

ORGAN VESPERS

AT ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH



David Sinden, *organ*

The Eve of Holy Cross Day
Sunday, September 14, 2025
5:00 p.m.

Welcome to St. Peter's Church and this service of Organ Vespers.

Much of the organ's historic repertoire (which dates to the 1400s) was written for use in Christian liturgical worship. Organ Vespers is a prayer service in the evening that gives music written for the organ an opportunity to speak fully within a liturgical context.

Organ Vespers at St. Peter's follows An Order of Worship for the Evening in the 1979 Book of Common Prayer (page 109), essentially an ancient order of Evening Prayer, or what we also call Evensong.

Before the service, the church is in relative darkness and silence—there is no music before this service begins.

After the entrance of Officiant and the Vesper candle, the service begins with a thanksgiving for light called the *Lucernarium*. This ancient rite was the predecessor to the kindling of the new fire and lighting of the Paschal Candle at the Great Vigil of Easter. The traditional responsory sung during the candle lighting is also called the *lucernarium*.

The ancient Greek *Phos hilaron* (literally “hilarious light”) is among the oldest Christian hymns in use today. It was a regular part of the *Lucernarium* lamp-lighting ritual. The setting used for these Organ Vespers services was composed by Ronald Arnatt (1930–2018), who served as the Organist and Choirmaster for the cathedral in this diocese for twenty-five years.

This service then proceeds with late 19th century and 20th century organ music written in the Christian liturgical tradition.

The ancient hymn *Vexilla Regis prodeunt* is preceded by an organ prelude by English composer Edward Cuthbert Bairstow (1874–1946).

The cantor and the organ together then sing the Cantic in alternation, a setting of the Magnificat by French composer Alexandre Guilmant (1837–1911). This organ work compliments based the traditional Mode 1 plainsong for this ancient hymn.

Two movements from a Partita on *Crucifer* by American composer Charles Callahan (1951–2023) are heard at the end of the service. A gentle Meditation before the singing of the hymn “Lift high the cross,” and a rousing Chorale-Fanfare as the voluntary.

St. Peter's organ was built by the Mander organ company of London, England, in 2001. The instrument has 56 ranks of pipes (2,979 individual pipes), playable on three manuals (keyboards) and pedal. Organ Vespers services were first held at St. Peter's in 2021 to mark the 20th anniversary of the organ.

ORGAN VESPERS

Sunday, September 14, 2025
5:00 p.m.

The tower bells peal just before the hour.

All then stand for the entrance of ministers who are led by the Vesper candle.

By the light of the Vesper candle, the Officiant greets the people with these words.

Light and peace in Jesus Christ our Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

LET THE SAME MIND BE IN YOU that was in Christ Jesus,
who, though he was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be exploited,
but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
being born in human likeness.
And being found in human form,
he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death—
even death on a cross.

Philippians 2:5-8

Let us pray.

GRANT US, LORD, the lamp of charity which never fails, that it may burn in us
and shed its light on those around us, and that by its brightness we may have
a vision of that holy City, where dwells the true and never-failing Light, Jesus
Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

*The candles at the Altar are now lighted from the Vesper candle.
Other candles are then lighted.*

Anthem at the Candle Lighting *Lucernarium*

Cantor; then People

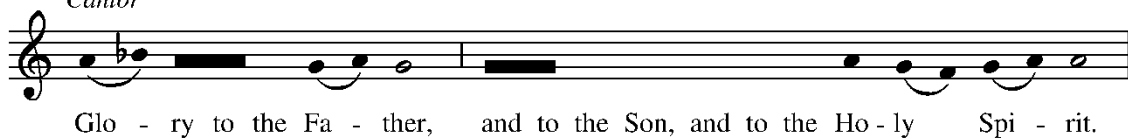


Cantor

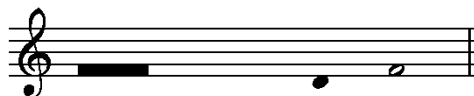
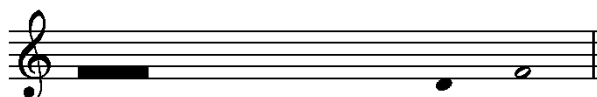
People



Cantor



People



Setting: *Mode 6 melody*,
adapt. Bruce E. Ford (b. 1947)

O Gracious Light *Phos hilaron*

1. 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! 2. 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. 3. 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.

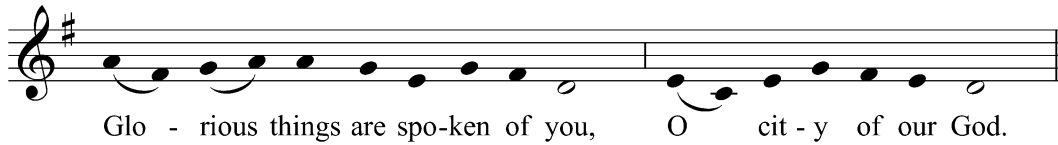
Setting: Ronald Arnatt (1930-2018)

The People sit.

PSALMODY

Psalm 87 *Fundamenta ejus*

Cantor; then All

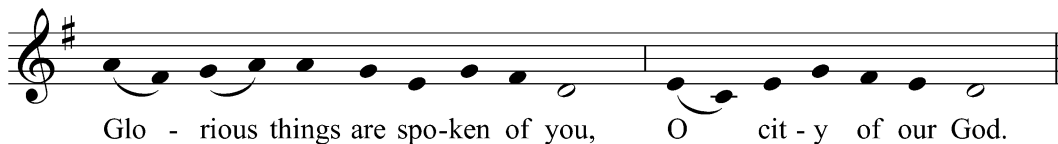


Cantor

Plainsong, Tone VII.3

- 1 On the holy mountain stands the city he has founded; *
the Lord loves the gates of Zion more than all the dwellings of Jacob.
 - 2 Glorious things are spoken of you, *
O city of our God.
 - 3 I count Egypt and Babylon among those who know me; *
behold Philistia, Tyre, and Ethiopia: in Zion were they born.
 - 4 Of Zion it shall be said, "Everyone was born in her, *
and the Most High himself shall sustain her."
 - 5 The Lord will record as he enrolls the peoples, *
"These also were born there."
 - 6 The singers and the dancers will say, *
"All my fresh springs are in you."
- Glory to the Father, and to the Son, *
and to the Holy Spirit:
- As it was in the beginning, is now, *
and will be forever. Amen.

All



READING

John 12:31-36a

“NOW IS THE JUDGEMENT OF THIS WORLD; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die. The crowd answered him, “We have heard from the law that the Messiah remains for ever. How can you say that the Son of Man must be lifted up? Who is this Son of Man?” Jesus said to them,

“The light is with you for a little longer. Walk while you have the light, so that the darkness may not overtake you. If you walk in the darkness, you do not know where you are going. While you have the light, believe in the light, so that you may become children of light.”

A sermon or homily, a passage from Christian literature, or a brief silence, may follow the Reading.

HYMN

Organ: Prelude on “Vexilla Regis prodeunt”

Edward Bairstow
(1874-1946)

The People stand and sing

Hymn 162: “The royal banners forward go”



1 The roy - al ban - ners for - ward go, the cross shines
2 Ful - filled is all that Da - vid told in true pro -
3 O tree of beau - ty, tree most fair, or - dained those
4 Blest tree, whose cho - sen branch - es bore the wealth that
5 O cross, our one re - li - ance, hail! Still may thy
6 To thee, e - ter - nal Three in One, let hom - age



1 forth in mys - tic glow where he through whom our flesh
2 phe - tic song of old; how God the na - tions' King
3 ho - ly limbs to bear gone is thy shame, each crim -
4 did the world re - store, the price which none but he
5 power with us a - vail to save us sin - ners from
6 meet by all be done; as by the cross thou dost



1 was made, in that same flesh our ran - som paid.
2 should be, for God is reign - ing from the tree.
3 soned bough pro - claims the King of glo - ry now.
4 could pay to spoil the spoil - er of his prey.
5 our sin, God's right - eous - ness for all to win.
6 re - store so rule and guide us ev - er - more.

Words: *Venantius Honorius Fortunatus* (540?-600?); *ver. Hymnal* 1982
Music: *Vexilla Regis prodeunt*, *Mode 1*, Rome MS, 12th cent.

The People sit.

CANTICLE

The Cantor sings the Antiphon

O Crux, splendidior cunctis astris, mundo
celebris, hominibus multum amabilis,
sanctior universis: quae sola fuisti Digna
portare talentum mundi: dulce lignum,
dulces clavos, dulcia ferens pondera: salva
praesentem catervam, in tuis hodie laudibus
congregatam.

*O cross, more splendid than the stars,
honored throughout the world, more worthy
than the love of men, most holy of all things,
alone were thou worthy to bear the ransom
of all the world. Sweet wood, sweet nails
that bore so sweet a burden, save those that
are assembled here today to sing thy praises.*

The Cantor and the Organ sing the Magnificat in alternation

Cantor Magnificat * anima mea Dominum.
My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord.

Organ Et exsultavit spiritus meus * in Deo, salutari meo.
And my spirit rejoices in God, my savior.

Cantor Quia respexit humilitatem ancillae suae: *
ecce enim ex hoc beatam me dicent omnes generationes.
*For he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his handmaiden:
behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed.*

Organ Quia fecit mihi magna qui potens est: et sanctum nomen eius.
For he that is mighty has done wondrous things for me: and holy is his name.

Cantor Et misericordia eius a progenie in progenies * timentibus eum.
And his mercy is upon them that fear him throughout all generations.

Organ Fecit potentiam in brachio suo: dispersit superbos mente cordis sui.
He has shown the power of his arm: he has scattered the proud in their conceit.

Cantor Deposuit potentes de sede, * et exaltavit humiles.
He has put down the mighty from their seat, and has exalted the humble and meek.

Organ Esurientes implevit bonis: et divites dimisit inanes.
He has filled the hungry with good things: and the rich he has sent empty away.

Cantor Suscepit Israel, puerum suum, * recordatus misericordiae suae.
He has sustained his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy.

Organ Sicut locutus est ad patres nostros, Abraham et semini eius in saecula.
As he promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his sons for ever.

Cantor Gloria Patri, et Filio, * et Spiritui Sancto.
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

Organ Sicut erat in principio, et nunc et semper, et in saecula saeculorum. Amen.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

The Cantor repeats the Antiphon.

ANTIPHON: O Crux, splendidior
Words: Antiphon for the Finding of the Holy Cross (May 2)
Music: Plainsong, Mode I

MAGNIFICAT
Words: *Luke 1:46–55 and Gloria Patri*
Music: *Plainsong, Tone I.D*
Organ verses: *L'Organiste pratique, Vol. 2 Op. 41, No. 2*
Alexandre Guilmant (1837–1911)

THE PRAYERS

The People stand or kneel

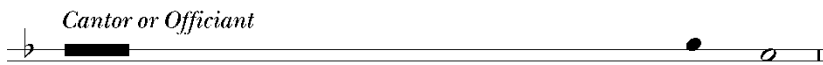
Officiant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

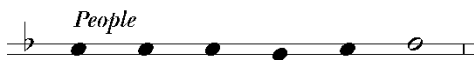
Officiant Let us pray.

Officiant and People

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.



That this evening may be holy, good, and peace - ful,

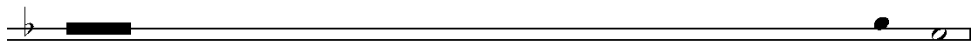


We en - treat thee, O Lord.

(This response is sung after each of the following petitions)



That thy holy angels may lead us in paths of peace and good-will,



That we may be pardoned and forgiven for our sins and of - fen - ses,

That there may be peace to thy Church and to the whole world,

That we may depart this life in thy faith and fear,

and not be condemned before the great judgment seat of Christ,

That we may be bound together by thy Holy Spirit in the communion of

[_____ and] all thy saints, entrusting one another and all our life to Christ,

Officiant Almighty God, whose Son our Savior Jesus Christ was lifted high upon the cross that he might draw the whole world to himself: Mercifully grant that we, who glory in the mystery of our redemption, may have grace to take up our cross and follow him; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting. *Amen.*

Organ: Meditation on *Crucifer*

Charles Callahan
(1951–2003)

The People stand and sing.

Hymn 473: “Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim”

Refrain

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro - claim

till all the world_____ a - dore_____ his sa - cred Name.

1 Led on their way by this tri-umph-ant sign,
 2 Each new - born ser - vant of the Cru - ci - fied
 3 O Lord, once lift - ed on the glo - rious tree,
 4 So shall our song of tri - umph ev - er be:

the hosts of God in con-quer-ing ranks com - bine.
 bears on the brow the seal of him who died.
 as thou hast prom - ised, draw the world to thee.
 praise to the Cru - ci - fied for vic - to - ry.

Repeat refrain

Words: George Wm. Kitchin (1872-1912);
 alt Michael Robert Newbolt (1874-1956)
 Music: Crucifer, Sydney Hugo Nicholson (1875-1947)

The Greeting

BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

The People stand or kneel

Officiant The Lord bless you and keep you. *Amen.*
 The Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you. *Amen.*
 The Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace. *Amen.*

Officiant Let us bless the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

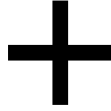
The People stand as the ministers depart.

Voluntary: Chorale-Fanfare on *Crucifer*

Charles Callahan

Bearing in mind that the Voluntary, like the liturgy that precedes it, is an offering to God's glory, the Congregation is asked to be seated or depart quietly.

Please leave your offering in one of the alms basins in the narthex as you leave the service. Thank you.



<i>Officiant</i>	The Rev. Dr. Nathan Haydon
<i>Cantor</i>	Angel Azzarra
<i>Organ</i>	David Sinden
<i>Crucifer</i>	DeWayne Trainer

About the Organist

Noted for his “centered leadership and solid musicianship,” David Sinden has served as the Organist and Director of Music at St. Peter’s Episcopal Church in St. Louis, Missouri, for the last decade. He previously served in the same capacity at St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, Capitol Square, in Richmond, Virginia, and as Assistant Organist and Director of Music at Christ Church Cathedral (Episcopal), Indianapolis, Indiana. As an organist, Mr. Sinden has appeared at conventions of the Organ Historical Society, the Hymn Society of the United States and Canada, and the Anglican Association of Musicians. He currently serves as Secretary/Treasurer of the Organ Media Foundation and on two committees charged with the planning of the National Convention of the American Guild of Organists (AGO) in St. Louis next summer. He is a past Dean of the Indianapolis Chapter of the AGO. He holds degrees in music from Oberlin College and Indiana University.

Regular Choral Evensong services at St. Peter’s resume on
Sunday, October 12, at 5:00 p.m. and continue on the second Sunday of the month.

Services of Holy Communion are held throughout the year
on Sunday mornings at 8:00 and 10:30 a.m.



St. Peter’s Episcopal Church
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