

FESTAL CHORAL EVENSONG & BENEDICTION

*Sung by the Combined Choirs of
St. Paul's on the Green and
Trinity on the Green, New Haven*

ST. PAUL'S ON THE GREEN | MARCH 15, 2026 - 5:00PM



Artwork by Will Doreza

The liturgy this evening is co-led by The Rev. Daniel Simons, Rector of St. Paul's on the Green, Norwalk, and The Rev. Dr. Luk De Volder, Rector of Trinity on the Green, New Haven

The service is led musically by Trinity on the Green's Director of Music, Simon Lee, and Associate Director of Music, Sarah Johnson as well as Joshua Ehlebracht, Director of Music of St. Paul's on the Green

PRELUDE

*Fugue in E-flat "St. Anne" BWV 552 - J.S. Bach (1685 – 1750)
Sarah Johnson, Organ*

*The People **remain seated** as the Choir sings the Introit from the rear of the church.*

INTROIT *sung by the Choir*

How lovely are the messengers

*Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)
From "St. Paul", op. 36*

How lovely are the messengers that preach us the gospel of peace,
to all the nations is gone forth the sound of their words,
throughout all the lands their glad tidings.

THE PRECES *standing - sung by the Choir*

O Lord, open thou our lips.
And our mouth shall shew forth thy praise.

O God, make speed to save us.
O Lord, make haste to help us.

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.
The Lord's name be praised!

Setting: Margaret Burk

HYMN IN PROCESSION



1. O Spir - it all - em - brac - ing and
coun - se - lor all - wise, un - bound - ed splen - dor
grac - ing a shore - less sea of skies: un -
fail - ing is your treas - ure, un - fad - ing your re -
ward; sur - pass - ing world - ly pleas - ure, the
rich - es you af - ford. Come, stream of end - less
flow - ing, and res - cue us from death; come,
wind of spring-time blow - ing, and warm us by your breath.

The Choir sings verse two

O beauty ever blazing in flower, field, and face,
you show yourself amazing in unexpected place.
We see you and remember what once our dreams had been;
you fan the glowing ember and kindle hope within.
Come, fire of glory gracious, bless all who trust in you;
undying flame tenacious, burn in your Church anew.

The Congregation sings verse three on Pg. 4

All sing:

3. Come, pas - sion's pow - er ho - ly, your
in - sight here im - part, and give your ser - vants
low - ly an un - der - stand - ing heart to
know your care more clear - ly when faith and love are
tried, to seek you more sin - cere - ly when
false i - deals have died: for vi - sion we im -
plore you, for wis - dom's pure de - light; in
prayer we come be - fore you to wait up - on your light.

Words: Sister Delores Dufner (b. 1939)

Music: *Thaxted*, Gustav Holst (1874 – 1934), Arr. Richard Proulx (1937 – 2010)

THE COLLECT

Holy God, whose glory fills the heavens and the earth, draw us into your presence with hearts attentive to your desire, that we may see your light, be drawn into your love, and go forth transformed, to serve and to rejoice in you; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

The People sit.

Be merciful to us, O God, and bless us, *
show us the light of your countenance and come to us.

Let your ways be known upon earth, *
your saving health among all nations.

Let the peoples praise you, O God; *
let all the peoples praise you.

Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, *
for you judge the peoples with equity and guide all the nations upon earth.

Let the peoples praise you, O God; *
let all the peoples praise you.

The earth has brought forth its increase; *
may you, our own God, give us your blessing.

May you give us your blessing, *
and may all the ends of the earth stand in awe of you.

Glory be 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.

Anglican Chant: C.H.H. Parry

THE FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 6:1-8

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty, and the hem of his robe filled the temple. Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. And one called to another and said,

“Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts;
the whole earth is full of God’s glory.”

The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke. And I said, “Woe is me! I am lost, for my lips are unclean, and I live among a people of unclean lips, yet my eyes have seen the Holy One, the God of hosts!”

Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. The seraph touched my mouth with it and said, “Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out.” Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?” And I said, “Here am I; send me!”

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the People.

Thanks be to God.

MAGNIFICAT *sung by the Choir*

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 forever.
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.

Words: Luke 1:46-55
Music: St. Paul's Service, Herbert Howells (1892 – 1983)

THE SECOND LESSON

2 Corinthians 3:12, 16–18

Since, then, we have such a hope, we act with great boldness, not like Moses, who put a veil over his face to keep the people from gazing at the end of the glory that was being set aside. But when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed. Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And all of us, with unveiled faces, seeing the glory of the Lord as though reflected in a mirror, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another, for this comes from the Lord, the Spirit.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the People.

Thanks be to God.

NUNC DIMITTIS *sung by the Choir*

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.

Words: Luke 2:29-32
Music: Evening Service in D Major, George Dyson (1883 – 1964)

HOMILY

*The Rev. Daniel Simons
Rector*

THE APOSTLES' CREED *standing, sung by all*

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.

THE LITANY *sung by the Choir*

The Lord be with you.
And with thy spirit.
Let us pray.

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

Setting: Margaret Burk

THE LORD'S PRAYER *sung by the Choir*

*Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.*

Setting: Margaret Burk

THE RESPONSES

sung by the Choir

O Lord, show thy mercy upon us;
And grant us thy salvation.

O Lord, save those who govern.
And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.

Endue thy ministers with righteousness.
And make thy chosen people joyful.

O Lord, save thy people.
And bless thine inheritance.

Give peace in our time, O Lord.
*Because there is none other that fighteth for us,
but only thou O God.*

O God make clean our hearts within us.
And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.

Setting: Margaret Burk

THE COLLECTS

sung by the Officiant and Choir

O God of unsearchable light, you meet us in blaze and in shadow, stripping away what blinds us so that we may see more clearly. Grant us the humility of your apostle Paul's awakening, the patience of his learning, and the courage of his witness, that we may follow where Christ leads and bear his name with integrity; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Lord God, whose Son our Savior Jesus Christ triumphed over the powers of death and prepared for us our place in the new Jerusalem: Grant that we, who have this day given thanks for his resurrection, may praise you in that City of which he is the light, and where he lives and reigns for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Lord Jesus, stay with us, for evening is at hand and the day is past; be our companion in the way, kindle our hearts, and awaken hope, that we may know you as you are revealed in Scripture and the breaking of bread. Grant this for the sake of your love. *Amen.*

WELCOME

seated

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2026

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THE ANTHEM

sung by the Choir

When We Love

Elaine Hagenberg

The towering tree spreads his greening canopy
A veil between the soil and sky
Not in selfish vanity,
But the gentle thrush to shade and shelter.

So it is with love.
For when we love, Simply love,
Even as we are loved,
Our weary world can be transformed.

A PRAYER OF ST. CHRYSOSTOM *standing*

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.

During the hymn, preparations begin for Benediction.

1 O Food to pil - grims giv - en, O Bread of life from
 2 O stream of love past tell - ing, O pur - est foun - tain,
 3 O Je - sus, by thee bid - den, we here a - dore thee,

hea - ven, O Man - na from on high! We
 well - ing from out the Sa - vior's side! We
 hid - den in forms of bread and wine. Grant

hun - ger; Lord, sup - ply us, nor thy de - lights de -
 faint with thirst; re - vive us, of thine a - bun - dance
 when the veil is riv - en, we may be - hold, in

ny us, whose hearts to thee draw nigh.
 give us, and all we need pro - vide.
 hea - ven, thy coun - te - nance di - vine.

Words: Latin, 1661; tr. John Athelstan Laurie Riley (1858–1945), alt.

Music: *O Welt, ich muss dich lassen*, present form of melody att. Heinrich Isaac (1450?–1517), alt.; harm. Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)

BENEDICTION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

“All worship begins in awe and ends in affection”

*- Evelyn Underhill
medieval spiritual writer*

Tonight our Evensong continues with a devotion once regularly practiced at St. Paul’s, called Benediction — a blessing.

In this rite, the consecrated bread is placed in a sunburst vessel known as a monstrance (“that which shows”) and brought nearer to the People for a brief time of prayer — often called adoration — and a solemn blessing.

As with every liturgy at St. Paul’s, this moment holds both reverence and tenderness. Whether this practice is familiar or entirely new, allow it simply to unfold. Receive it as an encounter with Christ’s presence — always and everywhere, and especially in this moment.

O SALUTARIS HOSTIA *sung by the Choir*

Josquin des Prez (d. 1521)

The People kneel as able, (or sit) as the sacrament is brought to the Table.

*O salutaris hostia
quae Caeli pandis ostium:
bella premunt hostilia,
da robur, fer auxilium.*

O saving Victim, opening wide
the gate of heaven to us below,
our foes press hard on every side,
thine aid supply, thy strength bestow.

The sacrament is placed in the monstrance and a moment of quiet adoration is observed.

THE DIVINE PRAISES *The People repeat each phrase after the Priest*

Blessed be God

Blessed be God.

etc.

Blessed be Jesus Christ, fully God and truly human.

Blessed be his mercy and his self-giving love.

Blessed be his life poured out for the world.

Blessed be the Holy Spirit, giver of life.

Blessed be the God-bearer Mary, most holy.

Blessed be God in all the saints and in all of creation.

Blessed be God, now and forever.

Together, all say

Amen.

THE BLESSING

The Priest makes a solemn sign of blessing over the People. The monstrance is then carried to the Lady Chapel Altar.

PSALM

sung by the Choir

Psalms 150

O praise God in his holiness:
praise him in the firmament of his power.
Praise him in his noble acts:
praise him according to his excellent greatness.
Praise him in the sound of the trumpet:
praise him upon the lute and harp.
Praise him in the cymbals and dances:
praise him upon the strings and pipe.
Praise him upon the well-tuned cymbals:
praise him upon the loud cymbals.
Let everything that hath breath:
praise the Lord.
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.

Anglican Chant: C.V. Stanford

FINAL COLLECT

standing

O Jesus, we behold you here in bread and wine, the gift of your life poured out for us. Draw us close in your presence, fill our hearts with your love, and let this encounter kindle in us joy, gratitude, and service, that we may go forth bearing your life to the world; who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever.

Amen.

-Collect for Corpus Christi

POSTLUDE

*Finale from Symphony No. 6 Op. 42 - Charles-Marie Widor (1844 – 1937)
Joshua Ehlebracht, Organ*

*Please join the Choir in the undercroft of the church for a reception.
Special thanks to the Choir of Trinity Church on the Green, New Haven.
Thank you for supporting the music ministry at St. Paul's.*

ST PAUL'S ON THE GREEN – 60 EAST AVE., NORWALK, CT 06851

Contact us at: 203-847-2806 info@stpaulsnorwalk.org

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