



The Presentation of Christ in the Temple, from a Spanish antiphonary, late 16th C.

Organ Recital, Choral Evensong &
Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament

The Presentation of
Our Lord Jesus Christ in the Temple

February 2, 2025 + 3:30 p.m.
Church of the Ascension, Chicago

About the Service

Evensong is one of the jewels of Anglicanism. Evensong, also known as Evening Prayer (particularly when said rather than sung) is part of the Daily Office. The Daily Office is derived from the regular services of monastic communities in the early Church. At the heart of these services was the recitation of the Psalter, the songbook of the Bible. It remains the very core of the Daily Office in our day as well. By the late middle ages, the Daily Office was seen as the responsibility of the monks and clergy rather than an occasion for participation by all in the prayers of the community throughout the day. After the English Reformation, Archbishop Thomas Cranmer (1489-1556) reduced the eight monastic offices to the two services of Morning and Evening Prayer. These services were printed in vernacular English and intended for use by all members of the Church. At Church of the Ascension, Evensong is offered monthly during the choir term in conjunction with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament is a devotional rite in which prayers and hymns are offered in praise to Our Lord, as we venerate the sacred mysteries of his Body and Blood. Benediction was introduced in the Episcopal Diocese of Chicago in 1884, here at Church of the Ascension. Professor John Macquarrie (1919-2007) offers us the following thoughts about the service of Benediction: “‘Benediction’ is a beautiful word. It means a blessing, a greeting, and an expression of kindness and love. Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament is a service that makes real to us in an impressive way the fact that God is always reaching out to us, to bless, to strengthen, to assure us of his loving kindness toward us. The greatest blessing that God ever bestowed or could bestow was the sending of his Son. [At Benediction] a remarkable thing happens as we find ourselves saying the words of the Divine Praises: 'Blessed be God! Blessed be his holy Name!' We came seeking God's blessing, and now find that we are blessing God! This indeed is the goal of all our worshipping that we may come to love God better. And we cannot love God without loving our neighbor, so that in seeking God's blessing, we are praying that, in blessing us, he will make us a blessing to others.”

ORGAN RECITAL
David R. White, Organist
Sunday, February 2, 2025, 3:30 pm.

JAMES HEALEY WILLAN (1880-1968)

Chorale Prelude: *Mit Fried' und Freud' ich fahr dahin* HWC 156 [1950]
(In peace and joy may I now depart)

JOHANN SEBASTIAN BACH (1685-1750)

Chorale Prelude: *Wie nach einer Wasserquelle (ein Hirsch)* BWV 1119
([Like a deer] by springs of water)

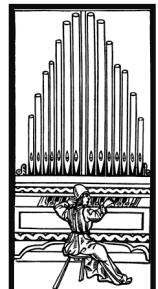
Chorale Prelude: *Von Gott will ich nicht lassen* BWV 658
(from God I shall not flee)

OLIVIER-EUGÈNE MESSIAEN (1908-1992)
from *Les Corps Glorieux* [1939]

Force et agilité des corps glorieux
(power and rapidity of the Bodies Glorious)

Dans la Paix ensoleillée du Divin Amour
(in the sun-filled peace of Divine Love)

Joie et clarté des corps glorieux
(joy and clarity of the Bodies Glorious)



Evensong

The Opening Sentence *Please stand as able.*

The Officiant begins with the following sentence of Scripture

Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising.

Isaiah 60:3

Preces

Officiant

O God, make speed to save us.

People

O Lord, make haste to help us.

Officiant and People

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spi - rit:

as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. A - men.

Al - le - lu - ia.

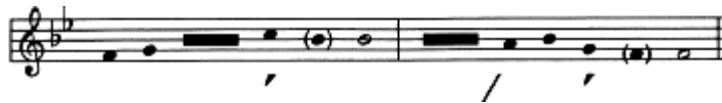
O Gracious Light *Phos hilaron*

1. O gra - cious Light, pure brightness of the everliving Father in
heav - en, O Jesus Christ, ho - ly and bless - ed! 2. Now as we come
to the setting of the sun, and our eyes behold the ves - per light,
we sing thy praises, O God: Father, Son, and Ho - ly Spi - rit.
3. Thou art worthy at all times to be praised by happy voic - es, O Son of God,
O Giv - er of life, and to be glo - ri - fied through all the worlds.

The People are seated for the singing of the Psalms.

Psalm 48 *Magnus Dominus*

Tone VIII.1



- 1 *Great is the LORD, and highly to be praised; **
in the city of our God / is his holy hill.
- 2 [†]*Beautiful and lofty, the joy of all the earth, is the hill of Zion, **
the very center of the world and the city / of the great King.
- 3 *God is in her citadels; **
he is known to be / her sure refuge.
- 4 *Behold, the kings of the earth assembled **
and marched for/ward together.
- 5 *They looked and were astounded; **
they retreated and / fled in terror.
- 6 *Trembling seized them there; **
they writhed like a woman in childbirth,
like ships of the sea when the / east wind shatters them.
- 7 *As we have heard, so have we seen,*
*in the city of the LORD of hosts, in the city of our God; **
God has established / her for ever.
- 8 *We have waited in silence on your loving-kindness, O God, **
in the midst / of your temple.
- 9 *Your praise, like your Name, O God, reaches to the world's end; **
your right hand is / full of justice.
- 10 *Let Mount Zion be glad*
*and the cities of Judah rejoice, **
because / of your judgments.
- 11 *Make the circuit of Zion;*
*walk round about her; **
count the number / of her towers.



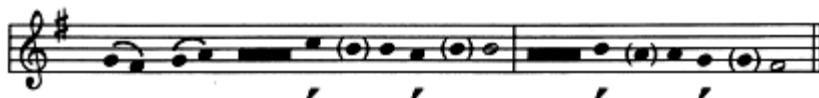
12 Consider well her bulwarks;
examine her stróngholds; *
that you may tell those / who come áfter.

13 This God is our God for ever and éver; *
he shall be our / guide for évermore.

Glory to the Father, and tó the Son, *
and to the / Holy Spí-rit
As it was in the beginning, is now, *
and will be for / ever. Á-men.

Psalm 87 *Fundamenta ejus*

Tone VII.3



1 *On thië* holy mountain stands the city hé has founded; *
the LORD loves the gates of Zion
more than all the dwéllings of Jacob.

2 Glorious things are spóken óf you, *
O city óf our God.

3 I count Egypt and Babylon among those who know me; *
behold Philistia, Tyre, and Ethiopia:
in Zion wére they born.

4 Of Zion it shall be said, "Everyóne was bórн in her, *
and the Most High himselv shall sustáin her."

5 The LORD will record as he enrólls the péoples, *
"These also were bórн there."

6 The singers and the dáncers will say, *
"All my fresh spríngs are in you."

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, *
and to the Hó-ly Spí-rit.
As it was in the be-gín-ning is now, *
And will be for év-er. Á-men.

The Lessons

The People are seated for the readings and stand as able for the Canticles.

The First Reading

Haggai 2:1-9

In the second year of King Darius, in the seventh month, on the twenty-first day of the month, the word of the Lord came by the prophet Haggai, saying: Speak now to Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and to Joshua son of Jehozadak, the high priest, and to the remnant of the people, and say, Who is left among you that saw this house in its former glory? How does it look to you now? Is it not in your sight as nothing? Yet now take courage, O Zerubbabel, says the Lord; take courage, O Joshua, son of Jehozadak, the high priest; take courage, all you people of the land, says the Lord; work, for I am with you, says the Lord of hosts, according to the promise that I made you when you came out of Egypt. My spirit abides among you; do not fear. For thus says the Lord of hosts: Once again, in a little while, I will shake the heavens and the earth and the sea and the dry land; and I will shake all the nations, so that the treasure of all nations shall come, and I will fill this house with splendor, says the Lord of hosts. The silver is mine, and the gold is mine, says the Lord of hosts. The latter splendor of this house shall be greater than the former, says the Lord of hosts; and in this place I will give prosperity, says the Lord of hosts.

The Lector concludes Here ends the Reading.

Magnificat

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 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.

The Second Reading

1 John 3:1-8

See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure. Everyone who commits sin is guilty of lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. You know that he was revealed to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. No one who abides in him sins; no one who sins has either seen him or known him. Little children, let no one deceive you. Everyone who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous. Everyone who commits sin is a child of the devil; for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The Son of God was revealed for this purpose, to destroy the works of the devil.

The Lector concludes Here ends the Reading.

Nunc dimittis *Please stand as able.*

*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.*

Setting: Thomas Tallis (c. 1505-1585) *Short Service in the Dorian Mode*

Please remain standing, as able, for the Apostles' Creed and the Prayers.

The Apostles' Creed (Monotone)

Officiant and People together

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. — o — o —

A - men

The Prayers

The Lord be with you. And with thy spirit. Let us pray.

Officiant and People

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 those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
For ever and ever. 
A - men.

The Suffrages

Cantor or Officiant



V. O Lord, show thy mercy upon us;

People



R. And grant us thy salva - tion.



V. Endue thy ministers with right - eous - ness;



R. And make thy chosen people joy - ful.



V. Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;



R. For only in thee can we live in safe - ty.



V. Lord, keep this nation un - der thy care;



R. And guide us in the way of jus - tice and truth.



V. Let thy way be known up - on earth;



R. Thy saving health among all na - tions.

V. Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgot-ten;

R. Nor the hope of the poor be ta - ken a - way.

V. Create in us clean hearts, O God;

R. And sustain us with thy Holy Spi - rit.

Collect of the Day

Almighty and everliving God, we humbly beseech thee that, as thy only-begotten Son was this day presented in the temple, so we may be presented unto thee with pure and clean hearts by the same thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Collect for Sunday

Lord God, whose Son our Savior Jesus Christ triumphed over the powers of death and prepared for us our place in the new Jerusalem: Grant that we, who have this day given thanks for his resurrection, may praise thee in that City of which he is the light; and where he liveth and reigneth for ever and ever. **Amen.**

A Prayer for Mission

O God, who dost manifest in thy servants the signs of thy presence: Send forth upon us the Spirit of love, that in companionship with one another thine abounding grace may increase among us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The People are seated.

The Anthem

Alma Redemptoris Mater, quæ pervia cæli Porta manes, et stella maris, succurre cadenti, Surgere qui curat populo: tu quæ genuisti, Natura mirante, tuum sanctum Genitorem Virgo prius ac posterius, Gabrielis ab ore Sumens illud Ave, peccatorum miserere.

Mother of the Redeemer, who art ever of heaven The open gate, and the star of the sea, aid a fallen people, Which is trying to rise again; thou who didst give birth, While Nature marveled how, to thy Holy Creator, Virgin both before and after, from Gabriel's mouth Accepting the All hail, be merciful towards sinners.

Setting: Francisco Guerrero (1528-1599) *Alma Redemptoris Mater*

Translation: Blessed John Henry Newman

The General Thanksgiving *The People stand as able.*

Officiant and People

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.

Concluding Versicle and Response

Cantor or Officiant

Let us bless the Lord.

People

Thanks be to God.

The Grace

The Officiant concludes with the following

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.**

2 Corinthians 13:14

Office Hymn

QUEM TERRA, PONTUS (desc: David White)

1. The Lord whom earth and stars and sea with one a - dor - ing voice re -
 2. O Moth - er blest by God's com - mand, the Lord who made the earth and
 3. Pre - sen - ted in the Tem - ple blest where an - cient Sim - eon sees his
 4. E - ter - nal glo - ry to the Son, who came to us thru Ma - ry

sound, who rules them all in ma - jes - ty in Ma - ry's heart a clois - ter
 sky, and holds the world with in his hand, with - in your bod - y deigned to
 grace, the Lord of all his love doth rest up - on the ex - pec - tant hu - man
 pure, with Fa - ther and the Spi - rit one, while end - less a - ges yet en -

Organ interlude, after verses 1 to 3:

found.
 lie.
 race.
 dure.

BENEDICTION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

At the Adoration

As the bells are rung, the Blessed Sacrament is exposed; the People kneel in adoration.

O salutaris Hostia

PUER NOBIS

1. O sav - ing Vic - tim, op' - ning wide the gate of heav'n to us be - low, our
 2. All praise and thanks to thee a - scend for ev - er - more, blest One in Three: O

foes press on from ev' - ry side, thine aid sup - ply, thy strength be - stow.
 grant us life that shall not end in our true na - tive land with thee.

Meditation

Tantum ergo

TANTUM ERGO SACRAMENTUM

5 There-fore we, be - fore him bend - ing,
6 Glo - ry let us give and bless - ing

this to great the Sac - ra - ment re - vere;
Fa - ther and the Son,

types hon - and sha - dows have their end - ing,
- or, thanks, and praise ad - dress - ing,

for while the new - er rite is here;
e - ter - nal a - ges run;

faith, ev - er out - ward sense be - friend - ing,
too his love con - fess - ing

makes who our in both - ward vi both - sion is clear.
from both with

The musical score consists of six staves of music for a single voice. The first two staves are for the first part of the hymn, with lyrics 5 and 6. The next two staves are for the second part, with lyrics 7 and 8. The final two staves are for the third part, with lyrics 9 and 10. The music is in common time, with a key signature of one flat. The vocal line is mostly on the G and C notes of the staff, with some higher notes and a few grace notes.

Officiant Thou gavest them Bread from Heav-en.
People **Containing within itself all sweet-ness.**
Officiant Let us pray.

O Lord Jesus Christ, who in a wonderful Sacrament hast left unto us a memorial of thy Passion: Grant us, we beseech thee, so to venerate the sacred mysteries of thy Body and Blood, that we may ever perceive within ourselves the fruit of thy redemption; who with the Father and the Holy Ghost, livest and reignest, world without end. **Amen.**

The Benediction of The Blessed Sacrament

As the Officiant makes the sign of the Cross over the People, all pray silently.

The Divine Praises

The People repeat each phrase after the Officiant.

Blessed be God.
Blessed be his holy Name.
Blessed be Jesus Christ, true God and true Man.
Blessed be the Name of Jesus.
Blessed be his most sacred heart.
Blessed be his most precious Blood.
Blessed be Jesus in the most holy Sacrament of the Altar.
Blessed be the Holy Spirit, the comforter.
Blessed be the great Mother of God, Mary most holy.
Blessed be the name of Mary, Virgin and Mother.
Blessed be her holy and Immaculate Conception.
Blessed be her glorious Assumption.
Blessed be Saint Joseph, her most chaste spouse.
Blessed be God in his angels and in his saints.
Blessed be God in the hearts of his faithful people.

The Celebrant reposes the Blessed Sacrament.

As the Tabernacle door is closed; the bell rings, and all stand as able to sing the following antiphon and psalm

Psalm 117 *Laudate Dominum*

The People remain standing as the Ministers depart.

Cantor

All

Let us for ev - er a - dore____ the Most Ho - ly Sac - ra - ment.

O praise the Lord, all ye na - tions; praise him, all ye peo - ples.

2. For his merciful kindness is ever more and more toward us;

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

V. Glory be to the Father and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Ghost.

As it was in the begin - ning is now and ever shall be: world with - out end. A - men.

Let us...

ORGAN

Fuga BuxWV 138

Dietrich Buxtehude (1637-1707)

A dessert reception in the narthex follows Benediction.



Many thanks to those who serve:

The Rev. Carlos de la Torre, **Officiant**; The Rev. Christopher Poore, **Deacon**; Andrew Smith, **Acolytes**; Cynthia Perrizo, **Lector**; Gary Alexander, **Technology**

Choir of Church of the Ascension

Soprano Carolyne DalMonte, Susan Nelson, Alexandra Olsavaky, Alexia Rivera

Alto Miya Higashiyama, Amy Johnson, Emily Price, Cassidy Smith

Tenor Damon Cole, Jared Esguerra, Aaron Short

Bass Rob Hansen, Ian Morris, Peter Wesoloski



Please do remember your financial offerings to the church. You may write a check and mail it to the church or make a gift by scanning this QR Code.

MUSIC ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Preces (S26); **Salutation and The Lord's Prayer** (S28); **Suffrages A** (S22); **Concluding Versicle and Response** (S31) © 1985 Church Publishing Inc. **Phos hilaron** (S27); Melody © the Estate of Victor Judson Schramm; **Laudate Dominum** with antiphon (Ps. 117) Traditional plainsong melody, Mode V.

QUEM TERRA, PONTUS Words: Venantius Honorius Fortunatus (d. ca. 609), tr. The Revd Edward Caswall (1814-1878) Music: David R. White (**b. 1959**)

PUER NOBIS Words: Att. Thomas Aquinas (1225?-1274); tr. Edward Caswall (1814-1878), alt. Music: Melody 15th C., adapted Michael Praetorius (1571-1621)

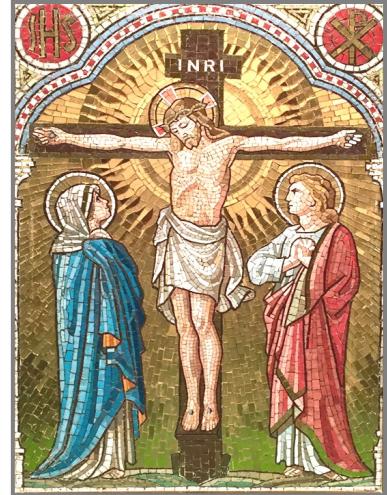
TANTUM ERGO SACRAMENTUM Words: Att. St. Thomas Aquinas (1225?-1274); ver. *Hymnal 1940*, rev.; Music: Plainsong, Mode 5, *Zisterzienser Hymnar*, 14th C.

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WELCOME TO THE
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THE CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION is a parish in the Episcopal Church, a province of the Anglican Communion within the Catholic Church. Our Christian life and worship is rooted in the Anglo-Catholic tradition. As an Anglo-Catholic parish we praise, worship, and adore our Lord Jesus Christ in the Blessed Sacrament, rejoice in the Communion of Saints, and relish in the beauty of liturgy and music. Thank you and bless you for being with us this day.



The mosaic on the door of the Altar Tabernacle, Church of the Ascension

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