

ST. FRANCIS IN THE FIELDS EPISCOPAL CHURCH



CHORAL EVENSONG

The Feast of St. Matthew the Evangelist

September 20, 2026

5:00 p.m.

The Rev. Barbara White, *Officiant*
The Parish Choir of St. Francis in the Fields
The Choir of St. Matthew's Episcopal Church
Dr. Kirk M. Rich, *Director of Music*
Dr. Jeffrey Smith, *Artist-in-Residence*
Daly Thomson, *Organ Scholar*

WELCOME TO ST. FRANCIS IN THE FIELDS

We invite you to join us as active participants in the same worship that Anglicans have been celebrating for centuries. Our service is drawn from the riches of the Anglican tradition. Children of all ages are welcome in our worship services today.

What is Evensong? Evensong is a tiny fragment of something else: it is part of the worship that is offered to God by Christian people every hour of the day and night, in every part of the world. When you come to Evensong, it is as if you were dropping in on a conversation already in progress — a conversation between God and his people that began long before you were born and that will continue long after you die. Do not be disturbed if there are some things you do not understand right away. For a brief moment, you step into the continual stream of worship that is being offered today and that will be offered even unto the end of time. You are one with those who worship here on earth and in heaven. *—The Rev. Canon J. W. Poole*

Why celebrate Evensong? Evensong offers us the opportunity to gather and spend time in prayer while listening and participating in music that is especially selected to bring us into deeper understanding of the mysteries of our faith.

What should I expect at Evensong? Hymns, readings, Anglican chant, and anthems sung by the choir.

Why does the choir sing so much at Evensong? In Choral Evensong, the choir sings on behalf of the congregation. The settings of the Canticles of Mary (*Magnificat*) and Simeon (*Nunc dimittis*) have, by tradition, been sung by the choir alone. The Suffrages (prayers) and the Responses between the Officiant and congregation are also sung on behalf of the people. This allows the congregation time to meditate and enter into deeper prayer through word and music.

What does the congregation do at Evensong? The congregation joins in the singing of hymns, the Apostle's Creed, and other prayers. Additionally, the people are invited to join in silent meditation as the choir sings the various prayers, psalms, and canticles.

What is a canticle? A canticle (from the Latin *canticulum*, a diminutive of *canticum*, meaning "song") is a hymn (strictly excluding the Psalms) taken from the Bible.

Why do the prayers sound old-fashioned? Much of the English of the service is the language spoken and written by our ancestors more than four hundred years ago. Archbishop Thomas Cranmer's English translations of the ancient Latin and Sarum rites for the Daily Office were first published in 1549. Along with the King James Bible and the works of Shakespeare, Cranmer's texts could be said to form part of the DNA of the English language. It may sound old-fashioned, but its meaning is not out of date.

Cover Image: St. Matthew, from the series *The Four Evangelists* (1518), by Lucas van Leyden (Netherlandish, 1494-1533). Oil on wood. Museum of Fine Arts, Budapest.

All stand for

The Procession

The Officiant reads

The Opening Sentences

The LORD is in his holy temple: let all the earth keep silence before him. *-Habakkuk 2:20*

All kneel as the Officiant says

A General Confession

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 a 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:

All say together

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 Declaration of Absolution

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

THE INVITATORY AND PSALTER

All stand as the Choir sings

The Preces and Responses

plainsong

<i>Officiant</i>	O Lord, open thou our lips.
<i>Choir</i>	And our mouth shall show forth thy praise.
<i>Officiant</i>	O God, make speed to save us.

Choir O Lord, make haste to help us.
 Officiant 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.
 Officiant Praise ye the Lord.
 Choir The Lord's Name be praised.

Candles are lighted as all sing

The Phos Hilaron "O gracious Light"

Ronald Arnatt (1930-2018)

organ

O gra - cious Light, pure
 bright - ness of the ev - er - liv - ing Fa - ther in hea - ven,
 O Je - sus Christ, ho - ly and bless - ed! Now as we
 come to the set - ting of the sun, and our eyes be - hold the ves - per
 light, we sing your prais - es, O God: Fa - ther, Son, and
 Ho - ly Spi - rit. You are wor - thy at all times to be
 praised by hap - py voic - es, O Son of God, O Giv - er of life,
 and to be glo - ri - fied through all the worlds.

All sit while the Choir sings

Psalm 19 *Caeli enarrant*

chant: Edward Hopkins (1818–1901)

The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork.
One day telleth another; and one night certifieth another.
There is neither speech nor language; but their voices are heard among them.
Their sound is gone out into all lands; and their words into the ends of the world.
In them hath he set a tabernacle for the sun;
which cometh forth as a bridegroom out of his chamber, and rejoiceth as a giant to run his course.
It goeth forth from the uttermost part of the heaven, and runneth about unto the end of it again;
and there is nothing hid from the heat thereof.
The law of the Lord is an undefiled law, converting the soul;
the testimony of the Lord is sure, and giveth wisdom unto the simple.
The statutes of the Lord are right, and rejoice the heart;
the commandment of the Lord is pure, and giveth light unto the eyes.
The fear of the Lord is clean, and endureth for ever;
the judgements of the Lord are true, and righteous altogether.
More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold;
sweeter also than honey, and the honey-comb.
Moreover, by them is thy servant taught; and in keeping of them there is great reward.
Who can tell how oft he offendeth; O cleanse thou me from my secret faults.
Keep thy servant also from presumptuous sins, lest they get the dominion over me;
so shall I be undefiled, and innocent from the great offence.
Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart;
be alway acceptable in thy sight, O Lord; my strength, and my redeemer.

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 LESSONS

The First Lesson

Job 28:12–28

Lector A lesson from the book of the prophet Job.

But where shall wisdom be found? and where is the place of understanding? Man knoweth not the price thereof; neither is it found in the land of the living. The depth saith, It is not in me: and the sea saith, It is not with me. It cannot be gotten for gold, neither shall silver be weighed for the price thereof. It cannot be valued with the gold of Ophir, with the precious onyx, or the sapphire. The gold and the crystal cannot equal it: and the exchange of it shall not be for jewels of fine gold. No mention shall be made of coral, or of pearls: for the price of wisdom is above rubies. The topaz of Ethiopia shall not equal it, neither shall it be valued with pure gold.

Whence then cometh wisdom? and where is the place of understanding? Seeing it is hid from the eyes of all living, and kept close from the fowls of the air. Destruction and death say, We have heard the fame thereof with our ears. God understandeth the way thereof, and he knoweth the place thereof. For he looketh to the ends of the earth, and seeth under the whole heaven; to make the weight for the winds; and he weigheth the waters by measure. When he made a decree for the rain, and a way for the lightning of the thunder: then did he see it, and declare it; he prepared it, yea, and searched it out. And unto man he said, Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom; and to depart from evil is understanding.

Lector Here endeth the lesson.

All stand as the Choir sings

The Magnificat

setting: *King's College Service*
Joanna Forbes L'Estrange (b. 1971)

My soul doth magnify the Lord,
 and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior.
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 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. *-Luke 1:46-55*

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.

All sit for

The Second Lesson

Matthew 13:44-52

Lector A lesson from the Gospel according to St. Matthew.

Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto treasure hid in a field; the which when a man hath found, he hideth, and for joy thereof goeth and selleth all that he hath, and buyeth that field.

Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a merchant man, seeking goodly pearls: who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had, and bought it.

Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a net, that was cast into the sea, and gathered of every kind: which, when it was full, they drew to shore, and sat down, and gathered the good into vessels, but cast the bad away. So shall it be at the end of the world: the angels shall come forth, and sever the wicked from among the just, and shall cast them into the furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.

Jesus saith unto them, Have ye understood all these things? They say unto him, Yea, Lord. Then said he unto them, Therefore every scribe which is instructed unto the kingdom of heaven is like unto a man that is an householder, which bringeth forth out of his treasure things new and old.

Lector Here endeth the lesson.

All stand as the Choir sings

The Nunc Dimittis

setting: *King's College Service*
J. Forbes L'Estrange

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. *-Luke 2:29-32*

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.

All sing in unison

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

The Choir sings

The Preces and Responses

plainsong

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

All kneel

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

The Lord's Prayer

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.

THE SUFFRAGES

<i>Officiant</i>	O Lord, show thy mercy upon us.
<i>Choir</i>	And grant us thy salvation.
<i>Officiant</i>	O Lord, save the State.
<i>Choir</i>	And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.
<i>Officiant</i>	Endue thy ministers with righteousness.
<i>Choir</i>	And make thy chosen people joyful.
<i>Officiant</i>	O Lord, save thy people.
<i>Choir</i>	And bless thine inheritance.
<i>Officiant</i>	Give peace in our time, O Lord.
<i>Choir</i>	Because there is none other that fighteth for us, but only thou, O God.
<i>Officiant</i>	O God, make clean our hearts within us.
<i>Choir</i>	And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.

The Collect of the Day

We thank thee, heavenly Father, for the witness of thine apostle and evangelist Matthew to the Gospel of thy Son our Savior; and we pray that, after his example, we may with ready wills and hearts obey the calling of our Lord to follow him; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and 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 Savior. **Amen.**

The Collect for Aid against 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 Savior Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

All sit as the Choir sings

The Anthem after the Third Collect

William Mathias (1934–1992)

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom: and the Knowledge of the holy is understanding. For by me thy days shall be multiplied, and the years of thy life shall be increased. Happy is the man that findeth wisdom, and the man that getteth understanding. She is more precious than rubies: and all the things thou canst desire are not to be compared unto her. Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths. Amen.

Words: “The Doctrine of Wisdom” (Proverbs 3 & 9)

All kneel as the Officiant says

A Prayer for Mission

Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who work, or watch, or weep this night, and give thine angels charge over those who sleep. Tend the sick, Lord Christ; give rest to the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering, pity the afflicted, shield the joyous; and all for thy love’s sake. **Amen.**

All say together

The General Thanksgiving

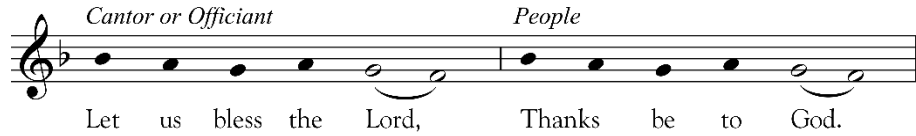
Almighty God, Father of all mercies, we, thine unworthy servants, do give thee most humble and hearty thanks for all thy goodness and loving-kindness to us, and to all men; We bless thee for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all, for thine inestimable love in the 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 Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. **Amen.**

All stand as the Officiant says

A Prayer of St. Chrysostom

Almighty God, who hast given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication unto thee; and hast promised through thy well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name thou wilt be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, the desires and petitions of thy servants as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of thy truth, and in the world to come life everlasting. **Amen.**

The Concluding Versicle and Response



Cantor or Officiant *People*

Let us bless the Lord, Thanks be to God.

The Officiant says

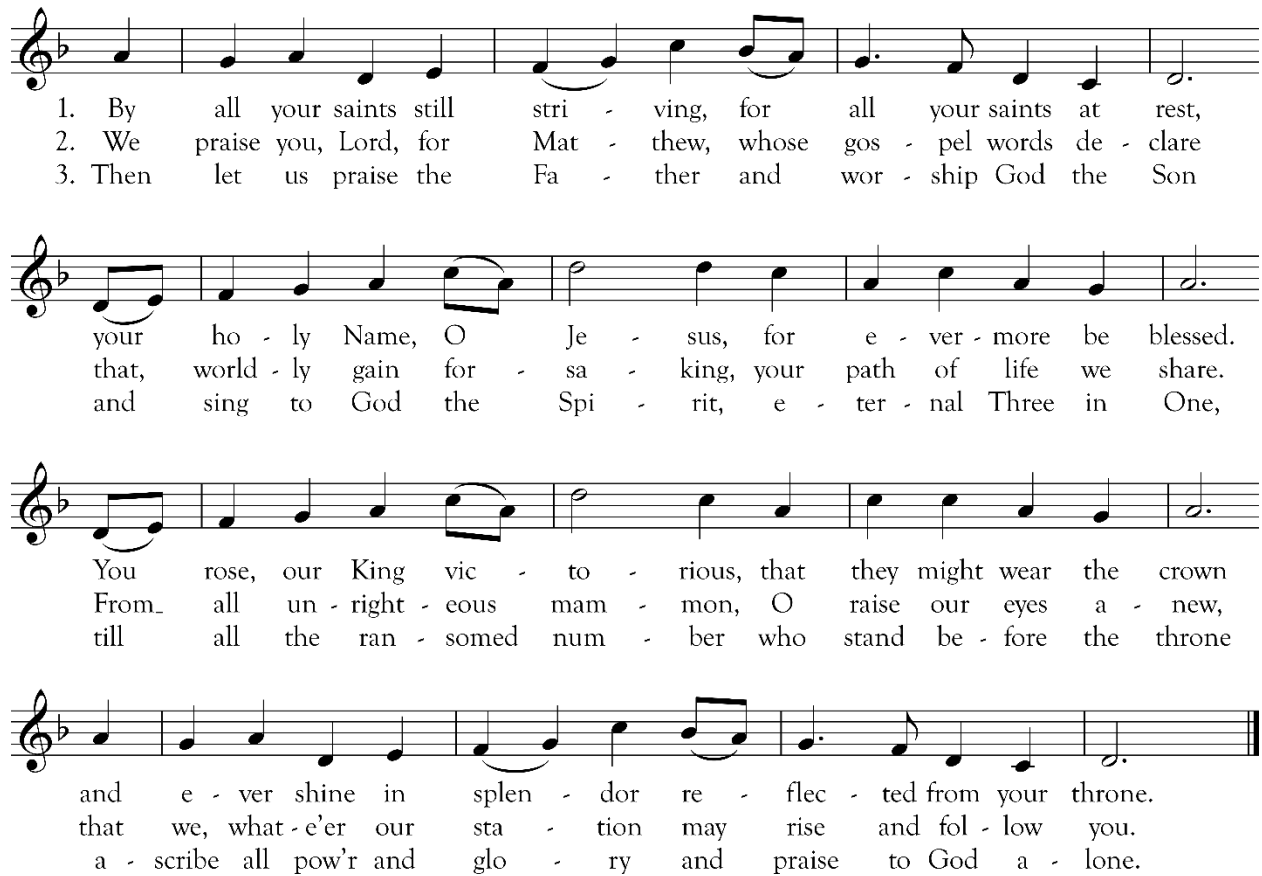
The Grace

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.** -II Corinthians 13:14

All stand to sing

The Closing Hymn "By all your saints still striving"

King's Lynn



1. By all your saints still stri - ving, for all your saints at rest,
2. We praise you, Lord, for Mat - thew, whose gos - pel words de - clare
3. Then let us praise the Fa - ther and wor - ship God the Son

your ho - ly Name, O Je - sus, for e - ver - more be blessed.
that, world - ly gain for - sa - king, your path of life we share.
and sing to God the Spi - rit, e - ter - nal Three in One,

You rose, our King vic - to - rious, that they might wear the crown
From all un - right - eous mam - mon, O raise our eyes a - new,
till all the ran - somed num - ber who stand be - fore the throne

and e - ver shine in splen - dor re - flec - ted from your throne.
that we, what - e'er our sta - tion may rise and fol - low you.
a - scribe all pow'r and glo - ry and praise to God a - lone.

The Retiring Procession and Voluntary

All remain standing as the choir and clergy depart.

Those who wish may sit for the remainder of the organ voluntary.

A freewill offering benefiting the parish music ministry may be left in the basket at the entrance to the nave.

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