The Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

Sunday 9 February 2025

9:00 a.m. Low Mass | 11:00 a.m. Sung Mass



WHILE MEN SLEPT, HIS ENEMY CAME AND SOWED TARES AMONG THE WHEAT.



S. Bartholomew's Anglican Church, Regent Park The Ancient Faith for the Contemporary World

Welcome to S. Bart's, Regent Park!

CELEBRANT & PREACHER
The Rev'd Dr Walter Hannam,
Vicar, S. Bartholomew's

CANTOR

Katherine Hill, BMus, MA

SUNG BY

The Choir of S. Bartholomew's

PARISH ORGANIST Fr David Smith

Sung Mass

NOTE TO 9 O'CLOCK WORSHIPPERS: PLEASE TURN TO THE INTROIT ON PAGE 3.

THE EARLY MASS IS SAID RATHER THAN SUNG.

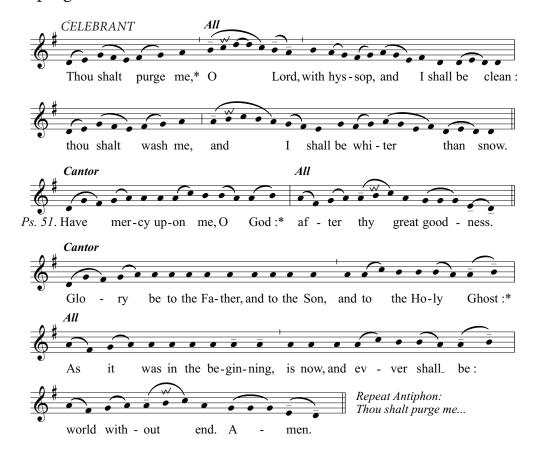
PLEASE STAND WHEN THE BELL RINGS.
THE PEOPLE REMAIN STANDING UNTIL THE INTROIT.

Prelude Ricercare in F

Johann Jakob Froberger (1616-1667)

Devotions before Mass

Asperges





- \forall O Lord, show thy mercy up on us.
- Ry And grant us thy salva tion.
- ♥ O Lord, hear our prayer.
- Ry And let our cry come un to thee.
- ♥ The Lord be with you.
- Ry And with thy spi - rit.

Let us pray.

GRACIOUSLY hear us, O Lord, holy Father Almighty, everlasting God: and vouchsafe to send thy holy Angel from heaven; to guard and cherish, to protect and visit, and to defend all who dwell in this thy holy habitation. Through Christ our Lord.

Ry Amen.

English Hymnal Nº 395

God of mercy, God of grace

Heathlands

God of mercy, God of grace, Show the brightness of thy face: Shine upon us, Saviour, shine, Fill thy Church with light divine; And thy saving health extend Unto earth's remotest end.

Let the people praise thee, Lord; Be by all that live adored: Let the nations shout and sing, Glory to their Saviour King; At thy feet their tributes pay, And thy holy will obey. Let the people praise thee, Lord; Earth shall then her fruits afford God to man his blessing give, Man to God devoted live; All below, and all above, One in joy and light, and love.

THE MASS OF THE CATECHUMENS

THE ENTRANCE RITES

Introit — *Adorate Deum* (PLEASE KNEEL)

Psalm 97

CANTOR: All ye angels of God, fall down, and worship before him: *

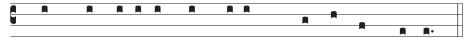


ALL: Si- on heard, and was exceeding joyful, and the daugh-



ters of Ju-dah were glad.

CANTOR: The Lord is King, the earth may be glad thereof: *



ALL: Yea, the multi-tude of the isles may be glad thereof.

CANTOR: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; *



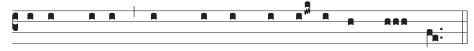
ALL: As it was in the beginning, is now and ev-er shall be,



world with-out cha. A-men 7th ye angels of God, fan



down, and wor-ship be-fore him: Si- on heard, and was ex-



ceeding joyful, and the daughters of Ju-dah were glad.

CELEBRANT: 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 them that trespass against us;
And lead us not into temptation,

But deliver us from evil. Amen.

Almighty God, unto whom all hearts be open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy Name; through Christ our Lord.

Ry Amen.

The Summary of the Law

CELEBRANT: Our Lord Jesus Christ said:

Hear O Israel, The Lord our God is one Lord; and thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength.

This is the first and great commandment

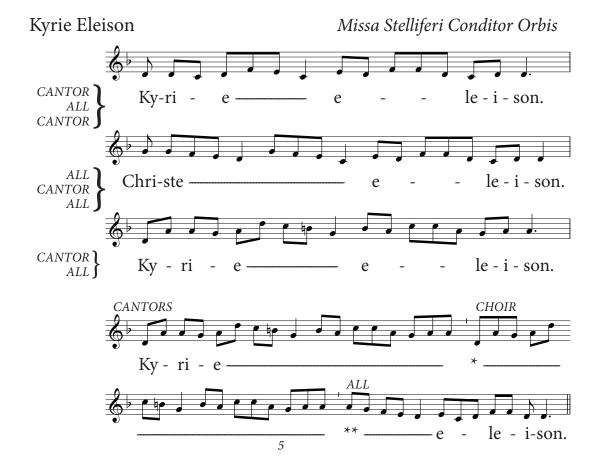
And the second is like unto it:

Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.

On these two commandments

hang all the Law and the Prophets.

ALL: Lord, have mercy upon us, and write both these thy laws in our hearts, we beseech thee.







The Collect

- ▼ The Lord be with you.
- R⁄ And with thy spirit.

Let us pray. (PLEASE KNEEL)

ORD, we beseech thee to keep thy Church and household continually in thy true religion; that they who do lean only upon the hope of thy heavenly grace may evermore be defended by thy mighty power. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end.

Ry Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

The Epistle: Colossians 3:12 (PLEASE BE SEATED)

The Epistle is written in the third chapter of the Epistle of Paul the Apostle to the Colossians, beginning at the twelfth verse.

Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, mercy and compassion, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, long-suffering; forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a complaint against any; even as the Lord forgave you, so also do ye. And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness. And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs,

singing with grace in your hearts to God. And whatsoever ye do, in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Here endeth the Epistle.

Gradual — *Timebunt gentes*

Psalm 102

CANTOR: The heathen shall fear thy Name, O Lord: *



ALL: And all the kings of the earth thy ma-jesty.

CANTOR: When the Lord shall build up Sion: *



ALL: And when his glo-ry shall appear.

Alleluia — Dominus regnavit (PLEASE STAND)

Psalm 97

CANTOR: Alleluia.



ALL: Al-le-lu- ia.

CANTOR: The Lord is King, the earth may be glad thereof: *



ALL: Yea, the multi-tude of the isles may be glad thereof.



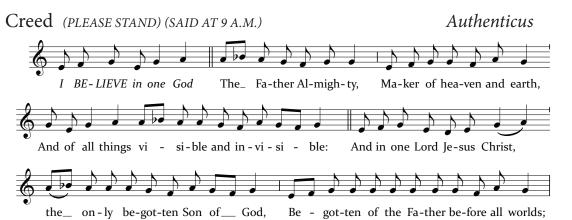
Al-le-lu-ia.

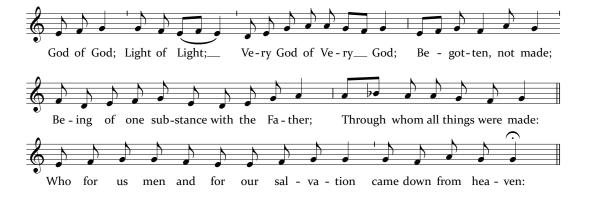
The Holy Gospel: S. Matthew 13:24 (PLEASE STAND)

- ☼ The Lord be with you.
- Ry And with thy spirit.
 - The Holy Gospel is written in the thirteenth chapter of the Gospel according to S. Matthew, beginning at the twenty-forth verse.
- Ry Glory be to thee, O Lord.

Another parable put he forth unto them, saying, The kingdom of heaven is likened unto a man which sowed good seed in his field. But while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went his way. But when the blade was sprung up, and brought forth fruit, then appeared the tares also. So the servants of the householder came, and said unto him, Sir, didst not thou sow good seed in thy field? from whence then hath it tares? He said unto them, An enemy hath done this. The servants said unto him, Wilt thou then that we go and gather them up? But he said, Nay; lest while ye gather up the tares, ye root up also the wheat with them. Let both grow together until the harvest; and in the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, Gather ye together first the tares, and bind them in bundles to burn them: but gather the wheat into my barn.

Ry Praise be to thee, O Christ.

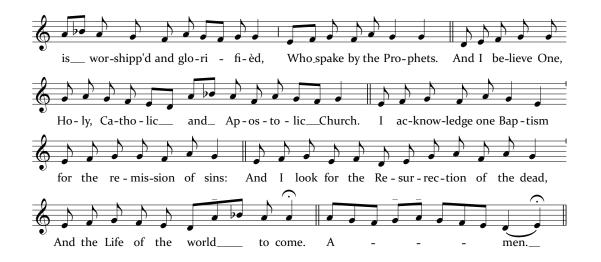




ALL KNEEL AS THE CHOIR SINGS:

AND WAS INCARNATE BY THE HOLY GHOST OF THE VIRGIN MARY, AND WAS MADE MAN:





The Prone (Bidding of the Bedes, Feasts & Fasts, Parish Announcements)

Sermon: The Father Vicar (11 A.M. ONLY)

PLEASE STAND AS THE CELEBRANT RETURNS TO THE ALTAR AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE SERMON.

THE MASS OF THE FAITHFUL (LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST)

OFFERTORY

- And with thy spirit.

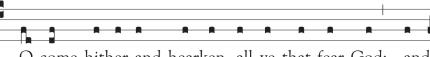
 Let us pray. (PLEASE KNEEL)

Offertory Antiphon — Dextera Domini

Psalm 118

CANTOR: The right hand of the Lord hath the pre-eminence;

the right hand of the Lord bringeth mighty things to pass: *



ALL:

O come hither and hearken, all ye that fear God; and



I will tell you what the Lord hath done for my soul,



English Hymnal Nº 2

High Word of God, who once did come

Angel's Song

High Word of God, who once didst come, Leaving thy Father and thy home, To succour by thy birth our kind, When, towards thy advent, time declined.

Pour light upon us from above, And fire our hearts with thy strong love, That, as we hear thy Gospel read, All fond desires may flee in dread;

That when thou comest from the skies, Great Judge, to open thine assize, To give each hidden sin its smart, And crown as kings the pure in heart,

We be not set at thy left hand, Where sentence due would bid us stand, But with the Saints thy face may see, For ever wholly loving thee.

Praise to the Father and the Son, Through all the ages as they run; And to the holy Paraclete Be praise with them and worship meet. Amen.

Orate Fratres (PLEASE KNEEL)

CELEBRANT: Pray, brethren, that this my sacrifice, and yours,

may be acceptable to God the Father Almighty.

PEOPLE: The Lord receive this Sacrifice at thy hands,

to the praise and glory of his Name, both to our benefit,

and that of all his holy Church.

Secret (Prayers over the Gifts)

A CCEPT, O Lord, we pray thee, this sacrifice which we offer unto thee for the propitiation of our sins: that we, which have gone astray by reason of our frailty, may be pardoned by thy mercy and guided by thy power. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end.

Ry Amen.

Prayer for the Catholic Church (CELEBRANT) (PLEASE REMAIN KNEELING)

Let us pray for Christ's holy Catholic Church.

Ataught us to make prayers and supplications, and to give thanks, for all men: We humbly beseech thee most mercifully to accept our alms and oblations, and to receive these our prayers, which we offer unto thy Divine Majesty; beseeching thee to inspire continually the

universal Church with the spirit of truth, unity, and concord: And grant that all they that do confess thy holy Name may agree in the truth of thy holy Word, and live in unity and godly love.

WE beseech thee also to lead all nations in the way of righteousness; and so to guide and direct their governors and rulers, that thy people may enjoy the blessings of freedom and peace: And grant unto thy servant CHARLES our King, and to all that are put in authority under him, that they may truly and impartially administer justice, to the maintenance of thy true religion and virtue.

GIVE grace, O heavenly Father, to all Bishops, Priests, and Deacons, and specially to thy servant Andrew our Bishop, that they may both by their life and doctrine set forth thy true and living Word, and rightly and duly administer thy holy Sacraments: Prosper, we pray thee, all those who proclaim the Gospel of thy kingdom among the nations: And to all thy people give thy heavenly grace, † and specially to this congregation here present, that, with meek heart and due reverence, they may hear and receive thy holy Word; truly serving thee in holiness and righteousness all the days of their life.

AND we most humbly beseech thee of thy goodness, O Lord, to comfort and succour all them, who in this transitory life are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity, especially those for whom our prayers are desired. †

WE remember before thee, O Lord, all thy servants departed this life in thy faith and fear: † and we bless thy holy Name for all who in life and death have glorified thee; beseeching thee to give us grace that, rejoicing in their fellowship, we may follow their good examples, and with them be partakers of thy heavenly kingdom.

RANT this, O Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our only Mediator and Advocate, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honour and glory, world without end.

† HERE THE CELEBRANT REMEMBERS THOSE FOR WHOM HE IS SPECIALLY BOUND TO PRAY, WHO HAVE NOT BEEN MENTIONED IN THE BIDDING OF THE BEDES. YOU MAY REMEMBER THOSE FOR WHOM YOU ARE OFFERING HOLY MASS, OR ANY PERSONS OR CLAIMS FOR WHICH YOU WISH TO PRAY.

Confession and Absolution

YE that do truly and earnestly repent you of your sins, and are in love and charity with your neighbours, and intend to lead the new life, following the commandments of God, and walking from henceforth in his holy ways: Draw near with faith, and take this holy Sacrament to your comfort; and make your humble confession to Almighty God, meekly kneeling upon your knees.

Almighty God,

ALL: Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Maker of all things, Judge of all men: We acknowledge and confess our manifold sins and wickedness. Which we from time to time most grievously have committed, By thought, word, and deed, Against thy Divine Majesty. We do earnestly repent, And are heartily sorry for these our misdoings. Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; For thy Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake, Forgive us all that is past; And grant that we may ever hereafter Serve and please thee In newness of life, To the honour and glory of thy Name; Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

CELEBRANT: Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
who of his great mercy hath promised forgiveness of sins
to all them that with hearty repentance
and true faith turn unto him:
Have mercy upon you;

♣ pardon and deliver you from all your sins; confirm and strengthen you in all goodness; and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Ry Amen.

Hear what comfortable words our Saviour Christ saith unto all that truly turn to him.

COME unto me all that labour and are heavy laden, and I will refresh you. S. Matthew 11:28

God so loved the world, that he gave his only-begotten Son, to the end that all that believe in him should not perish, but have eternal life. *S. John 3:16*

Hear also what Saint Paul saith.

This is a true saying, and worthy of all men to be received, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.

1 *Timothy* 1:15

Hear also what Saint John saith.

If any man sin, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and he is the propitiation for our sins. 1 S. John 2:1,2

Consecration and Oblation

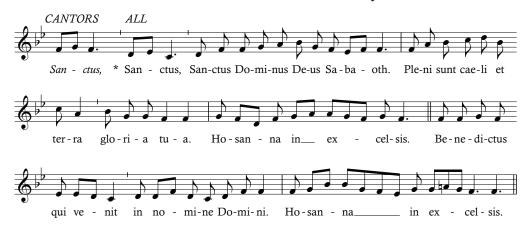
Sursum Corda and Preface



R. It is meet and right so to do.

It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places give thanks unto thee, O Lord, Holy Father, Almighty, Everlasting God, Creator and Preserver of all things.

THEREFORE with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee and saying:



CANON OF THE MASS

(CELEBRANT)

BLESSING and glory and thanksgiving be unto thee Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of thy tender mercy didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to take our nature upon him, and to suffer death upon the Cross for our redemption; who made there, by his one oblation of himself once offered, a full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice, oblation, and satisfaction, for the sins of the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memorial of that his precious death, until his coming again.

HEAR us, O merciful Father, we most humbly beseech thee; and grant that we receiving these thy creatures of bread and wine, according to thy Son our Saviour Jesus Christ's holy institution, in remembrance of his death and passion, may be partakers of his most blessed Body and Blood;

WHO, in the same night that he was betrayed, took Bread; and, when he had given thanks, he brake it; and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat;

This is MY BODY WHICH IS GIVEN FOR YOU:

Do this in remembrance of me."

Likewise after supper he took the Cup; and, when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink ye all, of this;

FOR THIS IS MY BLOOD OF THE NEW COVENANT,
WHICH IS SHED FOR YOU AND FOR MANY
FOR THE REMISSION OF SINS:
Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it,
in remembrance of me."

WHEREFORE, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, we thy humble servants, with all thy holy Church, remembering the precious death of thy beloved Son, his mighty resurrection, and glorious ascension, and looking for his coming again in glory, do make before thee, in this sacrament of the holy Bread of eternal life and the Cup of everlasting salvation, the memorial which he hath commanded;

And we entirely desire thy fatherly goodness mercifully to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, most humbly beseeching thee to grant, that by the merits and death of thy Son Jesus Christ, and through faith in his blood, we and all thy whole Church may obtain remission of our sins, and all other benefits of his passion; And we pray that by the power of thy Holy Spirit, all we who are partakers of this holy Communion may be fulfilled with thy grace and heavenly benediction; through Jesus Christ our Lord, by whom and with whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end.

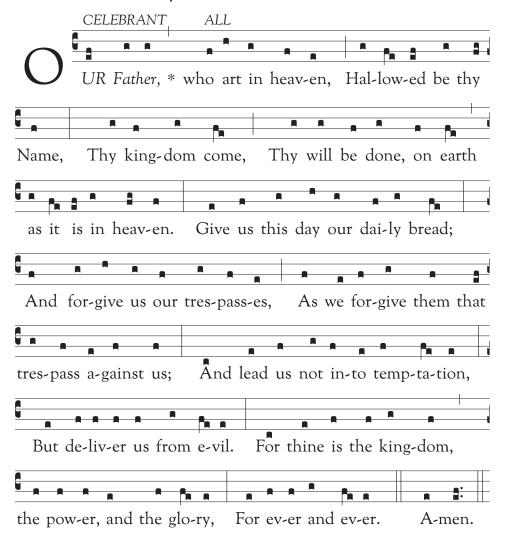
Ry Amen.

COMMUNION OF THE FAITHFUL

Pater Noster (SAID AT 9 A.M.)

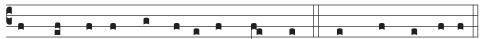
CELEBRANT: Let us pray.

As our Saviour Christ hath commanded and taught us, we are bold to say,



Fraction and Pax (SAID AT 9 A.M.)

Celebrant



The peace of the Lord be always with you.- R.And with thy spirit.-

The Prayer of Humble Access

CELEBRANT: We do not presume

ALL: to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord,

Trusting in our own righteousness,

But in thy manifold and great mercies.

We are not worthy

So much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table.

But thou art the same Lord,

Whose property is always to have mercy:

Grant us therefore, gracious Lord,

So to eat the Flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ,

And to drink his Blood,

That our sinful bodies may be made clean by his Body,

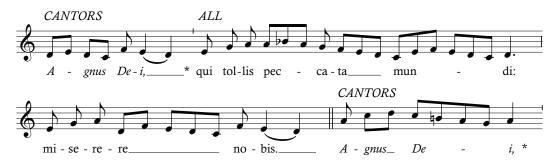
And our souls washed through his most precious Blood,

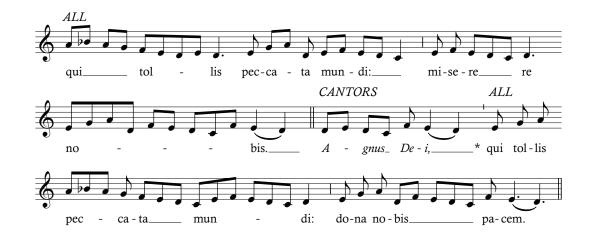
And that we may evermore dwell in him,

And he in us. Amen.

Agnus Dei

Missa Stelliferi Conditor Orbis





Communion Antiphon —

Mirabantur omnes

S. Luke 4

CANTOR: All wondered at the gracious words: *



ALL: Which pro-ceed-ed out of his mouth.

THE CELEBRANT TURNS TO SHOW THE BLESSED SACRAMENT. THE PEOPLE LOOK UP AND MAKE THE SIGN OF THE CROSS.

CELEBRANT: Behold the Lamb of God, behold him that taketh away the sin of the world.

ALL SAY TOGETHER THREE TIMES, STRIKING THE BREAST AT EACH BEGINNING:

ALL: Lord, I am not worthy that thou shouldest come under my roof, but speak the word only, and my soul shall be healed.

ALL CHRISTIANS WHO HAVE BEEN BAPTISED WITH WATER IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER, AND OF THE SON, AND OF THE HOLY GHOST, AND ARE COMMUNICANT MEMBERS OF THEIR OWN CHURCHES, ARE WELCOME TO RECEIVE THE HOLY COMMUNION.

THE SACRED HOST WILL BE PLACED UPON YOUR TONGUE OR IN THE PALM OF YOUR RIGHT HAND. IF YOU WISH TO RECEIVE A BLESSING, PLEASE FOLD YOUR ARMS ACROSS YOUR CHEST TO SIGNIFY THIS TO THE PRIEST.

SHOULD YOU BE UNABLE TO MANAGE STEPS, HOLY COMMUNION CAN BE ADMINISTERED AT YOUR PEW. PLEASE ASK ONE OF THE SIDESMEN, WHO WILL BE HAPPY TO ASSIST YOU.

THE FIRST PRAYER-BOOK EXHORTATION ENCOURAGES US TO RECEIVE THE SACRAMENT IN FAITH AND REPENTANCE, 'DISCERNING THE LORD'S BODY.'

Communion Hymn

Almighty God, thy word is cast (PLEASE REMAIN KNEELING OR SEATED)

S. Flavian

Almighty God, Thy word is cast Like seed upon the ground; O may it grow in humble hearts, And righteous fruits abound.

Let not the foe of Christ and man This holy seed remove, But give it root in praying souls To bring forth fruits of love.

Let not the world's deceitful cares The rising plant destroy, But may it, in converted minds, Produce the fruits of joy.

Yea let thy word, our life and light, Returning unto thee, Shine forth in us, in glory bright, Through all eternity.

Communion Motet (CHOIR)

O esca viatorum

Michael Haydn (1737-1806)

O esca viatorum,
O panis angelorum,
O manna caelitum,
Esurientes ciba,
Dulcedine non priva
Corda quaerentium.

O lympha, fons amoris, Qui puro Salvatoris E corde profluis. Te sitientes pota, Haec sola nostra vota, His una sufficis.

O Jesu, tuum vultum, Quem colimus occultum Sub panis specie. Fac, ut remoto velo, Post libera in caelo Cernamus facie. O food of men wayfaring, The Bread of Angels sharing, O Manna from on high! We hunger; Lord, supply us, Nor thy delights deny us, Whose hearts to thee draw nigh.

O Stream of love past telling, O purest Fountain, welling From out the Saviour's side! We faint with thirst; revive us, Of thine abundance give us And all we need provide.

O Jesu, by thee bidden,
We here adore thee, hidden
'Neath forms of bread and wine.
Grant when the veil is riven,
We may behold, in heaven,
Thy countenance divine.

THANKSGIVING

Post-Communion Thanksgiving

Let us pray. (PLEASE KNEEL)

A LMIGHTY and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee that thou dost graciously feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Saviour Jesus Christ; assuring us thereby of thy favour and goodness towards us; and that we are living members of his mystical body, which is the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs through

hope of thy everlasting kingdom. And here we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, ourselves, our souls and bodies, to be a reasonable, holy, and living sacrifice unto thee. And although we are unworthy, yet we beseech thee to accept this our bounden duty and service, not weighing our merits, but pardoning our offences; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honour and glory, world without end.

R' Amen.

Post-Communion Collect

- R⁄ And with thy spirit.

Let us pray. (PLEASE KNEEL)

RANT, we beseech thee, Almighty God: that as in these holy mysteries we have received the token of our redemption, so we may effectually be brough to the fulfillment of the same. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end.

R⁄ Amen.

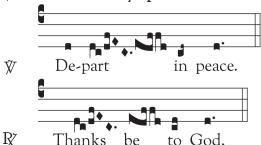
Blessing (CELEBRANT)

THE peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord: And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be amongst you and remain with you always.

R⁄ Amen.

Dismissal

- ▼ The Lord be with you.
- Ry And with thy spirit.



The Last Gospel: S. John 1:1 (PLEASE REMAIN STANDING)

- ☼ The Lord be with you.
- Ry And with thy spirit.
 - The beginning of the Holy Gospel according to John.
- Ry Glory be to thee, O Lord.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him: and without him was not any thing made that was made: in him was life, and the life was the light of men: and the light shineth in darkness, and the darkness comprehended it not. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the light, that all men through him might believe. He was not that light, but was sent to bear witness of that light. That was the true light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, and the world knew him not. He came unto his own, and his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his Name: which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

(ALL KNEEL) AND THE WORD WAS MADE FLESH (ALL RISE), and dwelt among us, and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the Only-begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

Ry Thanks be to God.

BURIAL OF THE ALLELUIA

AFTER THE LAST GOSPEL, THE CELEBRANT REMOVES THE MASS VESTMENTS AND VESTS IN VIOLET STOLE AND COPE. THE ALLELUIA, WHICH HAS RESTED ON THE NORTH CREDENCE THROUGHOUT THE MASS, IS BORNE IN PROCESSION TO THE LADY ALTAR, WHERE IT IS 'BURIED' UNDER THE FAIR LINEN. THE ALLELUIA WILL BE 'RESURRECTED' IMMEDIATELY BEFORE THE CHANTING OF THE GOSPEL AT THE EASTER VIGIL, WHEN HOLY CHURCH PROCLAIMS THE RESURRECTION OF HER RISEN LORD.

Motet (PLEASE BE SEATED)

'Songs of Syon' (1923),

Alleluia, song of sweetness

arr. J.R. Lunn

Alleluia, song of sweetness, voice of joy that cannot die; Alleluia is the anthem, ever dear to choirs on high; In the house of God abiding, thus they sing eternally.

Alleluia, thou resoundest, true Jerusalem and free; Alleluia, joyful mother, all thy children sing with thee; But by Babylon's sad waters, mourning exiles now are we.

Alleluia cannot always be our song while here below; Alleluia our transgressions make us for awhile forego; For the solemn time is coming when our tears for sin must flow.

Therefore in our hymns we pray thee, grant us, Blessèd Trinity, At the last to see thine Easter, in our home beyond the sky; There to thee for ever singing alleluia joyfully. Amen.

Postlude Improvisation

Fr David Smith

Liturgical Note

From time immemorial, the Church's exclamation of her joy in the Resurrection, the Hebrew word 'Hallelujah' — 'Alleluia' in Greek — or 'Praise the Lord' — has been 'buried' during her solemn fast in preparation for Easter.

Since the pontificate of Alexander II (1061-73) the dismissal of the Alleluia has taken place at the First Evensong of Septuagesima Sunday, when the hymn *Alleluia*, *dulce carmen* and the Easter Dismissal — *Depart in peace*, *alleluia*, *alleluia* — are sung. During the Middle Ages this custom was enriched, in some places, by a popular ritual led by the choir boys. It is described in the fifteenth-century statute book of the church of Toul, France:

"On Saturday before Septuagesima Sunday all choir boys gather in the sacristy during the prayer of the None, to prepare for the burial of the Alleluia. After the last *Benedicamus Domino* [i.e., at the end of the Vespers service] they march in procession, with crosses, tapers, holy water and censers; and they carry a coffin, as in a funeral. Thus they proceed through the aisle, moaning and mourning, until they reach the cloister. There they bury the coffin; they sprinkle it with holy water and incense it; whereupon they return to the sacristy by the same way."

The Burial of the Alleluia reminds us of our separation, in this life, from the complete enjoyment or 'fruition' of God which we will have in the Beatific Vision, and, as such, encourages us to pray for the grace of perseverance, so that we might at length know and love God face to face. (With materials from newliturgicalmovement.org.)

