

Choral Evensong Service
A Celebration of the Life and Work of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.
January 19, 2020



Opening Voluntary (Piano):

Balm in Gilead

African American Spiritual Arr. Mark Hayes

Processional Hymn (Sung by all):

Lift Every Voice and Sing (LEVAS #1)

J. Rosemond Johnson/ James Weldon Johnson

Opening Sentences from Scripture:

Leader: We give thanks to the Father, who has made us worthy to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. (*Colossians 1:12*)

You are no longer strangers and sojourners but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God. (*Ephesians 2:19*)

Invitatory

Leader: O God, make speed to save us;

People: **O Lord, make haste to help us.**

Leader: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,

People: **As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be: world without end. Amen.**

The people sit.

Phos Hilaron (Sung by the Choir)

Paul Kelley

O gracious Light,

Pure brightness of the ever-living Father in heaven,

O Jesus Christ, holy and blessed!

Now as we come to the setting of the sun

And our eyes behold the vesper light

We sing your praises, O God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

You are worthy at all times to be praised by happy voices,

O Son of God, O Giver of Life,

And to be glorified through all the worlds.

Psalm 30: 1-5 (Sung by the Choir)

Chant by Carl Haywood

Exaltabo te, Domine

I will exalt you, O Lord, because you have lifted me up

and have not let my enemies triumph over me.

O Lord my God, I cried out to you, and you restored me to health.

You brought me up, O Lord, from the dead;
you restored my life as I was going down to the grave.
Sing to the Lord, you servants of his;
give thanks for the remembrance of his holiness.
For his wrath endures but the twinkling of an eye, his favor for a lifetime.
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.

First Reading

Amos 5:18-27

Reader: A reading from the book of the prophet Amos

Woe to you who long
for the day of the Lord!
Why do you long for the day of the Lord?
That day will be darkness, not light.
It will be as though a man fled from a lion
only to meet a bear,
as though he entered his house
and rested his hand on the wall
only to have a snake bite him.
Will not the day of the Lord be darkness, not light—
pitch-dark, without a ray of brightness?
“I hate, I despise your religious festivals;
your assemblies are a stench to me.
Even though you bring me burnt offerings and grain offerings,
I will not accept them.
Though you bring choice fellowship offerings,
I will have no regard for them.
Away with the noise of your songs!
I will not listen to the music of your harps.
But let justice roll on like a river,
righteousness like a never-failing stream!
“Did you bring me sacrifices and offerings
forty years in the wilderness, people of Israel?
You have lifted up the shrine of your king,
the pedestal of your idols,
the star of your god—
which you made for yourselves.
Therefore I will send you into exile beyond Damascus,”
says the Lord, whose name is God Almighty.

Reader: Here ends the Reading

The Song of Mary (Sung by the Choir)

Luke 1:46-55

Magnificat – Ralph Vaughan Williams

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.

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.

Second Reading

Matthew 5:43

Reader: A reading from the Gospel according to Saint Matthew

Jesus said: "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be children of your Father in heaven; for he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous. For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet only your brothers and sisters, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

Reader: Here ends the Reading

The Song of Simeon (Sung by the Choir)

Luke 2:29-32

Nunc dimittis – Ralph Vaughan Williams

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 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.

The Apostles' Creed

Priest and People, all together standing

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Lesser Litany

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray.

The Lord's Prayer

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.
Amen.

Prayers of the People

Leader: Let us raise to the Lord our common prayer for the Church and the needs of all humanity.

From the islands to the oceans, we worship you, O God, the Creator of life.
Throughout the mountains and the valleys, we praise you, O God, the Savior of the world.
With the tongues of all nations, we thank you, O God, the Comforter of bodies and souls.
We come before you bearing our burdens and hopes.
Today we ask you: **O God, hear our prayer and grant us your love.**

We pray for those who live in the midst of injustice.
Encourage us to lift up their voices and strengthen their hope.
We pray for those who continue to perpetuate injustice.
May kindness fill our hearts and make us agents of freedom and peace.
We pray for every institution and person who stands for justice.
Let us ask justly according to your words.
Today we ask you: **O God, hear our prayer and grant us your justice.**

We pray for the visible unity of the Church.
Lead us to fulfil Jesus' prayer that we may be one and work together to manifest your Kingdom.
Today we ask you: **O God, hear our prayer and grant us passion for unity.**
We thank you for the many colors, cultures, and customs that we share in this world.
In our differences, unity us by your love.
Enable us to act together to uphold life
And make this world a just and peaceful household for all humanity.
Today we ask you: **O God, hear our prayer and grant us your peace.**

Collect for the Day

Lord our God, see how oppression and violence are our sad inheritance, one generation to the next. We look for you where the lowly are raised up, where the mighty are brought down. We find you there in your servants and we give you thanks this day for your preacher and witness, Martin Luther King Jr. Fill us with your spirit: where our human community is divided by racism, torn by repression, saddened by fear and ignorance, may we give ourselves to your work of healing. Grant this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Prayer for Mission

Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who work, or watch, or weep this night, and give your 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 your love's sake. **Amen.**

The people are seated at the invitation of the preacher.

Homily

Willie King

Offering

The people remain seated while an offering is received to support Ascension's ministry of sharing God's love with the World.

Anthem (Sung by the Choir):

Precious Lord, Take my Hand – Thomas Dorsey, arr. Richard Frost

*Precious Lord, take my hand
Lead me on, help me stand
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn
Through the storm, through the night
Lead me on to the light
Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home*

*When my way grows drear,
Precious Lord, linger near
When my life is almost gone
Hear my cry, hear my call
Hold my hand, lest I fall
Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.*

A Prayer of St. Chrysostom

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

Leader: Let us bless the Lord
People: Thanks be to God

Closing Sentence from Scripture

Celebrant: Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine: Glory to him from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever. Amen. (*Ephesians 3:20, 21*)

The people stand

Recessional Hymn (Sung by all):

We Shall Overcome (LEVAS #227)

African American Spiritual

Closing Voluntary (Piano):

How Great Thou Art

Stuart K. Hine arr. Mark Hayes

Worship Leaders

Readers:

Helen Smits, Joshua DeRosier, Paul Boynton, Esther Tellu, Latrese Morris, Tunde Ayinde

Ascension Choir:

Betty Knight, Sue Snay, Lauren Kingsland, Amy Van Dalinda, Alice Benson, Linda Waters, Betsy Hasegawa, Rhee Howard, Cathy Oliveri, Elizabeth Baker, Claire Morrin, Anne Brink, Kristen Keating, Melanie Mitchell, Curt Lindsay, John Pruessner, Jack Ahalt, Gordon Donnelly, Ken Howard, David Mitchell, Howard Holland

Instrumental Ensemble:

Claire Rosser, Gordon Donnelly, Roger LeCompte

Minister of Music:

Andrew Kullberg

Priest in Charge:

Javier Garcia Ocampo

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