Solemn Evensong (sung Evening Prayer, Rite I beginning on page 61 of The Book of Common Prayer) is one of the jewels of the Anglican tradition. Most of the service is sung, often by the choir alone.

Opening Improvisation

Patrick A. Scott

The Opening Sentences

The Invitatory and Psalter

music: The Hymnal 1982, S-1 & S-26

The Preces and Responses

V. O Lord, open thou our lips:
R. And our mouth shall show forth thy praise
V. O God, make speed to save us:
R. O Lord, make hast to help us.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Alleluia.

Office Hymn 232, “By all your saints still striving”

music: Nyland, Finnish folk melody; adapt. David Evans (1874-1948)
text: Horatio Bolton Nelson (1823-1913); ver. Hymnal 1982

1. By all your saints still striv-ing, for all your saints at rest,
your ho-ly Name, O Jesus for ev-er more be blessed.
You rose, our King vic-to-rious, that they might wear the crown
and ev-er shine in splen-dor re-flect-ed from your throne.

2. For Luke, be-loved phy-si-cian, all praise, whose Gos-pel shows
and sing to God the Spi-rit, et-ter-nal Three in One,
Your wine and oil, O Sav-iour, up-on our spi-rits pour,
and with true balm of Gil-ead a-point us ev-er more.

3. Then let us praise the Fa-ther and wor-ship God the Son
the hea-ler of the na-tions, the one who shares our woes.
Till all the ransomed num-ber who stand be-fore the throne
and a-scribe all power and glo-ry and praise to God a-lone.

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Till all the ransomed num-ber who stand be-fore the throne
and a-scribe all power and glo-ry and praise to God a-lone.
Psalm 147:1-7
Anglican chant: Frederick A. Gore Ouseley
BCP p. 804

1 Hallelujah! How good it is to sing praises to our God! *
   how pleasant it is to honor him with praise!
2 The Lord rebuilds Jerusalem; *
   he gathers the exiles of Israel.
3 He heals the brokenhearted * 
   and binds up their wounds.
4 He counts the number of the stars * 
   and calls them all by their names.
5 Great is our Lord and mighty in power; *
   there is no limit to his wisdom.
6 The Lord lifts up the lowly, * 
   but casts the wicked to the ground.
7 Sing to the Lord with thanksgiving; * 
   make music to our God upon the harp.
   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.

THE LESSONS

The First Lesson

Lector A Lesson from the Second Letter of Paul to the Timothy 4:5-13

As for you, always be sober, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, carry out your ministry fully. As for me, I am already being poured out as a libation, and the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. From now on there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have longed for his appearing. Do your best to come to me soon, for Demas, in love with this present world, has deserted me and gone to Thessalonica; Crescens has gone to Galatia, Titus to Dalmatia. Only Luke is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, for he is useful in my ministry. I have sent Tychicus to Ephesus. When you come, bring the cloak that I left with Carpus at Troas, also the books, and above all the parchments.

Lector Here endeth the lesson.

The Magnificat

music: Charles Villiers Stanford in C (1852-1924)
text: Song of Mary, Luke 1:46-55

My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior. 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 shewed 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, forever. 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.
Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone. When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written: “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.” And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to say to them, “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”

Here endeth the lesson.

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.

I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth; And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father almighty. From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

The Preces and Responses

V. The Lord be with you.
R. And with thy spirit.
V. Let us pray.
R. Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.

music: The Hymnal 1982, S-28

music: S-91, from Missa de Sancta Maria Magdalena, Healey Willan (1880-1968)
Our Father, who art in heaven,
    hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come,
    thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
    as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
    but deliver us from evil. Amen.
V. O Lord, show thy mercy upon us:
R. And grant us thy salvation.
V. Endue thy ministers with righteousness:
R. And make thy chosen people joyful.
V. Give peace O Lord in all the world
R. For only in thee can we live in safety.
V. Lord, keep this nation under thy care.
R. And guide us in the way of justice and truth.
V. Let thy way be known upon earth.
R. Thy saving health among all nations.
V. Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten.
R. Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.
V. Create in us clean hearts, O God.
R. And sustain us with thy Holy Spirit.

The Collects

The Collect of the Day
Almighty God, who inspired your servant Luke the physician to set forth in the Gospel the love and healing power of your Son: Graciously continue in your Church this love and power to heal, to the praise and glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

A Collect for Aid against Perils
Lighten our darkness, we beseech thee, O Lord; and by thy great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night; for the love of thy only Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

A Collect for Peace
O God, from whom all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works do proceed: Give unto thy servants that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey thy commandments, and also that by thee, we being defended from the fear of all enemies, may pass our time in rest and quietness; through the merits of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Anthem at the Offertory, “There is a Balm in Gilead”

There is a Balm in Gilead, to make the wounded whole,
There is a Balm in Gilead, to heal the sin-sick soul.

Sometimes I feel discouraged, And think my work’s in vain,
But then the Holy Spirit revives my soul again.

If you cannot sing like angels, if you cannot preach like Paul,
You can tell the love of Jesus, And say, “He died for all.”
The General Thanksgiving
Officiant and People say

Almighty God, Father of all mercies, we thine unworthy servants do give thee most humble and hearty thanks for all thy goodness and loving-kindness to us and to all men. We bless thee for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all for thine inestimable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ; for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory. And, we beseech thee, give us that due sense of all thy mercies, that our hearts may be unfeignedly thankful; and that we show forth thy praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives, by giving up our selves to thy service, and by walking before thee in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.

A Prayer of St. Chrysostom
Almighty God, who hast given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication unto thee; and hast promised through thy well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name thou wilt be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, the desires and petitions of thy servants as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of thy truth, and in the world to come life everlasting. Amen.

The Grace
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Ghost, be with us all evermore. Amen.

The Closing Hymn 285, “What thanks and praise to thee we owe”

music: Deus tuorum militum, from Antiphoner, 1753; adapt. The English Hymnal, 1906, alt

text: William Dalrymple Maclagan (1826-1910)

Closing Improvisation

Patrick A. Scott

The Rev. Ollie V. Rencher, Officiant
Dr. Patrick A. Scott, Director of Music & Organist
Debbie Smith, Assistant Organist-Choirmaster
Elizabeth Hornor, Shelby Seese, Isabel Wittman,
Andrew Carroll, Daniel Massey, Charles McGowan, & André Moore, Choir