Curates, and all Congregations committed to their charge, the healthful Spirit of thy grace; and that they may truly please thee, pour upon them the continual dew of thy blessing. Grant this, O Lord, for the honour of our Advocate and Mediator, Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

A PRAYER OF ST. CHRYSOSTOM

ALMIGHTY God, who hast given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplications unto thee; and dost promise, that when two or three are gathered together in thy Name thou wilt grant their requests; Fulfil now, O Lord, the desires and petitions of thy servants, as may be most expedient for them; granting us in this world knowledge of thy truth, and in the world to come life everlasting. *Amen.*

2 CORINTHIANS XIII.

THE grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Ghost, be with us all evermore. *Amen*

HYMN

HAIL the day that sees him rise, Alleluia!
Glorious to his native skies; Alleluia!
Christ, awhile to mortals given, Alleluia!
Enters now the highest heaven. Alleluia!

There the glorious triumph waits; Alleluia!
Lift your heads, eternal gates! Alleluia!
Wide unfold the radiant scene; Alleluia!
Find our heaven of heavens in thee. Alleluia!

Highest heaven its Lord receives; Alleluia!
yet he loves the earth he leaves. Alleluia!
Though returning to his throne, Alleluia!
still he calls us all his own. Alleluia!

See! He lifts his hands above; Alleluia!
See! He shows the prints of love: Alleluia!
Hark! His gracious lips bestow, Alleluia!
Blessings on his Church below. Alleluia!

Lord beyond our mortal sight, Alleluia!
Raise our hearts to reach thy height, Alleluia!
There thy face unclouded see, Alleluia!
Find our heaven of heavens in thee. Alleluia!

'Llanfair'
Robert Williams of Agelsey

Charles Wesley

THE BLESSING AND FINAL RESPONSES

Let us bless the Lord, alleluia, alleluia.
Thanks be to God, alleluia, alleluia.

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

Prière du Christ montant vers son Père from *L'ascension*
Olivier Messiaen
