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

All stand for

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.

The congregation is invited to sit and meditate on the text of the opening hymn while the cantors and organist sing. Those worshiping from home are invited to join in singing. See page 6 regarding in-person congregational singing.

Office Hymn 143, “The Glory of These Forty Days”

music: Erhalt uns, Herr, melody from Geistliche Lieder, 1543
text: Latin, 6th cent.; tr. Maurice F. Bell (1862-1947)

1 The glory of these forty days we celebrate with songs of praise; for Christ, through whom all things were made, himself has fasted and has prayed.
2 Loving God who gave the law; and to Elijah, fast ing came the steeds and chariots of flame.
3 Livered from the lions’ might; and John, the herald of Mes si ah’s name.
4 Often in fast and prayer with thee; our spirits strengthened.
5 Name adored, from age to age, the only Lord.
All sit while the Choir sings

Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22

Plainsong Tone II.1

1 Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, *
   and his mercy endures for ever.
2 Let all those whom the Lord has redeemed proclaim *
   that he redeemed them from the hand of the foe.
3 He gathered them out of the lands; *
   from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.
17 Some were fools and took to rebellious ways; *
   they were afflicted because of their sins.
18 They abhorred all manner of food *
   and drew near to death’s door.
19 Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble, *
   and he delivered them from their distress.
20 He sent forth his word and healed them *
   and saved them from the grave.
21 Let them give thanks to the Lord for his mercy *
   and the wonders he does for his children.
22 Let them offer a sacrifice of thanksgiving *
   and tell of his acts with shouts of joy.

Glory 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.

The Lessons

All sit for

The First Lesson

Lector A Lesson from the Letter of Paul to the Ephesians 2:1-10

You were dead through the trespasses and sins in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God—-not the result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

Lector Here endeth the lesson.

All stand for

The Magnificat

music: Dorian Evening Service, Thomas Tallis (1505-1585)  
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 said, “Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. “Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.”

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. I believe in the Holy Ghost, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

The Prayers

The Lord be with you.
And with thy spirit.
Let us pray.
Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.
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
Gracious Father, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ came down from heaven to be the true bread which gives life to the world: Evermore give us this bread, that he may live in us, and we in him; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. 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.

A Prayer for Mission
O God, you manifest in your servants the signs of your presence: Send forth upon us the Spirit of love, that in companionship with one another your abounding grace may increase among us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

All sit for
The Anthem, “God so loved the world”

God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten son,  
that whoso believeth in him should not perish,  
but have everlasting life.

All stand or kneel for
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 congregation is invited to sit and meditate on the text of the opening hymn while the cantors and organist sing. Those worshiping from home are invited to join in singing. See page 6 regarding in-person congregational singing.

The Closing Hymn 623, “O what their joy and their glory must be”
music: O quanta qualia, melody from Antiphoner, 1681; harm. John Bacchus Dykes (1823-1876)
words: Peter Abelard (1079-1142); tr. John Mason Neale (1818-1866), alt.

Closing Improvisation

Exiting The Pews. Please remain seated throughout the closing improvisation. After the voluntary is finished, ushers will be available in the aisles to direct all exiting in a distanced manner via the narthex only (south entrance behind you) using the east doors only (left as you approach). The Clergy and Welcome Hosts will be stationed in the narthex and outside to exchange greetings.
A note regarding congregational singing: Current research is comparing singing to that of sneezing or coughing—claiming that the aerosols that are produced while coughing/sneezing/singing may go further than 6 feet (think of a can of aerosol hairspray); even if wearing a mask, some of the aerosol particles may still be released into the air. The Episcopal Church and the Diocese of West Tennessee are recommending that congregations refrain from singing until it is safe to do so. Our diocese has approved parishes to have 4 singers in the Chancel area that are placed 17 feet apart from each other and from congregation members.

A Message from the Rector

Steadfast Love: Deep and Wide. Father Henri Nouwen reflects for the Wednesday in the Third Week in Lent: “Jesus: Your heart is broken, the heart that did not know hatred, revenge, resentment, jealousy or envy but only love, so deep and so wide. My inability to comprehend, to understand, to grasp the meaning of things goes deeper when it comes to the love of God that surpasses any and all of my knowledge. God loves me up, down, sideways, inside and out.” – The Rev. Ollie V. Rencher, Rector (Read the full text: gracestlukes.org/news/steadfast-love-deep-and-wide)

Take Note

What Happens When Pledging Is Down. Follow this link (gracestlukes.org/news/a-message-from-the-sr-warden-february-2021) for the recent message from Senior Warden Charlie Pazar on behalf of the Vestry about the importance of 100% participation in financial giving to support GSL.

Service of Choral Evensong, in person and online, today, 5:30 p.m. Please join a quartet of the GSL staff singers, Dr. Patrick A. Scott, and the Rev. Ollie V. Rencher for a service of Choral Evensong on Sunday, March 14, at 5:30 p.m. Music to include: the Dorian Evening Service by Thomas Tallis and Bob Chilcott’s setting of God so loved the world. This service will be offered via livestream (gracestlukes.org/live), but also offered in person for the first time in a year. Follow this link (tinyurl.com/GSLEvensong31421) for required in-person sign-up by 3:30 p.m. today.

Easter Flowers. If you would like to make a donation in honor of or in memory of a loved one for Easter flowers, you may send a check to the church office (ATTN: LUCY) listing the names of those you would like remembered. These names will be listed in the Easter leaflets if received before March 25. For your convenience, you may also pay online at gracestlukes.org/onlinegiving. Select the “Make a donation for altar flowers” link under “Memorials and Honoraria.”

Explore Lent, Holy Week, Easter at GSL. Explore gracestlukes.org/news/lent-holy-week-and-easter for details about Sunday and Wednesday events, the Holy Week and Easter schedule, and a variety of resources to support individual and household journeys. Spread the news far and wide!

Worship and Music

SUNDAY

10:30 a.m. The Holy Eucharist with Music, in person and virtual. Follow this link (tinyurl.com/GSLWorshipSignup) to sign up for in-person worship by 8 a.m. Sunday; seating is limited to a maximum of 36 households. Access livestream services via GSL website (gracestlukes.org/live) and Facebook Live (facebook.com/gracestlukes/live).

5:30 p.m. Service of Choral Evensong, in person and online. Details under Take Note.

WEEKDAYS

Tuesdays and Thursdays, Compline (Night Prayers), 8 until 8:15 p.m. via Facebook Live (facebook.com/gracestlukes/live).

GSL Lenten Theme: Light In Deepest Night. Based on the title of a work of choral music and spoken meditations by Aaron David Miller drawing from the writings of Julian of Norwich, “Light in Deepest Night” is the theme for Lent 2021 at GSL. Our Sunday 10:30 a.m. series continues today with a sermon offered by the Rev. Anne S. Carriere following the Rev. Ollie V. Rencher, Rev. Dr. Stuart Hoke, and the Rev. Laura F. Gettys. For more information and to explore the text that preachers are incorporating into sermons, visit tinyurl.com/lightindeepestnight.

Christian Formation

Life at GSL Sunday and Weekday Offerings. Explore and share with others the Life at GSL Winter-Spring 2021 Guide (gracestlukes.org/discover/life-at-gsl-guide) for Sunday guest speakers, Wednesday events, and more including plans for Lent, Holy Week, and Easter.

Adults. (gracestlukes.org/adult-formation)

Lenten Book Study. *The Art of Forgiveness, Lovingkindness, and Peace* continues Wednesday, March 17. All are welcome to attend. Visit gracestlukes.org/gslreadingtogether for more information, including sign-up link.

Lenten Bible Study March 24 & 31: Spiritual Encouragement through Philippians. Join Dr. Dan Pigg on Zoom for a bible study on the book of Philippians. For more information and the sign-up link, visit gracestlukes.org/midweek-formation.

Youth. (gracetlukes.org/youth-formation)

**Sunday, March 14:** EYC in person returns! We are so happy to finally be back to having EYC outside and masked, but together! Join us this Sunday for our new spring hours! 6th-8th grades, 4-5 p.m.; 7th-9th grades, 5-6 p.m.

For more information and to be added to the Youth Formation email list, please contact Director of Youth Formation Amzie Williams (awilliams@gracetlukes.org).

Children. (gracetlukes.org/childrens-formation)

**The Children’s Activity Bag** for Holy Week & Easter will be delivered on Palm Sunday (March 28). Sign up here (tinyurl.com/ChildrensActivityBags2) before Sunday, March 21, to reserve your child’s bag!

**The Children’s Lenten Video** photo and video submissions are requested by Monday, March 22. All families are invited to help recreate the story of The Easter Cave by Carol Wedeven. You can find project details and instructions here (tinyurl.com/LentenVideoProject) and a read-aloud of the book can be found on the GSL Children’s Formation Facebook page (facebook.com/GSLChildrensFormation).

At this Sunday’s 20-minute Virtual Prayer Table, we’ll celebrate Saint Patrick, whose feast day is March 17. Children can wear green and bring a shamrock or any other item from home they associate with Saint Patrick, and join Ms. Sharon at 11:30 on Zoom.

For more information and to be added to the Children’s Formation email list, please contact Director of Children’s Formation Sharon Campbell (scampbell@gracetlukes.org).

**Recreation and Wellness**

**Let’s Play Ball!** It’s that time again. March is the month for 2021 GSL Church Baseball, Softball & T-Ball Online Registration. Teams are available for JK–4th grades and registration is March 1–14. Registration is on a first-come, first-served basis and does fill up quickly. Please register at gracestlukes.org/playball. If you are interested in coaching, please email Christi Auathement (cauthement@gracetlukes.org) or fill out the coaching box on the online registration form.

**What To Expect For the 2021 Spring Soccer Season.** Follow this link for Spring Soccer details: gracestlukes.org/spring-soccer

Yoga with Shantih, Tuesdays at 5:30 p.m. Follow this link (gracetlukes.org/events/yoga-with-shantih) for signup details and Zoom info.

**Community Life**

**Fire Pit Soirees Reboot.** Let’s gather this spring in March and April! Join us around the fire pits of fellow GSL members from 6-7 p.m. on three evenings in March & April. Bring your own beverage, chair, blanket, and mask, and visit for an hour with new and old friends. We will randomly assign you to three soirees on your chosen weekday evening so it’s an opportunity to meet different Episcopalians at each soiree. Follow this link (gracetlukes.org/news/2021-firepit-soirees) for details concerning dates, locations, volunteering your fire pit, and signup.

**The Messenger Magazine.** The February-March issue is available for download by following this link (gracetlukes.org/the-messenger). Included in this issue is a copy of Life at GSL—Winter-Spring 2021 Guide, a comprehensive publication of Christian formation offerings for all ages through May, articles on the 100th Anniversary of GSL Scout Troop 34, Social Justice, Outreach, and much more.

**Social Justice**

**MICAH Core Group Meeting, Wednesday, March 17, 6-7 p.m.** Join the GSL MICAH (Memphis Interfaith Coalition for Action and Hope) Core Group for its monthly meeting on Wednesday, March 17, 6-7 p.m. By signing up (tinyurl.com/GSLMicahMeeting), you will receive all the necessary meeting information including the Zoom link. If you have any questions, you can contact Jim Drummond, Paula Barnes, Becky Mercer, or the Rev. Laura F. Gettys via Realm Connect (gracetlukes.org/realm).

**Outreach**

**Dinner with Dorothy.** You pick the venue and how many people to feed (safely). Lucy J’s provides a lasagna (with non-meat options) supper. Dorothy Day House invites you to “Dinner with Dorothy” (tinyurl.com/DinnerWithDorothy) on Saturday March 20, with entertainment and speakers, and the opportunity to participate in an online auction. Follow this link for details: dorothydaymemphis.org/dinnerwithdorothy.

**St. Columba is Reopening.** With new lodges as a highlight and safety in focus, St. Columba is reopening for retreats and small family gatherings. They have also announced registration for Camp Able (which we hope to support with volunteers) and Mud Camp. You can keep track of all of St. Columba’s events by signing up for their newsletter. The link is at the top of their home page: saintcolumbamemphis.org.
Quick Links
Follow these links to frequently visited pages on our website and Facebook.

- Information about Worship: gracestlukes.org/worship
- Information about Music: gracestlukes.org/music
- Information about Outreach: gracestlukes.org/outreach
- Information about Social Justice: gracestlukes.org/social-justice
- Facebook Live: facebook.com/gracetlukes/live
- YouTube Live: youtube.com/gracetlukes
- Wednesday eNews: gracestlukes.org/weekly-news
- LIVE Virtual Worship, Music, Formation Offerings: gracestlukes.org/live
- Birth, Baptism, Confirmation, Marriage, Burial: gracestlukes.org/life-events
- Hope and Good News: gracestlukes.org/discover/spiritual-guidance
- Pastoral Care, Prayer List, and Prayer Requests: gracestlukes.org/prayerrequest
- Subscribe to GSL, Diocesan & The Episcopal Church eNews: gracestlukes.org/enews
- Information about Fraudulent Emails & Text: gracestlukes.org/news/phishing
- The Messenger, Bi-monthly Magazine: gracestlukes.org/the-messenger
- Realm Connect: GSL Directory & More: gracestlukes.org/realm

The Prayer List

Our prayers are asked for Brad Larson, Patty McManus, Kaye, John, Caroline Clay, Betsy Tate, Nancy Wilkerson, Kristin King, Charles Chandler, Michael Wills, Jake Seymour, Alymarie “Dooney” Twele, Annelise Ware Simmons, Felix Dae Sanders, Deborah Lowe, Amanda Adams, Bill Russell, Tom Wyatt, Susan Williamson, Peggy Mulherin Williamson, Madeline Mathis, Kathleen, and Jason.

Our prayers are asked for those who have died, especially the Rev. Jerry Crook, husband of Sandy Crook, Kathie Blankenstein, cousin of Anne Ayres, Beauregard “Beau” Jackson Branyan, and those who have died from coronavirus.

We give thanks for those celebrating birthdays, especially Michael Alberson, Lynda Baddour, Caroline Clay, Leila Dodge, Campbell Fields, Ellery Gratz, Mary Harpole, Henry Jennings, Carol Ann Mallory, Brenda Medling, Matthew Mellone, Henry Morehead, Arthur Nave, Kurt Patton, the Rev. Ollie V. Rencher, Brian Schaffler, Matthew Tate, Shepherd Tate, Molly Taylor, and Lillian Trotter, and for those celebrating wedding anniversaries, especially Keith & Rinnie Wood, Bill & Brenda Maguire, and Preston & Betsy Wilson.

Prayer List and Prayer Requests. To submit a prayer request for the Prayer List, you may contact Parish House Receptionist & Ministry Associate Abby Huber (ahuber@gracetlukes.org, 901-252-6336) or complete the online Prayer Request Form (gracetlukes.org/prayerrequest). Names of persons, who have given consent for names to be printed, will be listed for one month, unless a longer period is requested. While certain concerns may be confidential between the clergy and the individual, others may not be. If you are wondering about an individual, please contact the individual directly or a member of the clergy. Intercessions are offered daily by the clergy and lay pastoral care ministers and reflected in the worship service leaflet.

Clergy and Staff. The Rev. Ollie V. Rencher, Rector; The Rev. Laura F. Gettys, Associate Rector; The Rev. Anne S. Carrière, Priest Associate; Christi Athis, Recreation & Wellness Director; Sharon Campbell, Director of Children’s Formation; Abby Huber, Receptionist, Ministry Associate, & Assistant to the Rector; Ashley Kendrick, Facilities Assistant; Chapman Morrow, Stewardship Associate; Lucy Owens, Communications Administrator; Dr. Patrick A. Scott, Director of Music & Organist; Mike Davis (Outreach); Sandra Ireland (Adult Formation), Jonathan Large (Outreach), Anna Robbins (Junior Warden); 2023: George Johnson (Stewardship), Andy Nix (Stewardship), Johnny Norris (Social Justice), Paula Sappington (Clerk, Congregational Development), Taylor Taylor (Congregational Development); Treasurer: Phil Ashford; Parish Chancellor: Steven King

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