

Saint Thomas's Church

The First Evensong of the Conversion of Saint Paul
Sunday, January 24, 2021

Evensong at 4:00 pm



The Conversion of Saint Paul
Caravaggio, 1601

Saint Thomas's Anglican Church
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Officiant: Fr D'Angelo
Cantors: Elizabeth Anderson, Mark Wood-Salomon
Organist & Director of Music: Matthew Whitfield

RECITAL: Vocal and Organ Music by Benjamin Britten
Mark Wood-Salomon, Tenor; Matthew Whitfield, Pianist & Organist

HYMN – Phos Hilaron

O Gladsome Light of the Holy Glory of the Immortal Father, Heavenly, Holy, Blessed Jesus Christ! Now that we have come to the setting of the sun and behold the light of evening, we praise God Father, Son and Holy Spirit. For meet it is at all times to worship Thee with voices of praise. O Son of God and Giver of Life, therefore all the world doth glorify Thee.

CHRISTE REDEMPTOR OMNIUM
Sarum Plainsong

V / O Lord, open thou our lips;
R / *And our mouth shall show forth thy praise.*
V / O God, make speed to save us;
R / *O Lord, make haste to help us.*

V / Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
R / *As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.*
V / Praise ye the Lord;
R / *The Lord's Name be praised.*

PSALM: 96, *Tone VIII,2*

- 1 O sing unto the Lord a new song; /
sing unto the Lord, all the whole earth.
- 2 Sing unto the Lord, and praise his Name; /
be telling of his salvation from day to day.
- 3 Declare his honour among the nations, /
and his wonders among all peoples.
- 4 For the Lord is great, and cannot worthily be praised; /
he is more to be feared than all gods.
- 5 As for all the gods of the peoples, they are but idols; /
but it is the Lord that made the heavens.
- 6 Honour and majesty are before him: /
strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.
- 7 Ascribe unto the Lord, O ye kindreds of the peoples, /
ascribe unto the Lord glory and power.
- 8 Give unto the Lord the honour due unto his Name; /
bring presents and come into his courts.
- 9 O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness; /
let the whole earth stand in awe of him.
- 10 Tell it out among the nations that the Lord is King; /
he hath made the round world so fast that it cannot be moved;
he shall judge the peoples righteously.
- 11 Let the heavens rejoice and let the earth be glad; /
let the sea make a noise, and all that is therein.
- 12 Let the field be joyful, and all that is in it; /
then shall all the trees of the wood rejoice before the Lord;
- 13 For he cometh, for he cometh to judge the earth, /
and with righteousness to judge the world, and the peoples with his truth.

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.

PSALM: 98, Tone I, 2

- 1 O sing unto the Lord a new song; / for he hath done marvellous things.
- 2 With his own right hand, and with his holy arm, /
hath he gotten himself the victory.
- 3 The Lord hath declared his salvation: /
his righteousness hath he openly shown in the sight of the nations.
- 4 He hath remembered his mercy and his faithfulness
toward the house of Israel; /
and all the ends of the world have seen the salvation of our God.
- 5 Show yourselves joyful unto the Lord, all ye lands: /
sing, rejoice, and give thanks.
- 6 Praise the Lord upon the harp: /
sing to the harp with a psalm of thanksgiving.
- 7 With trumpets also and the sound of the horn, /
O show yourselves joyful before the Lord, the King.
- 8 Let the sea make a noise, and all that is therein; /
the round world, and they that dwell therein.
- 9 Let the floods clap their hands, and let the hills
be joyful together before the Lord; /
for he is come to judge the earth.
- 10 With righteousness shall he judge the world, /
and the peoples with equity.

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 LESSON – Isaiah 56.1-8

Thus says the LORD: “Keep justice, and do righteousness, for soon my salvation will come, and my deliverance be revealed. Blessed is the man who does this, and the son of man who holds it fast, who keeps the sabbath, not profaning it, and keeps his hand from doing any evil.” Let not the foreigner who has joined himself to the LORD say, “The LORD will surely separate me from his people”; and let not the eunuch say, “Behold, I am a dry tree.” For thus says the LORD: “To the eunuchs who keep my sabbaths, who choose the things that please me and hold fast my covenant, I will give in my house and within my walls a monument and a name better than sons and daughters; I will give them an everlasting name which

shall not be cut off. “And the foreigners who join themselves to the LORD, to minister to him, to love the name of the LORD, and to be his servants, every one who keeps the sabbath, and does not profane it, and holds fast my covenant—these I will bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer; their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar; for my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples. Thus says the Lord GOD, who gathers the outcasts of Israel, I will gather yet others to him besides those already gathered.”

Here endeth the First Lesson.

THE MAGNIFICAT

Plainchant, *Tone IV*

MY soul doth magnify the Lord, / and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.
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 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.

SECOND LESSON – Acts 26.1-23

Agrippa said to Paul, “You have permission to speak for yourself.” Then Paul stretched out his hand and made his defense: “I think myself fortunate that it is before you, King Agrippa, I am to make my defense today against all the accusations of the Jews, because you are especially familiar with all customs and controversies of the Jews; therefore I beg you to listen to me patiently. “My manner of life from my youth, spent from the beginning among my own nation and at Jerusalem, is known by all the Jews. They have known for a long time, if they are willing to testify, that according to the strictest party of our religion I have lived as a Pharisee. And now I stand here on trial for hope in the promise made by God to our fathers, to which our twelve tribes hope to attain, as they earnestly worship night and day. And for this hope I am accused by Jews, O king! Why is it thought incredible by any of you that God raises the dead? “I myself was convinced that I ought to do many things in opposing the name of Jesus of Nazareth. And I did so in Jerusalem; I not only shut up many of the saints in prison, by authority from the chief priests, but when they were put to death I cast my vote against them. And I punished them often in all the synagogues and tried to make them blaspheme; and in raging fury against them, I persecuted them even to foreign cities. “Thus I journeyed to Damascus with the authority and commission of the chief priests. At midday, O king, I saw on the way a light from heaven, brighter than the sun, shining round me and those who journeyed with me. And when we had all fallen to the ground, I heard a voice saying to me in the Hebrew language, ‘Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me? It hurts you to kick against the goads.’ And I said, ‘Who are you, Lord?’ And the Lord said, ‘I am Jesus whom you are persecuting. But rise and stand upon your feet; for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to appoint you to serve and bear witness to the things in which you have seen me and to those in which I will appear to you, delivering you from the people and from the Gentiles—to whom I send you to open their eyes, that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.’ “Wherefore, O King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision, but declared first to those at Damascus, then at Jerusalem and throughout all the country of Judea, and also to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God and perform deeds worthy of their repentance. For this reason the Jews seized me in the temple and tried to kill me. To this day I have had the help that comes from God, and so I stand here testifying both to

small and great, saying nothing but what the prophets and Moses said would come to pass: that the Christ must suffer, and that, by being the first to rise from the dead, he would proclaim light both to the people and to the Gentiles.”

Here endeth the Second Lesson

NUNC DIMITTIS

Plainchant, *Tone III*

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 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.

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.

V / The Lord be with you;
R / *And with thy spirit.*
V / Let us pray.

V / Lord, have mercy upon us.
R / *Christ, have mercy upon us.*
V / Lord, have mercy upon us.

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 them that trespass against us; And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil. Amen.

Priest: O Lord, show thy mercy upon us;
People: And grant us thy salvation.
Priest: O Lord, save the Queen;
People: And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.
Priest: Endue thy ministers with righteousness;
People: And make thy chosen people joyful.
Priest: O Lord, save thy people;
People: And bless thine inheritance.
Priest: Give peace in our time, O Lord;
People: And evermore mightily defend us.
Priest: O God, make clean our hearts within us;
People: And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Almighty and everlasting God, mercifully look upon our infirmities, and in all our dangers and necessities stretch forth thy right hand to help and defend us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

COLLECT OF THE CONVERSION OF ST PAUL

O God, who, through the preaching of the blessed Apostle Saint Paul, hast caused the light of the Gospel to shine throughout the world: Grant, we beseech thee, that we, having his wonderful conversion in remembrance, may show forth our thankfulness unto thee for the same, by following the holy doctrine which he taught; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

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 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 Saviour. *Amen.*

COLLECT FOR AID AGAINST ALL 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 Saviour Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

PRAYERS AND 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 ourselves 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 honour and glory, world without end. *Amen.*

A PRAYER OF SAINT CHRYSOSTOM AND THE GRACE

Almighty God, who hast given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplications unto thee; and dost promise that when two or three are gathered together in thy Name thou wilt grant their requests: Fulfil now, O Lord, the desires and petitions of thy servants, as may be most expedient for them; granting us in this world knowledge of thy truth, and in the world to come life everlasting. *Amen.*

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.*

2 Corinthians 13.14