

CHORAL EVENSONG

Ember Wednesday in the Octave of Whitsun



Sung by Capella Regalis Choirs

Halifax, Nova Scotia



St George's Cathedral, Kingston

27 May 2026

Cover: *Pentecost*, Jean Restout 1692
Versicles & Responses: Bernard Rose 1916-96
Setting: *St Paul's Service*, Herbert Howells 1892-1983

Please stand, as you are able, as the choir and clergy enter the Cathedral

THE INTROIT

Behold, the tabernacle of God is with you, and the Spirit of God dwelleth within you; for the temple of God is holy, which temple you are. For the love of whom you do this day, celebrate the joys of the temple with a season of festivity. Alleluia

William H. Harris 1883-1973

Sarum Antiphon for the Dedication of a Church.

Minister. O LORD, open thou our lips;
People. And our mouth shall show forth thy praise.
Minister. O God, make speed to save us;
People. O Lord, make haste to help us.

Here, all standing as able, the Minister shall say:
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
People. As it was in the beginning, is now, and
ever shall be, world without end. Amen.
Minister. Praise ye the Lord;
People. The Lord's Name be praised.

PSALM 119 *Et veniat super me.*

LET thy loving mercy come also unto me, O LORD, / even thy salvation according unto thy word.
42 So shall I make answer unto my blasphemers; / for my trust is in thy word.
43 O take not the word of truth utterly out of my mouth; / for my hope is in thy judgements.
44 So shall I always keep thy law, / yea, for ever and ever.
45 And I will walk at liberty; / for I seek thy precepts.
46 I will speak of thy testimonies also, even before kings, / and will not be ashamed.
47 And my delight shall be in thy commandments, / which I have loved.
48 My hands also will I lift up unto thy commandments, which I have loved; / and my study shall be in thy statutes.

The First Lesson is written in the Wisdom of Solomon, the 9th chapter, beginning at the first verse.

“O God of my ancestors and Lord of mercy, who have made all things by your word, and by your wisdom have formed humankind to have dominion over the creatures you have made, and rule the world in holiness and righteousness, and pronounce judgment in uprightness of soul, give me the wisdom that sits by your throne, and do not reject me from among your servants. For I am your servant, the son of your serving girl, a man who is weak and short-lived, with little understanding of judgment and laws; for even one who is perfect among human beings will be regarded as nothing without the wisdom that comes from you. You have chosen me to be king of your people and to be judge over your sons and daughters. You have given command to build a temple on your holy mountain, and an altar in the city of your habitation, a copy of the holy tent that you prepared from the beginning. With you is wisdom, she who knows your works and was present when you made the world; she understands what is pleasing in your sight and what is right according

to your commandments. Send her forth from the holy heavens, and from the throne of your glory send her, that she may labour at my side, and that I may learn what is pleasing to you. For she knows and understands all things, and she will guide me wisely in my actions and guard me with her glory.

Then my works will be acceptable, and I shall judge your people justly, and shall be worthy of the throne of my father. For who can learn the counsel of God? Or who can discern what the Lord wills? For the reasoning of mortals is worthless, and our designs are likely to fail; for a perishable body weighs down the soul, and this earthly tent burdens the thoughtful mind. We can hardly guess at what is on earth, and what is at hand we find with labour; but who has traced out what is in the heavens? Who has learned your counsel, unless you have given wisdom and sent your holy spirit from on high? And thus the paths of those on earth were set right, and people were taught what pleases you, and were saved by wisdom.”

Here endeth the First Lesson.

THE OFFICE HYMN

Please stand



A - men.

Rejoice! the year upon its way
Has brought again that blessed day,
When on the chosen of the Lord
The Holy Spirit was outpoured.

2. On each the fire, descending, stood
In quivering tongues' similitude,
Tongues, that their words might ready prove,
And fire, to make them flame with love.

3. To all in every tongue they spoke;
Amazement in the crowd awoke,
Who mocked, as overcome with wine,
Those who were filled with power divine.

4. These things were done in type that day,
When Eastertide had passed away,
The number told which once set free
The captive at the jubilee.

5. And now, O holy God, this day
Regard us as we humbly pray,
And send us, from Thy heav'nly seat,
The blessings of the Paraclete.

6. To God the Father, God, the Son,
And God the Spirit, praise be done;
May Christ the Lord upon us pour
The Spirit's gift forevermore.

Beata nobis gaudia.

Mode i

Hilary of Poitiers, d ca. 367

Tr. R. Ellis Roberts 1879-1953

Please remain standing

Magnificat. St Luke 1. 46.

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.*

Please sit

The Second Lesson is written in the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians, the 3rd chapter, beginning at the first verse.

And so, brothers and sisters, I could not speak to you as spiritual people, but rather as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ. I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for solid food. Even now you are still not ready, for you are still of the flesh. For as long as there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not of the flesh, and behaving according to human inclinations? For when one says, "I belong to Paul," and another, "I belong to Apollos," are you not merely human?

What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you came to believe, as the Lord assigned to each. I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. The one who plants and the one who waters have a common purpose, and each will receive wages according to the labor of each. For we are God's servants, working together; you are God's field, God's building.

According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and someone else is building on it. Each builder must choose with care how to build on it. For no one can lay any foundation other than the one that has been laid; that foundation is Jesus Christ. Now if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw— the work of each builder will become visible, for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each has done. If what has been built on the foundation survives, the builder will receive a reward. If the work is burned up, the builder will suffer loss; the builder will be saved, but only as through fire.

Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you? If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy that person. For God's temple is holy, and you are that temple.

Do not deceive yourselves. If you think that you are wise in this age, you should become fools so that you may become wise. For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written,

"He catches the wise in their craftiness," and again, "The Lord knows the thoughts of the wise, that they are futile."

So let no one boast about human leaders. For all things are yours, whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas or the world or life or death or the present or the future--all belong to you, and you belong to Christ, and Christ belongs to God.

Here endeth the Second Lesson.

Please stand

Nunc Dimittis. St Luke 2.29.

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.

Please remain standing

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.

Minister: The Lord be with you;

People: And with thy spirit.

Minister: Let us pray.

Please sit or kneel

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

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. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, For ever and ever. *Amen.*

O Lord, show thy mercy upon us;

People: And grant us thy salvation.

Minister: O Lord, save the King;

People: And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.

Minister: Endue thy Ministers with righteousness;

People: And make thy chosen people joyful.

Minister: O Lord, save thy people;

People: And bless thine inheritance.

Minister: Give peace in our time, O Lord;

People: Because there is none other that fighteth for us, but only thou, O God.

Minister: O God, make clean our hearts within us;

People: And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.

ALMIGHTY God, the giver of all good gifts, who of thy divine providence hast appointed divers Orders in thy Church: Give thy grace, we humbly beseech thee, to all those who are to be called to any office and administration in the same; and so replenish them with the truth of thy doctrine, and endue them with innocency of life, that they may faithfully serve before thee, to the glory of thy great Name, and to the benefit of thy holy Church; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

O GOD, who makest us glad with the yearly remembrance of the coming of the Holy Spirit upon thy disciples in Jerusalem: Grant that we who celebrate before thee the Feast of Pentecost may continue thine for ever, and daily increase in thy Holy Spirit, until we come to thine eternal kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The Second 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.*

The Third 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.*

Please sit

THE ANTHEM

Jesu, the very thought of thee
With sweetness fills the breast;
But sweeter far thy face to see,
And in thy presence rest.

No voice can sing, no heart can frame,
Nor can the memory find
A sweeter sound than Jesus' name,
The saviour of mankind.

O hope of every contrite heart,
O joy of all the meek,
To those who ask how kind thou art,
How good to those who seek.

But what to those who find? Ah! this
Nor tongue nor pen can show;
The love of Jesus, what it is
None but his loved ones know.

Jesu, our only joy be thou,
As thou our prize wilt be;
In thee be all our glory now,
And through eternity.

Gordon Slater 1896-1979
arr. Paul Halley b. 1952

Latin, 12th Century
tr. Edward Caswell 1814-78

Please sit or kneel

ETERNAL God, who rulest in the kingdoms of earth: Grant, we most humbly beseech thee, honour and safety to our Sovereign Lord, King Charles; peace throughout the Commonwealth of his peoples;

promotion of true religion; encouragement to learning and godly living; a patient service to the concord of the world; and, by all these, glory to thy holy Name; for his sake to whom thou hast given all power in heaven and earth, our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. *Amen*

O GOD the Holy Ghost, Sanctifier of the faithful: Sanctify this parish by thine abiding presence. Bless those who minister in holy things. Enlighten the minds of thy people more and more with the light of the everlasting Gospel. Bring erring souls to the knowledge of God our Saviour; and those who are walking in the way of life, keep stedfast unto the end. Give patience to the sick and afflicted, and renew them in body and soul. Guard from forgetfulness of thee those who are strong and prosperous. Increase in us thy manifold gifts of grace, and make us all to be fruitful in good works; O blessed Spirit, whom with the Father and the Son together we worship and glorify, one God, world without end. *Amen.*

O GOD of all nations, keep Canada, our land, glorious and free. Save thy people from strife, guarding our hearts with fortitude; and guiding our leaders to wisdom; for the sake of thy Kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

O LORD, support us all the day long of this troublous life, until the shadows lengthen and the evening comes, the busy world is hushed, the fever of life is over, and our work is done. Then, Lord, in thy mercy, grant us safe lodging, a holy rest, and peace at the last; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

A Prayer of Saint Chrysostom.

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.*

2 Corinthians 13:14.

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.*

Please stand

The Dismissal

Minister: The Lord be with you.

Choir: And with thy spirit.

Minister: Let us bless the Lord.

Choir: Thanks be to God.

HYMN

Please remain standing



Come down, O Love divine,
Seek thou this soul of mine,
And visit it with thine own ardour glowing;
O Comforter, draw near,
Within my heart appear,
And kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

2 O let it freely burn,
Till earthly passions turn
To dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
And let thy glorious light
Shine ever on my sight,
And clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

Down Ampney
Ralph Vaughan Williams 1872-1958
Descant: Paul Halley b. 1952

3 Let holy charity
Mine outward vesture be,
And lowliness become mine inner clothing;
True lowliness of heart,
Which takes the humbler part,
And o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

4 And so the yearning strong,
With which the soul will long,
Shall far outpass the power of human telling;
For none can guess its grace,
Till it become the place
Wherein the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.

Italian, Bianco da Siena d 1434
tr Richard Frederick Littledale 1833-90

Please remain standing for the recession.

The Very Reverend Douglas Michael, Dean

Capella Regalis Choirs

Nick Halley, Director Paul Halley, Organist

Capella Regalis Choirs presents *Sea Songs & Sacred Anthems* tomorrow at 7pm.
Tickets are available online (www.stgeorgescathedral.ca/music) or at the door (\$25 general).

The Cathedral Church of St George

www.stgeorgescathedral.ca

The Very Reverend Douglas Michael, *Dean & Rector*
Brad Barbeau, *Director of Music*

