Choral Vespers
Celebration of Candlemas
January 31, 2013
Five-fifteen in the evening

Gathering
Organ Prelude

*The Preces/Invitatory  Thomas Morley (c. 1557-c. 1602)

Cantor: O Lord, open thou our lips
Choir: And our mouth shall show forth thy praise.
Cantor: O God, make speed to save us.
Choir: 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.

*Processional Hymn 223
Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light  ERMUNTRE DICH

*Opening Sentence
Leader: Light and peace in Jesus Christ our Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

*Collect for Light
Almighty God, we give you thanks for surrounding us, as daylight fades, with the brightness of your vesper light; and we implore you of your great mercy, that as you enfold us with the radiance of this light, so you would shine into our hearts the brightness of your Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Old Testament Lesson—Isaiah 51:1-8
(OT pages 640-41 of the pew Bible)
Leader: This is the word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.
Psalm
Praise to the Lord                        Hugo Distler
(1908-1942)

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of Creation!
O my Soul, praise Him, for He is thy Health and Salvation!
Gather ye round, Let us make Music resound!
Praise Him in glad adoration!
Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth.
Shelters thee under His wings, yea, so gently sustaineth.
Hast thou not seen how thy heart's wishes have been
granted in what He ordaineth?

—paraphrased from Psalms 103 and 150

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

Anthem
This Is My Father's World trad. English melody
adapt. Franklin Sheppard, arr. Paul J. Christiansen

This is my Father's world, and to my listening ears
All nature sings, and round me rings the music of the spheres.
This is my Father's world: I rest me in the thought
Of rocks and trees, of skies and seas;
His hand the wonders wrought.
This is my Father's world, the birds their carols raise,
The morning light, the lily white, declare their Maker's praise.
This is my Father's world: He shines in all that's fair;
In rustling grass I hear Him pass;
He speaks to me everywhere.
This is my Father's world. O let me not forget
That though the wrong seems oft' so strong, God is the ruler yet.
This is my Father's world: why should my heart be sad?
The Lord is King, let heaven ring!
God reigns, let earth be glad!

*Gospel Lesson—Mark 6:13-29 (NT page 38, congregation stands)
Leader: This is the word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

*Responses/Suffrages Thomas Morley
(choir alone, congregation seated)
Cantor: The Lord be with you.
Choir: And with thy spirit.
Cantor: Let us pray.

Choir: Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.
Cantor: O Lord, show thy mercy upon us;
Choir: And grant us thy salvation.
Cantor: Keep the nations under thy care;
Choir: And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.
Cantor: Endue thy ministers with righteousness;
Choir: And make thy chosen people joyful.
Cantor: O Lord, save thy people;
Choir: And bless thine inheritance.
Cantor: Give peace in our time, O Lord;
Choir: Because there is none other that fighteth for us,
but only thou, O God.
Cantor: O God, make clean our hearts within us;
Choir: And take not thy Holy Spirit from us. Amen.

Prayers
(The congregation responds to each petition: “Hear our prayer.”)

The Lord's Prayer

SENDING FORTH

*Recessional Hymn 136
The Lord's My Shepherd, I'll Not Want CRIMOND

The congregation follows the choir procession around the sanctuary
to the narthex to gather around the Christ candle. The procession
recalls the presentation of Christ at the temple 40 days after his
birth and the completion of Mary's ritual purification. We too are
a pilgrim people who look to meet God within the walls of this place,
to be purified and bring forth the works of God, and to be sent out
to offer the light of Christ to the world.

*Benediction

*Choral Dismissal Knut Nystedt
(b. 1915)

The Lord bless thee and keep thee,
The Lord make his face shine upon thee
And be gracious unto thee,
The Lord lift up his countenance upon thee
And give thee peace, Amen.

Postlude

*please stand as you are able

You are welcome to stay for the organ postlude.
Should you need to leave, please do so quietly and respectfully.