
Choral Evensong and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament

17 June 2017

We conclude the service of Evensong tonight with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. Benediction is a time when we can catch breath and take in the splendour and the glory which is revealed in Christ. It is a further feeding upon, a chewing over, a digesting of that food of eternal life which we receive in Holy Communion. The bread of eternal life is placed in the Monstrance and set forth, to be seen by all present. Our emphasis during Benediction is upon silence and contemplation, of receptivity and openness to the activity of God in ourselves and our lives, in the Church and in the world. As John Macquarrie reminded us “we are men and not angels, we have need of an earthly manifestation of the divine presence; ... God, in his grace and mercy, has promised to grant us his presence in this particular manifestation and in this particular meeting place”.

Introit: Behold, the tabernacle of God – *Harris*

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.

Responses: *Ayleward* (page **18** in the *Shorter Prayer Book*)

OFFICE HYMN: NEW ENGLISH HYMNAL 385

Psalm 39 (page **185** *sit*)

First Lesson: Jeremiah 7:1-7

Magnificat (*stand*): *Ayleward* Short service (page **19**)

Second Lesson (*sit*): Luke 7:36-end

Nunc Dimittis (*stand*): *Ayleward* Short service (page **20**)

The service continues on immediately after the Nunc Dimittis, with the Creed on page **20** and the following responses and prayers. The Collect for the Third Sunday after Trinity can be found on page **73**.

Anthem: (*sit*) O Lorde, the maker of al thing – *Joubert*

O Lord, the maker of all thing,
We pray thee now in this evening
Us to defend through thy mercy
From all deceit of our enemy.

Let neither us deluded be,
Good Lord, with dream or fantasy;
Our hearts waking
in thee thou keep
That we in sin fall not on sleep.

O Father,
through thy blessed Son,
Grant us this our petition,
To whom,
with the Holy Ghost always,
In heaven and earth
be laud and praise.

Notices

HYMN: NEH 294

During the singing of the hymn, the choir moves to their places for benediction. The priest takes the Blessed Sacrament and places It on the altar. You are invited to kneel when the bell is rung.

The choir sings *Handl's* O Salutaris Hostia (see hymn 268 pt2 for the words).

The priest gives some brief intentions for prayer, followed by:

Priest: O sacred heart of Jesus,

All: **have mercy upon us.** (x3)

The choir sings *Bruckner's* Tantum Ergo (see hymn 269 pt2 for the words).

Priest: Thou gavest them bread from heaven;

All: **containing in itself all sweetness**

Let us pray

Lord Jesus Christ, we thank thee that in this wonderful sacrament thou hast given us a memorial of thy passion: grant us so to reverence the sacred mysteries of thy body and blood that we may know within ourselves and show forth in our lives the fruits of thy redemption; who livest and reignest with the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

The priest makes the sign of the cross over the people with the Blessed Sacrament.

Please repeat each of the Divine Praises after the priest:

Blessèd be God.

Blessèd be the holy and undivided Trinity.

Blessèd be God the Father, maker of heaven and earth.

Blessèd be Jesus Christ, truly divine and truly human.

Blessèd be the holy Name of Jesus.

Blessèd be Jesus Christ in his death and resurrection.

Blessèd be Jesus Christ on his throne of glory.

Blessèd be Jesus Christ in the Sacrament of his body and blood.

Blessèd be God the Holy Spirit, the giver and sustainer of life.

Blessèd be God in the Virgin Mary, Mother of our Lord and God.

Blessèd be God in the angels and in the saints.

Blessèd be God.

HYMN: NEH 305

While the hymn is sung, the priest returns the Sacrament to the aumbry.

After the hymn, the organ voluntary begins immediately.

Please stay for refreshments after the service! There is a retiring collection for the work of the church— please put your offering in the plate in the welcome area.