

CHORAL EVENSONG

Sunday, November 23, 2025

Tomás Luis de Victoria’s *Quam pulchri sunt* continues this semester’s practice of an introit drawn from the Song of Songs. Victoria’s setting offers elegant word-painting that illuminates the text’s vivid imagery. Gabriel Jackson’s *Truro Service* (2001) is an alternatim setting in which verses alternate between chant — in a style suggestive of Eastern cantillation — and polyphony. His *O Salutaris Hostia* begins with more chant-like melodic writing in the upper voices, answered by homophonic writing below. These ideas are extended and developed before the opening material returns, forming a brief, luminous meditation on Aquinas’ words. The Gregorian chant known as *Tonus Peregrinus* (the “wandering tone” attested since the Middle Ages), is unique in its use of two different reciting notes. Long associated with Psalm 114 (the Exodus narrative), it later became linked in the Lutheran tradition with the Magnificat. Bach highlights the tone unmistakably in the closing of his fugue on the Magnificat.

* * *

Organ Voluntary

Andantino

Denis Bédard

Introit

Quam pulchri sunt

Tomás Luis de Victoria (c.1540–1611)

Quam pulchri sunt gressus tui, filia principis! collum tuum sicut turris eburnea, oculi tui divini, et comae capitis tui sicut purpurea regis. Quam pulchra es, et quam decora, carissima! Alleluia.

How beautiful are your footsteps, O prince's daughter! Your neck, like a tower of ivory; Your divine eyes; And the hair of your head, like a king's purple. How beautiful you are, and how gracious, dearest one! Alleluia.

—Song of Songs 7:1,4–6

*Opening Responses

Gabriel Jackson

Psalmody

Psalm 114, Psalm 115

Tonus Peregrinus, G. H. Knight

First Lesson | Jeremiah 23:1–6

*Canticle

Magnificat (Truro Service)

G. Jackson

Second Lesson | Colossians 1:11–20

*Canticle

Nunc dimittis (Truro Service)

G. Jackson

*The Apostles’ Creed

*All rise as able

Responses

G. Jackson

Collect of the Day

Almighty and everlasting God, whose will it is to restore all things in thy well-beloved Son, the King of kings and Lord of lords: Mercifully grant that the peoples of the earth, divided and enslaved by sin, may be freed and brought together under his most gracious rule; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Anthem

O Salutaris Hostia

G. Jackson

O salutaris Hostia, Quae caeli pandis ostium: Bella premunt hostilia, Da robur, fer auxilium. Uni trinoque Domino Sit sempiterna gloria, Qui vitam sine termino Nobis donet in patria. Amen.

O saving Victim, Who expandest the door of heaven, Hostile armies press, Give strength; bear aid. To the One and Triune Lord, May there be everlasting glory; who life without end gives us in the homeland. Amen.

—Saint Thomas Aquinas (c. 1225–1274)

*Hymn | UMH 97

For the Fruits of This Creation

EAST ACKLAM

Organ Voluntary

Fuga Sopra il Magnificat, BWV 733

J. S. Bach (1685–1750)

TODAY IN WORSHIP

Officiant

Meg Greto

.....

Divinity ’26

Lector

Keagan Bouman

.....

Intern for Worship and Student Engagement; Divinity ’26

Musicians

Duke Chapel Evensong Singers

.....

Choir

Philip Cave

.....

Conductor-in-Residence, Duke University Chapel

David Lim

.....

Organ Scholar, Duke University Chapel

The next service of Choral Evensong will be on Sunday, December 14, at 4:00 p.m.

Advent Lessons & Carols | Join us on Thursday, December 11 at 7:00 p.m. for this service of readings, choral anthems, and congregational hymns.