



Evensong for January 20, 2021 *Fabian, Bishop & Martyr*

Evensong is a service in the Daily Office of the Church, finding its origins in ancient monastic communities. Evensong is regularly offered at St. Andrew's on Wednesday evenings at 6:00 pm and available electronically on the first and third Wednesday of the month.

This participatory service consists of prayers, hymns, scripture readings and

canticles. At the time of the General Intercession you are invited to add your own personal intercessions. You will find links within the service to musical settings.

We hope that you find this to be a way to remain spiritually connected the St. Andrew's community and the larger Church as we continue to remain physically apart.

-- Fr. Alan



Opening Sentence

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world; whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

Invitatory: *Preces*

William Byrd (c. 1530/40 - 1623)

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

Hear *Preces* as performed by the Choir of King's College, Cambridge:
<https://youtu.be/ZReK1sDOBc4>

[CLICK TO LISTEN](#)

Phos Hilaron: O Radiant Light

Mark D. Templeton (b.1974)

Hear *Phos Hilaron*:
<https://youtu.be/UombztaR55o>

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Psalm 126 *In convertendo*

- 1 When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion, *
then were we like those who dream.
- 2 Then was our mouth filled with laughter, *
and our tongue with shouts of joy.
- 3 Then they said among the nations, *
“The LORD has done great things for them.”
- 4 The LORD has done great things for us, *
and we are glad indeed.

- 5 Restore our fortunes, O LORD, *
like the watercourses of the Negev.
- 6 Those who sowed with tears *
will reap with songs of joy.
- 7 Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed, *
will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.

The Psalm ends with *Gloria Patri*:

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*.

First Lesson: 2 Esdras 2:42-48

I, Ezra, saw on Mount Zion a great multitude that I could not number, and they all were praising the Lord with songs. In their midst was a young man of great stature, taller than any of the others, and on the head of each of them he placed a crown, but he was more exalted than they. And I was held spellbound. Then I asked an angel, ‘Who are these, my lord?’ He answered and said to me, ‘These are they who have put off mortal clothing and have put on the immortal, and have confessed the name of God. Now they are being crowned, and receive palms.’ Then I said to the angel, ‘Who is that young man who is placing crowns on them and putting palms in their hands?’ He answered and said to me, ‘He is the Son of God, whom they confessed in the world.’ So I began to praise those who had stood valiantly for the name of the Lord. Then the angel said to me, ‘Go, tell my people how great and how many are the wonders of the Lord God that you have seen.’

Magnificat in Bb

Charles Villiers Stanford (1852-1924)

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*.

Hear the *Magnificat* as performed by
the Westminster Abbey Choir:
<https://youtu.be/gctZbNeI2eA>

CLICK TO LISTEN

Second Lesson: Luke 21:20-24

'When you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then know that its desolation has come near. Then those in Judea must flee to the mountains, and those inside the city must leave it, and those out in the country must not enter it; for these are days of vengeance, as a fulfilment of all that is written. Woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing infants in those days! For there will be great distress on the earth and wrath against this people; they will fall by the edge of the sword and be taken away as captives among all nations; and Jerusalem will be trampled on by the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.'

Nunc Dimittis in Bb

C. V. Stanford

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.*

Hear the *Nunc Dimittis* as performed by
the Choir of St. John's College, Cambridge:
<https://youtu.be/nZlx2fpHixc>

CLICK TO LISTEN

Apostles' Creed

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 Prayers

Responses

William Byrd

Hear *Responses* as performed by the Choir of
King's College, Cambridge:
<https://youtu.be/X2hH5-zVrPU>

CLICK TO LISTEN

Bidding

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Let us pray:

Lord's Prayer

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 for ever. *Amen.*

Suffrages

That this evening may be holy, good, and peaceful,
We entreat you, O Lord.

That your holy angels may lead us in paths of peace and good will,
We entreat you, O Lord.

That we may be pardoned and forgiven for our sins and offenses,
We entreat you, O Lord.

That there may be peace to your Church and to the whole world,
We entreat you, O Lord.

That we may depart this life in your faith and fear,
and not be condemned before the great judgment seat of Christ,
We entreat you, O Lord.

That we may be bound together by the Holy Spirit in the communion
of all your saints, entrusting one another and all our life to Christ,
We entreat you, O Lord.

The Collects

A Collect for Fabian of Rome

O God, in your providence you singled out the holy martyr Fabian as worthy to be chief pastor of your people, and guided him so to strengthen your Church that it stood fast in the day of persecution: Grant that those whom you call to any ministry in the Church may be obedient to your call in all humility, and be enabled to carry out their tasks with diligence and faithfulness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

A Collect for Protection

O God, the life of all who live, the light of the faithful, the strength of those who labor, and the repose of the dead: We thank you for the blessings of the day that is past, and humbly ask for your protection through the coming night. Bring us in safety to the morning hours; through him who died and rose again for us, your Son our Savior Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

Third Collect for Mission

O God, you manifest in your servants the signs of your presence: Send forth upon us the Spirit of love, that in companionship with one another your abounding grace may increase among us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Concluding Collect

O Lord our God, accept the fervent prayers of your people; in the multitude of your mercies, look with compassion upon us and all who turn to you for help, for you are gracious, O lover of souls, and to you we give glory, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Hymn: Who Are These Like Stars Appearing

Hear the hymn: <https://youtu.be/-AcQTCKU9us>

CLICK TO LISTEN 

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.*

Responsory

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Dismissal

May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing through the power of the Holy Spirit. *Amen.* [Romans 15:13]

Evensong Schedule

**Evensong is available on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month.
The next service of Evensong is scheduled for WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 3.**

FABIAN, BISHOP AND MARTYR OF ROME, 250

In Rome in January 236, there was an assembly to elect a new bishop, or pope. In the crowd was Fabian, a stranger to the city, and a layman. Suddenly a dove alighted on his head, and the crowd took this to be a sign that he was to be the new bishop. “He is worthy! He is worthy!” shouted the crowd. Even though there were several famous priests hoping to be elected, Fabian was consecrated bishop without opposition.

Fabian turned out to be a good pope. He made the work of the church function more effectively. He created parishes in Rome, so people could form communities where they knew each other and where their priests served them consistently. He set up shrines and hired deacons and sub-deacons to write the stories of the early heroes and heroines of the church, so that their deeds would not be forgotten in times ahead.

Fabian defended the faith against ideas that were mistaken and misleading. He also defended the church against powerful people in Rome who were trying to wipe it out. In 239 and 240 the emperor Decius ordered that everyone in the Roman Empire would have to sacrifice to the emperor or be punished; a ticket was given to each person making the sacrifice declaring him or her to be a friend of Rome. Fabian opposed this and encouraged Christians not to make the sacrifice, since their loyalty and worship belonged to God alone. By 250 the penalty for not having the ticket of sacrifice was death; Fabian was one of the first to face death bravely rather than betray the Lord Jesus. He died 20 January 250. His tombstone, a slab which covered his gravesite, still exists. It is in pieces, but you can still read the words “Fabian … bishop … martyr” on the stone 1765 years old.

Cyprian of Carthage wrote that no one could compare with Fabian. “The glory of his death befitting the purity and holiness of his life,” wrote Cyprian. Fabian, the surprising choice shown by the dove, grew in grace to respond to God’s call and to meet the great challenges of being a faithful Christian in Rome long, long ago.

-- *Donna Wessel Walker, adapted from Lesser Feasts and Fasts*