Choral Vespers

February 5, 2015
Five-fifteen in the evening

The Vespers choir sings the service from the center of the chancel stalls. Please feel free to sit in the chancel on either side of the choir in any of the seats not already marked as reserved.

GATHERING

Organ Prelude

*The Preces/Invitatory

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.

*Processional Hymn 182

Word of God, Come Down on Earth

*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—Malachi 3:1–4 (OT page 838)

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

Senex puerum portabat  
William Byrd  
(c. 1540–1623)

Senex puerum portabat:  
puer autem senem regebat:  
quem virgo peperit,  
et post partum virgo permansit:  
 ipsum quem genuit, adoravit.

The old man carried the child,  
but the child ruled the old man;  
him whom the Virgin brought forth,  
and after childbirth remained a virgin  
him whom she bore, she adored.

New Testament Lesson—Hebrews 2:14–18 (NT page 205)
Leader: This is the word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

Anthem

Nunc Dimittis  
Josquin des Prez  
(c. 1450–1521)

Nunc dimittis servum tuum, Domine, secundum verbum tuum in pace: Quia viderunt oculi mei salutare tuum Quod parasti ante faciem omnium populorum: Lumen ad revelationem gentium, et gloriam plebis tuae Israel.

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.


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

Responses (congregation seated)  
Gabriel Jackson

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 173  
Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies  
RATISBON

*Benediction

*Choral Blessing

When Mary to the Temple Went  
Johannes Eccard  
(1553–1611)

O dear Jesus, grant now that we at all times find all our joy in Thee, just as Simeon did, and that, when the time comes, we pass away gently and thus sing gladly: “Now I go forth with joy, for today I have seen You, Savior—comfort of Israel, light of the World.”

Postlude

*Please stand as you are able.