

Choral Evensong
Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

sung by the
Raleigh Convocation Choir



Church of the Nativity
Raleigh, NC

September 28, 2025

The Reverend Grey Maggiano
Officiant

Evensong is the sung Anglican office of Evening Prayer which combines the offices of Vespers and Compline. This liturgy is more than 400 years old and one of the Church of England's unique contributions to Western civilization. Evidence of the genius of Thomas Cranmer (1489-1556), Archbishop of Canterbury, the words of this liturgy have been set to music by some of the Church's greatest composers. In Choral Evensong, the choir sings "on behalf of" the congregation. This provides an unparalleled opportunity for meditation and to enter into deeper prayer through words and music. This evening's service is based on the 1662 Book of Common Prayer adapted for present-day use in accordance with the 1979 Book of Common Prayer.



Voluntary

Reflection on 'St. Clement'

Franklin Ashdown

We stand as the choir and clergy enter the church and remain standing as the choir sings the Introit.

Introit

Let My Prayer Come Up

John Blow

Let my prayer come up into thy presence as incense.

Let the lifting up of my hands be as an evening sacrifice.

The officiant says

Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

Dear friends in Christ, here in the presence of Almighty God, let us kneel in silence, and with penitent and obedient hearts confess our sins, so that we may obtain forgiveness by his infinite goodness and mercy.

The officiant and people together, all sitting or kneeling if able

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 those, O God, who confess their faults, restore thou those who are penitent, according to thy promises declared unto mankind in Christ Jesus 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.

The officiant says

The Almighty and merciful Lord grant you absolution and remission of all your sins, true repentance, amendment of life, and the grace and consolation of his Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

The cantor and choir sing

O Lord, open thou our lips.

Setting: Philip Radcliffe

And our mouth shall shew forth thy praise.

O God, make speed to save us;

O Lord, make haste to help us.

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.

Praise ye the Lord;

The Lord's name be praised.

Hymn 35

Christ, Mighty Savior

We sit as the choir sings the psalm.

Psalm 46

Anglican chant: Martin Luther

God is our refuge and strength, *

a very present help in trouble.

Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved, *

and though the mountains be toppled into the

depths of the sea;

Though its waters rage and foam, *

and though the mountains tremble at its tumult.

The Lord of hosts is with us; *

the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, *

the holy habitation of the Most High.

God is in the midst of her;

she shall not be overthrown; *

God shall help her at the break of day.

The nations make much ado, and the kingdoms are shaken; *

God has spoken, and the earth shall melt away.

The Lord of hosts is with us; *

the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

Come now and look upon the works of the Lord, *

what awesome things he has done on earth.

It is he who makes war to cease in all the world; *
he breaks the bow, and shatters the spear,
and burns the shields with fire.
"Be still, then, and know that I am God; *
I will be exalted among the nations;
I will be exalted in the earth."
The Lord of hosts is with us; *
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.
Glory to the Father and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit:
As it was in the beginning, is now,
and will be for ever. Amen.

The First Reading

Acts 9:36-43

Now in Joppa there was a disciple whose name was Tabitha, which in Greek is Dorcas. She was devoted to good works and acts of charity. At that time she became ill and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in a room upstairs. Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, who heard that Peter was there, sent two men to him with the request, "Please come to us without delay." So Peter got up and went with them, and when he arrived, they took him to the room upstairs. All the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing tunics and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was with them. Peter put all of them outside, and then he knelt down and prayed. He turned to the body and said, "Tabitha, get up." Then she opened her eyes, and seeing Peter, she sat up. He gave her his hand and helped her up. Then calling the saints and widows, he showed her to be alive. This became known throughout Joppa, and many believed in the Lord. Meanwhile, he stayed in Joppa for some time with a certain Simon, a tanner.

We stand as the choir sings the Magnificat

Magnificat

Setting: Charles Wood

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 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 forever. 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.

We sit

The Second Reading

Luke 5:1-11

Once while Jesus was standing beside the Lake of Gennesaret and the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God, he saw two boats there at the shore of the lake; the fishermen had gotten out of them and were washing their nets. He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little way from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat. When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch." Simon answered, "Master, we have worked all night long but have caught nothing. Yet if you say so, I will let down the nets." When they had done this, they caught so many fish that their nets were beginning to burst. So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both boats, so that they began to sink. But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus's knees, saying, "Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!" For he and all who were with him were astounded at the catch of fish that they had taken, and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. Then Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people." When they had brought their boats to shore, they left everything and followed him.

We stand as the choir sings the Nunc dimittis.

Nunc dimittis

Setting: Wood

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.

We remain standing and chant together

The Apostles' Creed

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

Setting: Radcliffe

We kneel as the cantor and choir sing

The Lord be with you.

And with thy spirit.

Let us pray.

Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.

We remain kneeling and chant together

Our Father, which 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 those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; But deliver us from evil. Amen.

We remain kneeling as the cantor and choir sing

O Lord, shew thy mercy upon us;

And grant us thy salvation.

O Lord, save the State;

And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.

Endue thy ministers with righteousness;

And make thy chosen people joyful.

O Lord, save thy people;

And bless thine inheritance.

Give peace in our time, O Lord;

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

O God, make clean our hearts within us;

And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.

The Collects

O God, you declare your almighty power chiefly in showing mercy and pity: Grant us the fullness of your grace, that we, running to obtain your promises, may become partakers of your heavenly treasure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and 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 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 Savior. *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 Savior, Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

We sit as the choir sings the Anthem.

Anthem

O Lord! That Seest from Yon Starry Height

Charles Wood

O Lord! That seest from yon starry height, centered in one future and the past, fashioned in thine own image, see how fast the world obscures in me what once was bright! Eternal Sun! The warmth which thou hast given to cheer life's flowery April fast decays; Yet, in the hoary winter of my days, Forever green shall be my trust in Heaven. Celestial King! Oh, let thy presence pass before my spirit, and an image fair shall meet that look of mercy from on high. As the reflected image in a glass doth meet the look of him who seeks it there, and owes its being to the gazer's eye.

We kneel and say together

The General Thanksgiving

Almighty God, Father of all mercies, we thine unworthy servants do give thee most humble and hearty thanks for all thy goodness and loving-kindness to us and to all men. We bless thee for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all for thine inestimable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ; for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory. And, we beseech thee, give us that due sense of all thy mercies, that our hearts may be unfeignedly thankful; and that we show forth thy praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives, by giving up our selves to thy service, and by walking before thee in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.

We stand.

Hymn 24

The Day Thou Gavest, Lord, Has Ended

The officiant says

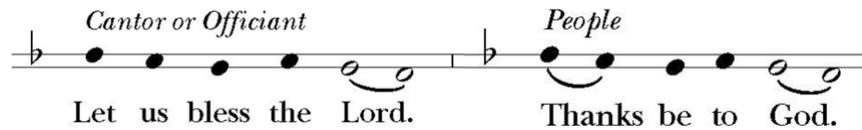
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Ghost, be with us all evermore. **Amen.**

Anthem

Prevent Us, O Lord

Alfred H. Brewer

Prevent us, O Lord, in all our doings with thy most gracious favor, and further us with thy continual help, that in all our works begun, continued, and ended in thee we may glorify thy holy name, and finally by thy mercy obtain everlasting life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



We remain standing as the choir and clergy leave the church and are then seated for the Voluntary.

Voluntary

Allegro

John Stanley

Kyle West - Lector
Helen Armstrong - Crucifer

The Raleigh Convocation Choir (RCC) is a ministry of the Raleigh Convocation of the Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina. Formed in 2008, the ensemble offers music from the Anglican choral tradition and sings for church services in the Triangle and beyond.

Our mission:

- Be good ambassadors of the faith
- Preserve and promote choral liturgies of the Episcopal Church, Choral Evensong in particular
- Serve as a resource for parochial, convocational, and diocesan liturgies

Raleigh Convocation Choir

Director

Russell McKinney – St. Paul's, Cary

Organist

Mac Pannill – White Plains UMC, Cary

Soprano

Robin Arcus – St. Luke's, Durham

Elizabeth LaFrance – Christ Church, Raleigh

Linda McKinney – St. Paul's, Cary

Mariah Tarry – Church of the Nativity, Raleigh

Corinne Kadlec – Oak City Voices, Raleigh

Karen Wagoner – St. Michael's, Raleigh

Alto

Katie Behling – St. Paul's, Cary

The Reverend Doctor Cathy Deats – St. Paul's, Cary

Lyn Francisco – Chapel of the Cross, Chapel Hill

Anne Harris – St. Matthew's, Hillsborough

Barbara Prillaman – St. Paul's, Cary

Tenor

Emery Anderson – St. Paul's, Cary

David Lackey – Choral Society of Durham

Jack Neely – St. Michael's, Raleigh

Daniel Ponder - St. Michael's, Raleigh

Tom Trueblood – St. Philip's, Durham

Bass

Jon Douglas– St. Paul's, Cary

Richard Harris – St. Matthew's, Hillsborough

Larry Matthews – Christ Church, Raleigh

Jason Pace – Christ the King Lutheran, Cary

Kyle West – Church of the Nativity, Raleigh