# CHORAL EVENSONG

Commemorating the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina

April 2, 2025 6:00 PM



## ABOUT EVENSONG

Evensong is a sung evening service in the Anglican tradition, defined in its current usage during the Reformation. The word 'Evensong' was first documented as 'oefen-sang' c. 1000 to describe Vespers, the seventh of the eight daily offices practiced in Roman Catholic monasteries, which traditionally occurs at sunset or around 6pm. The modern Evensong service was created by Thomas Cranmer, the author of the first Book of Common Prayer in 1549. Cranmer combined the two monastic evening services of Vespers (Evening Prayer) and Compline (Night Prayer) into one liturgy, using both the Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis canticles as the heart of the service

Choral Evensong has been practiced in cathedrals, collegiate chapels, and parish churches for 450 years and is constructed from texts that are from the Bible or the Book of Common Prayer. Readings from the Old and New Testaments along with Psalms, Canticles, Hymns, and ancient prayers are woven together into a peaceful meditation as the choir and clergy exchange a sung dialogue of prayer.

# ABOUT TONIGHT'S SERVICE

This service commemorates the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina, the most celebrated composer of the Italian renaissance. Born in the town of Palestrina near Rome, he was a boy chorister at the Basilica of Santa Maria Maggiore in Rome and would go on to spend most of his life as choirmaster at various churches in the city, including St. Peter's and St. John Lateran. He was at St. Peter's during the Council of Trent, which effectively made him the musical leader of the counter-reformation. Palestrina composed more than 100 masses and 250 motets and 35 settings of the Magnificat. Selections from his music are featured alongside music of his English contemporary, William Byrd, and continental hymn tunes from the 16<sup>th</sup> century.

# ABOUT TONIGHT'S GUEST ARTIST

Salvatore Pronestì is a master organ builder, concert artist and improvisation specialist. Major concerts have included 3 appearances at Nikolaikirche in Leipzig Orgel Herbst festival, as well as at Thomaskirche in the same city; another Bach tribute in Arnstadt at Internationale Arnstädter Orgel - Wander - Konzerte; three consecutive years as the closing concert of the Chant D'Oiseau International Organ Festival in Brussels, and two consecutive years at the International Festival Organissima of Lausanne Cathedral; the organ recital in the Cathedral Basilica of St. Denis, Paris, for European Heritage Day; Malta, Tallinn and Brno International Organ Festivals; Kiev National Organ Hall; appearances with Kmelnivsky, Chernivsky, Rivne, Kharkiv, Lviv, Dnipro and Lutsk Philharmonia; lectures at universities in Brazil, Taiwan and New York City; and previous U.S. appearances at West Point Academy and Boardwalk Hall in Atlantic City. He serves as Maestro di Cappella of Vibo Valentia Cathedral and Titular Organist at Mileto Cathedral. Maestro Pronesti's appearance this evening is supported by the Philadelphia Chapter of the American Guild of Organists.

INTROIT

Sicut Cervus

Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina (1525-1594)

Sicut cervus desiderat ad fontes aquarum: ita desiderat anima mea ad te, Deus.

As a deer longs for springs of water, so longs my soul for thee, O God.

The People rise in body or in spirit at the entrance of the choir and clergy.

## WELCOME

## **OPENING SENTENCES**

Let my prayer be set forth in thy sight as the incense, and let the lifting up of my hands be an evening sacrifice. *Psalm 141:2* 

If I say, "Surely the darkness will cover me, and the light around me turn to night," darkness is not dark to thee, O Lord; the night is as bright as the day; darkness and light to thee are both alike. *Psalm* 139:10,11

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us; but if we confess our sins, God is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. *I John* 1:8, 9

## CONFESSION OF SIN

Officiant 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.

Please kneel or sit. A period of silence is kept.

Almighty and most merciful Father,

All 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.

But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us, spare thou those 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 Priest alone rises and 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**.

All rise in body or in spirit

**PRECES** 

In a setting by William Byrd (1540-1623)

Officiant O Lord, **▼** open thou our lips.

Choir And our mouth shall show forth thy praise.

Officiant O God, make speed to save us.

Choir O Lord, make haste to help us.

Choir 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.

## PHOS HILARON - HYMN 36

Le Cantique de Siméon



Words: Greek, 3<sup>rd</sup> cent.; tr. Robert Seymour Bridges (1844-1930); paraphrase of O Gracious Light Music: Melody Louis Bourgeois (1510?-1561?); harmonized Claude Goudimel (1514-1572)

# PSALM 119:121-144

Ayin Feci judicium	Tone VI
121 I have done what is just and right; *	
do not deliver me to my oppressors.	
122 Be surety for your servant's good; *	
let not the proud oppress me.	
123 My eyes have failed from watching for your salvation *	
and for your righteous promise.	
124 Deal with your servant according to your loving-kindness *	
and teach me your statutes.	
125 I am your servant; grant me understanding, *	
that I may know your decrees.	
126 It is time for you to act, O Lord, *	
for they have broken your law.	
127 Truly, I love your commandments *	
more than gold and precious stones.	
128 I hold all your commandments to be right for me; *	
all paths of falsehood I abhor.	
Pe Mirabilia	Tone I.1
129 Your decrees are wonderful; *	
therefore I obey them with all my heart.	
130 When your word goes forth it gives light; *	
it gives understanding to the simple.	
131 I open my mouth and pant; *	
I long for your commandments.	
132 Turn to me in mercy, *	
as you always do to those who love your Name.	
133 Steady my footsteps in your word; *	
let no iniquity have dominion over me.	
134 Rescue me from those who oppress me, *	
and I will keep your commandments.	
135 Let your countenance shine upon your servant *	
and teach me your statutes.	
136 My eyes shed streams of tears, *	
because people do not keep your law.	

- 137 You are righteous, O Lord, \* and upright are your judgments.
- 138 You have issued your decrees \* with justice and in perfect faithfulness.
- 139 My indignation has consumed me, \* because my enemies forget your words.
- 140 Your word has been tested to the uttermost, \* and your servant holds it dear.
- 141 I am small and of little account, \* yet I do not forget your commandments.
- 142 Your justice is an everlasting justice \* and your law is the truth.
- 143 Trouble and distress have come upon me, \* yet your commandments are my delight.
- 144 The righteousness of your decrees is everlasting; \* grant me understanding, that I may live.

All rise in body or in spirit for the Gloria Patri.

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.

Please be seated for the readings.

**READING** Romans 8:1-11

Sally Griffith

Lector A Reading from the Letter to the Romans.

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed it cannot, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

Lector The word of the Lord.
All Thanks be to God.

Please rise in body or in spirit.

Magnificat, anima mea, Dominum et exultavit spiritus meus in Deo, salutari meo.
Quia respexit humilitatem ancillæ suæ: ecce enim ex hoc beatam me dicent omnes generationes.
Quia fecit mihi magna, qui potens est, et sanctum nomen eius, et misericordia eius a progenie in progenies timentibus eum.

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.

Fecit potentiam in brachio suo, dispersit superbos mente cordis sui. Deposuit potentes de sede et exaltavit humiles; esurientes implevit bonis et divites dimisit inanes.

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.

Suscepit Israel puerum suum recordatus misericordiæ suæ, sicut locutus est ad patres nostros, Abraham et semini eius in sæcula.

He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel, as he promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed for ever.

Gloria Patri, et Filio, et Spiritui Sancto: Sicut erat in principio, et nunc, et semper, et in sæcula sæculorum. Amen. 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.

Please be seated.

# READING John 6:27-40

Lector A Reading from the Gospel according to John.

Jesus said, 'Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For it is on him that God the Father has set his seal.' Then they said to him, 'What must we do to perform the works of God?' Jesus answered them, 'This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent.' So they said to him, 'What sign are you going to give us then, so that we may see it and believe you? What work are you performing? Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, "He gave them bread from heaven to eat." 'Then Jesus said to them, 'Very truly, I tell you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.' They said to him, 'Sir, give us this bread always.'

Jesus said to them, 'I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty. But I said to you that you have seen me and yet do not believe. Everything that the Father gives me will come to me, and anyone who comes to me I will never drive away; for I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will, but the will of him who sent me. And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day. This is indeed the will of my Father, that all who see the Son and believe in him may have eternal life; and I will raise them up on the last day.'

Lector The Word of the Lord All Thanks be to God.

Please rise in body or in spirit.

#### CANTICLE Nunc Dimittis

Nunc dimittis servum tuum, Domine, secundum verbum tuum in pace: Quia viderunt oculi mei salutare tuum Quod parasti ante faciem omnium populorum: Lumen ad revelationem gentium, et gloriam plebis tuae Israel.

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.

Gloria Patri, et Filio, et Spiritui Sancto: Sicut erat in principio, et nunc, et semper, et in sæcula sæculorum. Amen. 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.

Following the Canticle, all chant the Creed together on a single note.

#### THE APOSTLES' CREED

Officiant I believe in God, All 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.

#### SALUTATION & LESSER LITANY

Byrd

Officiant The Lord be with you.

Choir And with thy spirit.

Officiant Let us pray.

All may kneel or sit.

Choir Lord, have mercy upon us.

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

Officiant Our Father,

All 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. Amen.

#### **SUFFRAGES**

Officiant O Lord, show thy mercy upon us.

Choir And grant us thy salvation.

Officiant O Lord, save the State.

Choir And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.

Officiant Endue thy ministers with righteousness.

Choir And make thy chosen people joyful.

Officiant O Lord, save thy people.

Choir And bless thine inheritance.

Officiant Give peace in our time, O Lord.

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

Officiant O God, make clean our hearts within us.

Choir And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.

Then follows three Collects.

#### COLLECT OF THE DAY

Officiant Gracious Father, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ came down from heaven to be the true bread which gives life to the world: Evermore give us this bread, that he may live in us, and we in him; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Choir Amen.

#### COLLECT FOR PEACE

Officiant 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 all enemies, may pass our time in rest and quietness; through the merits of Jesus Christ our Savior.

Choir Amen.

#### COLLECT FOR AID AGAINST PERILS

Officiant 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.

Choir Amen.

Please be seated.

## THE HOMILY

- Christe qui lux es et dies, Noctis tenebras detegis, Lucisque lumen crederis, Lumen beatum praedicans.
- 2. Precamur Sancte Domine, Defende nos in hac nocte, Sit nobis in te requies, Quietam noctem tribue.
- Ne gravis somnus irruat, Nec hostis nos surripiat, Nec caro illi consentiens, Nos tibi reos statuat.
- Oculi somnum capiant, Cor ad te semper vigilet, Dextera tua protegat Famulos qui te diligunt.
- Defensor noster aspice,
   Insidiantes reprime,
   Guberna tuos famulos,
   Quos sanguine mercatus es.
- Memento nostri Domine
   In gravi isto corpore,
   Qui es defensor animae,
   Adesto nobis Domine, Amen.

- Christ, who art the light and day,
  You drive away the darkness of night,
  You are called the light of light,
  For you proclaim the blessed light.
- We beseech you, holy Lord, Protect us this night.
   Let us take our rest in you; Grant us a tranquil night.
- 3. Let our sleep be free from care; Let not the enemy snatch us away, Let not the flesh consent to him, And make us guilty in your sight.
- 4. Though our eyes be filled with sleep, Keep our hearts forever awake to you. May your right hand protect Your willing servants.
- You who are our shield, behold;
   Restrain those that lie in wait.
   And guide your servants whom
   You have ransomed with your blood.
- 6. Remember us, O Lord, Who bear the burden of this mortal form; You who are the defender of the soul, Be near us, O Lord. Amen.

Following the anthem, please kneel or remain seated for the Prayers.

#### **PRAYERS**

Leader In penitence and faith let us make our prayer to God and ask for his mercy and grace. For your holy people, that they may triumph over evil and grow in grace, we pray to you, O Lord:

People Lord have mercy upon us.

Leader For the leaders of the nations, that you will guide them in the ways of mercy and truth, we pray to you, O Lord:

People Lord have mercy upon us.

Leader For the needy, that they may not be forgotten, nor the hope of the poor be taken away,

we pray to you, O Lord:

People Lord have mercy upon us.

Leader For the sick in body, mind and spirit, that they may know your power to heal, we pray to

you, O Lord: R

People Lord have mercy upon us.

Leader For the poor in spirit, that they may inherit the kingdom of heaven and see you face to

face, we pray to you, O Lord: R

People Lord have mercy upon us.

Leader Let us commend the world, for which Christ suffered, to the mercy and protection of

God. Amen.

#### THE GENERAL THANKSGIVING

Officiant Almighty God, Father of all mercies,

All 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.

## A PRAYER OF ST. CHRYSOSTOM

Officiant 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.

All Amen.

Please rise in body or in spirit.

# **DIMISSAL**

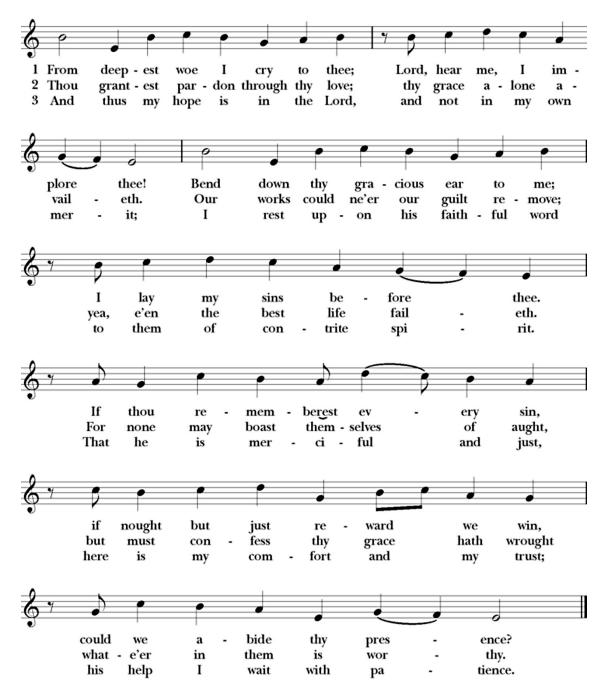
Officiant Let us bless the Lord.
All Thanks be to God.

## GRACE

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

All Amen.

HYMN 151 Aus tiefer Not



Words: Martin Luther (1483-1546); tr. Catherine Winkworth (1827-1878), alt; based on Psalm 130. Music: Melody att. Martin Luther (1483-1546); harmonized Johann Herman Schein (1586-1630), alt.

Following the hymn, please remain as you are as the clergy and choir depart. You are invited to be seated for the Postlude.

**POSTLUDE** 

Psalm XVIII: Coeli enarrant gloriam Dei

Benedetto Marcello (1686-1739)

Permission to reprint, broadcast, and/or stream the music in this service has been obtained from One License with license #A-735450

# PARTICIPANTS THIS EVENING

Officiant and Preacher
The Rev. Rachel Wenner Gardner

Lectors
Sally Griffith & Robbin McCarthy

Intercessor Robbin McCarthy

Organists
Salvatore Pronesti, Wesley Parrott

Conductor Benjamin Leiby

Choir

Gail Caruso, Alistair Coleman, Patricia Conrad, Stephanie DeMane, Will Dowling, Franny Geller, Andrew Gutknecht, Samual Keeler, Alex Mathews, John Miles, Wesley Parrott, Aimee Pilgermeyer, Eddie Rubeiz, Aaron Scarberry, Erica Rose Smith, Jenifer Smith, Julianna Smith, Amanda Staub, Clara Swartzentruber

# XXX

# LENTEN MUSIC MEDITATIONS

Wednesdays, 12:15-12:45 April 9 – Richard Spotts

# MÖLLER OPUS 8128 - DEDICATORY RECITAL

Alan Morrison, Organist Saturday, April 12<sup>th</sup> 3:00 pm

# HOLY WEEK AND EASTER

Maundy Thursday - April 17<sup>th</sup> 6:00 pm

Good Friday - April 18<sup>th</sup> 12:00 pm

Holy Saturday - April 19<sup>th</sup> 9:00 am

The Great Vigil of Easter - April 19<sup>th</sup> 8:00 pm

Easter Day - April 20<sup>th</sup> 11:00 am

# **CHORAL EVENSONG**

for the Eve of the Ascension

Wednesday, May 28<sup>th</sup> 6:00 pm

\* \* \*

#### Church of the Holy Trinity Staff

The Rev. Rachel Wenner Gardner, Rector

The Rev. John Gardner, Rector

Robbin McCarthy, Deacon-in-Training

Benjamin Leiby, Interim Organist-Choirmaster

Robyn Schnieders, Director of Admin & Operations

Inaara Shiraz, Director of Communications & Development

Karen Majer, Rentals & House Manager

Demetrius Swinson, Assistant to the Dir of Operations

Therese Tiger, Molly Hebert-Wilson Reception

Nabayah Parker, Child Care Worker

Boyden & Connor Gardner, Streaming Services

Dr. Stephen Framil, Musician-in-Residence

Dr. John French, Organist-Choirmaster emeritus

#### The Choir of Holy Trinity

Gail Caruso, Patricia Conrad, Stephanie DeMane, Will Dowling, Franny Geller, Andrew Gutknecht, Samual Keeler, Thomas Kneeland, Alex Mathews, John Miles, Mike O'Bryan, Aimee Pilgermayer, Eddie Rubeiz, Erica Rose Smith, Julianna Smith, and Amanda Staub

#### Church of the Holy Trinity, Vestry

Brian Conroy, Phillip Duffy, Alyssa Force, Monica Heuer, Margaret Hughes, Simson Hui, Susan Leidy, Jeff McEldowney, James Otwell, Ali Shott, Daniel Tancredi, & Karen Vannasdall



RITTENHOUSE SQUARE