



Saint
Michael
& All Angels

Evensong

Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity

Sunday 8th October 2023

6.00 pm

A Guide to Evensong

Evensong is drawn almost entirely from the Bible. Its primary purpose is to proclaim the wonderful works of God in history and in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Its secondary purpose is to evoke from the worshipper a response of praise, penitence, prayer and obedience. Much of the service is sung by the choir. As the choir sings, we are provided with space for reflection, which allows us the freedom to participate in a silent, but equally direct way. In our busy lives and noisy world, the opportunity to be quiet and still, to meditate of God's word and be immersed in beauty, is a precious gift that increasing numbers of us treasure.

Today's Service is sung by

The Choir of Bishop's College, Colombo

Order of Service

*The congregation is asked to join in all text printed in **bold**.
If you are unable to stand at any point during the service, please
feel free to remain seated.*

The Gathering

Please stand as the choir and clergy enter

Remain standing to sing

Processional Hymn No. 199



**Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.**

**Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,
nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might;
thy justice like mountains high soaring above
thy clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.**

**To all life thou givest, to both great and small;
in all life thou livest, the true life of all;
we blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree,
and wither and perish; but naught changeth thee.**

**Great Father of glory, pure Father of light,
thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight;
all laud we would render: O help us to see
'tis only the splendour of light hideth thee.**

Words: Thomas Ken (1637–1711)

Tune: St. Denio
Welsh Traditional Melody

Remain standing. The Rev. Niroshan de Mel, Vicar, introduces a general confession

Welcome in the Name of the Father, and the Son,
and the Holy Spirit.

Dear Friends, we have come together in the name of Christ to offer our praise and thanksgiving, to hear and receive God's holy word, to pray for the needs of the world, and to seek the forgiveness of our sins, that by the power of the Holy Spirit we may give ourselves to the service of God. Therefore let us kneel and keep silence, and remember God's presence with us now

All kneel or sit and silence is kept

Most merciful God,
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
we confess that we have sinned
in thought, word and deed.
We have not loved you with our whole heart.
We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.
In your mercy
forgive what we have been,
help us to amend what we are,
and direct what we shall be;
that we may do justly,
love mercy,
and walk humbly with you, our God.
Amen.

The vicar continues,

May the God of love and power forgive you
and free you from your sins,
heal and strengthen you by his Spirit,
and raise you to new life in Christ our Lord.
Amen.

All stand

The Responses
sung by the officiant and the choir

O Lord, open thou our lips;
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 Spirit;
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

Music: Peter Aston (1938–2013)

All sit

from Psalm 136

O give thanks unto the Lord for he is gracious:
and his mercy endureth for ever.

O give thanks unto the God of all gods:
for his mercy endureth for ever.

O thank the Lord of all lords:
for his mercy endureth for ever.

Who only doeth great wonders:
for his mercy endureth for ever.

Who by his excellent wisdom made the heavens
for his mercy endureth for ever.

Who laid out the earth above the waters:
for his mercy endureth for ever.

Who hath made great lights:
for his mercy endureth for ever;

The sun to rule the day:
for his mercy endureth for ever;

The moon and the stars to govern the night:
for his mercy endureth for ever.

With mighty hand, and stretch'd out arm:
for his mercy endureth for ever.

All stand

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son:
and to the Holy Spirit.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be:
World without end. Amen.

Chant: Charles Lloyd (1850–1916)

All sit

A reading from the Book of Proverbs Chapter 2

My child, if you accept my words
 and treasure up my commandments within you,
 making your ear attentive to wisdom
 and inclining your heart to understanding;
 if you indeed cry out for insight,
 and raise your voice for understanding;
 if you seek it like silver,
 and search for it as for hidden treasures—
 then you will understand the fear of the Lord
 and find the knowledge of God.
 For the Lord gives wisdom;
 from his mouth come knowledge and understanding;
 he stores up sound wisdom for the upright;
 he is a shield to those who walk blamelessly,
 guarding the paths of justice
 and preserving the way of his faithful ones.
 Then you will understand righteousness and justice
 and equity, every good path;
 for wisdom will come into your heart,
 and knowledge will be pleasant to your soul;
 prudence will watch over you;
 and understanding will guard you.

Proverbs 2.1–11

Silence is kept

Here ends the First Lesson

All stand to sing

Hymn No. 124





**For God will take the holy into heaven,
by grace redeem the faithful from the grave;
we leave behind us all this world has given,
and trust God's mighty power to love and save!**

**To Father, Son, and Spirit be the glory!
Come, worship and adore the holy Name;
let wisdom think upon our human story,
and faith our ever living God proclaim.**

Word: Michael Perry (1942–96)

Tune: Highwood
Richard Terry (1865–1938)

Remain standing as the choir sings

Magnificat (Song of Mary)

My soul doth magnify the Lord:
and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.
For he hath regarded: the lowliness of his hand-maiden.
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.

Music: Evening Canticles in E flat
Malcolm Archer (b. 1952)

Second Lesson

A reading from the First Letter of John Chapter 2

My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have one who speaks to the Father in our defence--Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.

We know that we have come to know him if we obey his commands. The man who says, "I know him," but does not do what he commands is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But if anyone obeys his word, God's love is truly made complete in him. This is how we know we are in him: Whoever claims to live in him must walk as Jesus did.

Dear friends, I am not writing you a new command but an old one, which you have had since the beginning. This old command is the message you have heard. Yet I am writing you a new command; its truth is seen in him and you, because the darkness is passing and the true light is already shining. Anyone who claims to be in the light but hates his brother is still in the darkness.

Whoever loves his brother lives in the light, and there is nothing in him to make him stumble. But whoever hates his brother is in the darkness and walks around in the darkness; he does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded him.

I write to you, dear children,
because your sins have been forgiven on account of his name.

I write to you, fathers,
because you have known him who is from the beginning.

I write to you, young men,
because you have overcome the evil one.

I write to you, dear children,
because you have known the Father.

I write to you, fathers,
because you have known him who is from the beginning.

I write to you, young men,
because you are strong, and the word of God lives in you,
and you have overcome the evil one.

Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

For everything in the world--the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes and the boasting of what he has and does--comes not from the Father but from the world.

The world and its desires pass away, but the man who does the will of God lives forever.

1 John 2.1-17

Silence is kept

Here ends the Second Lesson

All stand. The choir sings

Nunc Dimittis (Song of Simeon)

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.

Music: Evening Canticles in E flat
Malcolm Archer

Remain standing. The vicar invites all to say

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.

Remain standing

Responses *sung by the officiant and the choir*

The Lord be with you;
and with thy spirit.

Let us pray

All sit or kneel

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

*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.*

*O Lord, shew thy mercy upon us;
and grant us thy salvation.*

*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 Collect of the Day

Almighty and everlasting God,
increase in us your gift of faith
that, forsaking what lies behind
and reaching out to that which is before,
we may run the way of your commandments
and win the crown of everlasting joy;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

The 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.

The 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.

All sit

The choir sings

Anthem

Lord of wisdom, Lord of truth, Lord of justice, Lord of mercy;
walk beside us down the years till we see you in your glory.

Striving to attain the heights, turning in a new direction,
entering a lonely place, welcoming a friend or stranger.

*I am here, I am with you.
I have called: do you hear me?*

Silver is of passing worth, gold is not of constant value,
jewels sparkle for a while; what you long for is not lasting.

Rulers govern under me with my insight and my wisdom.
Those who know me know my love,
those who seek me find their answer.

God the Father and the Son, Holy Spirit co-eternal.
Glory be ascribed to you, now and to the end of ages.

Words: Michael Hampton (Proverbs 8)

Music: Call of Wisdom
Will Todd (b. 1970)

All kneel or remain seated

Prayers

At the end silence is kept for open prayer

All stand to sing

Hymn No. 16
during which a collection will be taken



**The day thou gavest, Lord, is ended,
the darkness falls at thy behest;
to thee our morning hymns ascended,
thy praise shall sanctify our rest.**

**We thank thee that thy Church unsleeping,
while earth rolls onward into light,
through all the world her watch is keeping,
and rests not now by day or night.**

**As o'er each continent and island
the dawn leads on another day,
the voice of prayer is never silent,
nor dies the strain of praise away.**

**The sun that bids us rest is waking
our brethren 'neath the western sky,
and hour by hour fresh lips are making
thy wondrous doings heard on high.**

**So be it, Lord: thy throne shall never,
like earth's proud empires, pass away;
thy kingdom stands, and grows for ever,
till all thy creatures own thy sway.**

Words: John Ellerton (1826–93)

Tune: St. Clement
Charles Scholefield (1839–1904)

Remain standing

The vicar gives the

Blessing

May God give to you and to all those you love
his comfort and his peace,
his light and his joy,
in this world and the next;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

Amen.

Remain standing as the choir and clergy depart

Organ Voluntary

Prelude in C

Edward Bairstow (1874–1946)

*You may sit for the organ music which is the conclusion of the
service, or you may leave quietly at this point*

Sunday Fellowship

You are all invited to a time of fellowship in the Parish Hall
All funds raised help support the 'Help in Need' project of St. Michael's. More information about this project can be found on the Banners that are displayed at the entrances.

Sunday 15th

10.30 am
Mother's Union
Special General Meeting
Parish Hall

Sunday 22nd

Harvest Festival and Sale
8.00 am
Sung Eucharist - Trilingual
All are welcome to attend.
Stallholders please contact the office, organization leaders or any lay officer to obtain the Guidelines for stallholders.

Thank you for worshipping with us

Material from Common Worship is included in this service and is copyright © The Archbishops' Council. Hymns are taken from the Tenth Impression of the Ancient and Modern New Revised Standard Hymnal. The Bible passages are read from the New International Version Bible 1984 edition.

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