S. THOMAS' COLLEGE, MOUNT LAVINIA

175

Since 1851

FOR ALL WE HAVE AND ARE

The Chapel *of*
The Transfiguration

Sung Eucharist

St. Michael and All Angels

Tuesday 29th September 2026
7.45 am

Nathanael's tiny glimpse of Jesus' power, wisdom and authority is enough to make him leave everything and follow him. And Jesus promises much greater signs of how close heaven really is: just as Jacob dreamed, so Jesus will reveal a profound vision of the glory of heaven, showing how heaven continually pours, through Jesus himself, into earth. Angels are God's messengers, and the promise of this angelic revelation is that heaven is near, and God has much to tell us.

Music before the service

Cornet Voluntary — John Travers (1703–58)

Order of Service

The congregation is asked to join in all text printed in **bold**.

If you are unable to stand at any point during the service, please feel free to remain seated.

The service is sung by the Chapel Choir
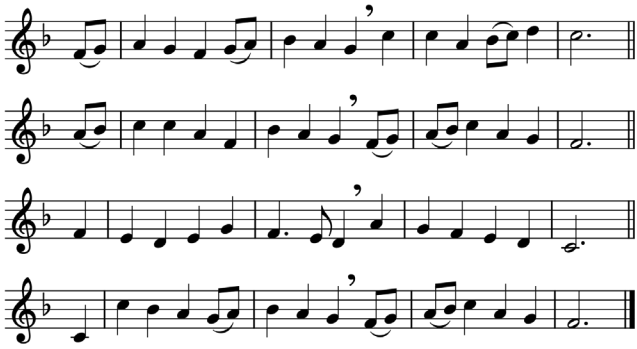
Please remain silent before the service

The Gathering

Please remain seated as the choir enters and takes their place
Please stand as the servers and clergy enter

Processional Hymn

during which the altar is censed



It came upon the midnight clear,
That glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth
To touch their harps of gold:
'Peace on the earth, good-will to men,
From heaven's all-gracious King!'
The world in solemn stillness lay
To hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come,
With peaceful wings unfurled;
And still their heav'nly music floats
O'er all the weary world;
Above its sad and lowly plains
They bend on hovering wing;
And ever o'er it Babel sounds
The blessèd angels sing.

Yet with the woes of sin and strife
The world has suffered long;
Beneath the angel-strain have rolled
Two thousand years of wrong;
And man, at war with man, hears not
The love-song which they bring:
O hush the noise, ye men of strife,
And hear the angels sing!

For, lo! the days are hastening on,
By prophet bards foretold,
When, with the ever-circling years,
Comes round the age of gold;
When peace shall over all the earth
Its ancient splendours fling,
And the whole world give back the song
Which now the angels sing.

Words: Edmund Sears (1810–76)

Tune: Noel
Arthur Sullivan (1842–90)
Descant: John Scott (1956–2015)

Please remain standing. The celebrant continues

The Greeting

In the name of the Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

"Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise him in the heights.
Praise him, all you his angels; praise him all his host."

Psalm 148.1,2

Blessed be God
Blessed be God's reign for ever. Amen.

All kneel and the celebrant continues

Prayer of Preparation

Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known, and from whom no secrets
are hidden: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy name;
through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

The celebrant invites all to confess their sins

Prayers of Penitence

We have come to Mount Zion, the city of the living God,
the heavenly Jerusalem, to myriads of angels, to God, the judge
of all, and to Jesus the mediator of a new covenant.
Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith.

Silence is kept

Generous and merciful God,
we confess to you and to our sisters and brothers,
that we have sinned against you, against one another
and against your creation in thought,
word and deed, through our ignorance,
our weakness, and our deliberate disobedience.
We are truly sorry. Forgive us all that is past
and grant us the gift of new life in Christ Jesus
our Saviour.
Amen.

The celebrant gives the Absolution

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent,
have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins,
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,
and keep you in life eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

All stand to sing

Gloria

Glory be to God on high,
and in earth peace, good will towards men,
We praise thee, we bless thee,
we worship thee, we glorify thee.
We give thanks to thee for thy great
glory, O Lord God, heavenly King,
God the Father Almighty.

O Lord, the only begotten Son,
Jesu Christ; O Lord God, Lamb
of God, Son of the Father, that
takest away the sin of the world,
have mercy upon us. Thou that
takest away the sin of the world,
have mercy upon us. Thou that
takest away the sin of the world,
receive our prayer. Thou that
sittest at the right hand of God the
Father, have mercy upon us.

For thou only art holy, thou only
art the Lord: thou only, O Christ,
with the Holy Spirit, art most high
in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.

Silence is kept

The celebrant continues

The Collect for the Day

The Lord be with you
and also with you

Let us pray

Everlasting God,
you have ordained and constituted the ministries of
angels and mortals in a wonderful order:
grant that as your holy angels always serve you in heaven,
so, at your command, they may help and
defend us on earth; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God,
now and for ever.
Amen.

All sit

The Liturgy of the Word

New Testament Reading

A reading from the Letter to the Hebrews Chapter 1.5–14

To which of the angels did God ever say,
'You are my Son;
today I have begotten you'?
Or again,
'I will be his Father,
and he will be my Son'?
And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says,
'Let all God's angels worship him.'
Of the angels he says,
'He makes his angels winds,
and his servants flames of fire.'
But of the Son he says,
'Your throne, O God, is for ever and ever,
and the righteous sceptre is the sceptre of your kingdom.
You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness;
therefore God, your God, has anointed you
with the oil of gladness beyond your companions.'
And,
'In the beginning, Lord, you founded the earth,
and the heavens are the work of your hands;
they will perish, but you remain;
they will all wear out like clothing;
like a cloak you will roll them up,
and like clothing they will be changed.
But you are the same,
and your years will never end.'
But to which of the angels has he ever said,
'Sit at my right hand
until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet'?
Are not all angels spirits in the divine service, sent to serve for the sake of those who are to inherit salvation?

This is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

All stand

The Gospel Reading

The Lord be with you
And also with you

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. John, 1st Chapter, beginning at the 47th verse
Glory to Christ our Saviour

When Jesus saw Nathanael coming towards him, he said of him, 'Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!' Nathanael asked him, 'Where did you come to know me?' Jesus answered, 'I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you.' Nathanael

replied, 'Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!' Jesus answered, 'Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these.' And he said to him, 'Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man.'

John 1.47–51

At the end,
This is the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
Praise to Christ our Lord.

Remain standing until invited to be seated

Sermon

given by
Ven. Samuel Ponniah | *Chaplain*

All kneel or sit

Prayers of Intercession

during which the following response is used
Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

The Liturgy of the Sacrament
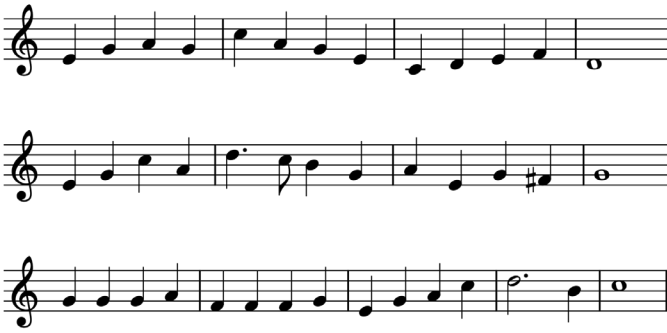
All stand. The celebrant says

Greeting of Peace

Hear again the song of the angels:
'Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace.'
The peace of the Lord be always with you
And also with you.

Preparation of the Table
Offertory Hymn

during which the bread, wine and water are placed on the altar, and a collection is taken for the work of the chapel



Angel-voices ever singing
round thy throne of light,
angel-harps for ever ringing,
rest not day nor night;
thousands only live to bless thee
and confess thee
Lord of might.

Thou who art beyond the farthest
mortal eye can scan,
can it be that thou regardest
songs of sinful man?
Can we know that thou art near us,
and wilt hear us?
Yea, we can.

Yea, we know that thou rejoicest
o'er each work of thine;
thou didst ears and hands and voices
for thy praise design;
craftsman's art and music's measure
for thy pleasure
all combine.

In thy house, great God, we offer
of thine own to thee;
and for thine acceptance proffer
all unworthily
hearts and minds and hands and voices
in our choicest
psalmody.

Honour, glory, might, and merit
thine shall ever be,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
blessèd Trinity.
Of the best that thou hast given
earth and heaven
render thee.

Words: Francis Pott (1832–1909)

Tune: Angel Voices
Edwin George Monk (1819–1900)

Remain standing. The celebrant invites all to say,

With this bread that we bring
We shall remember Jesus

With this wine that we bring
We shall remember Jesus

Bread for his body,
Wine for his blood,
Gifts from God to his table we bring
We shall remember Jesus.

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you
And also with you

Lift up your hearts
We lift them to the Lord

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God
It is right to give him thanks and praise

Almighty God, good parent to us all,
whose Spirit comes unseen as the wind,
your hands have made the earth, sea and sky.
Your face is turned towards the world.
In love you gave us Jesus your Son to rescue us from sin and death. Your arms reach out to call us home,
to the city where angels sing your praise.
We join with them in heaven's song.

The choir sings

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of hosts,
heaven and earth are full of thy glory.
Glory be to thee,
O Lord most high.

Father of all, we give you thanks for every gift that comes from heaven. To the darkness Jesus came as your light. With signs of faith and words of hope he touched untouchables with love and washed the guilty clean.
This is his story
This is our song. Hosanna in the highest.

Crowds came out to see your Christ, yet at the end they turned on him. The night in which he was betrayed he came to the table with his friends to celebrate the freedom of your people.
This is his story
This is our song. Hosanna in the highest.

Jesus blessed you, Father, for the food; took bread, broke it, gave it and said: This is my body, given for you. Jesus then blessed you for the wine, took the cup, gave it and said:
This is my blood, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this in remembrance of me.
This is our story
This is our song. Hosanna in the highest.

Father, we celebrate the cross on which he died to set us free. Defying death he rose again and is alive with you to plead for us.
This is our story
This is our song. Hosanna in the highest.

Send your Spirit on us now that by these gifts we may feed on Christ: Through blessed and broken bread may we know his presence here with opened eyes and hearts on fire.
May we and all who share this food find welcome at your feast in heaven where all creation worships you, and we shall sing for ever to Father, Son and Holy Spirit:
This is our story
This is our song. Hosanna in the highest.

Breaking of the Bread

The bread which we break
is it not a sharing in the body of Christ?
We being many are one bread,
one body for we all partake of the one bread.

The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour Christ has taught us, we now pray
All sing
Our Father,
which art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy name;
Thy kingdom come;
Thy will be done, in earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
As we forgive them that trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
But deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.

The celebrant continues

The peace of the Lord be always with you
and also with you.

The gifts of God for the people of God

The choir sings

Benedictus

Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

Deep Silence

The choir sings

Agnus Dei

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world
Have mercy upon us.
O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world
Have mercy upon us.
O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world
Grant us thy peace.

Giving of Communion
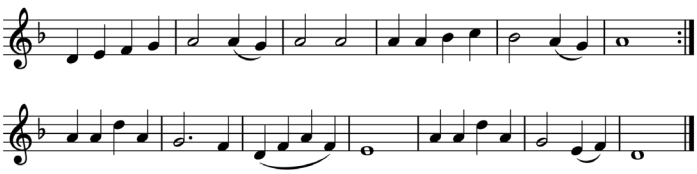
The celebrant invites the people to receive the Holy Communion, saying

Draw near with faith and take this Holy Sacrament
to your comfort.
Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,
but only say the word and I shall be healed.

Please sit. If you receive communion in your own church, you are welcome to do so here.

Remain seated to sing

Communion Hymn



Let all mortal flesh keep silence
and with fear and trembling stand;
ponder nothing earthly-minded,
for with blessing in his hand
Christ our God to earth descendeth,
our full homage to demand.

King of kings, yet born of Mary,
as of old on earth he stood,
Lord of lords, in human vesture —
in the body and the blood —
he will give to all the faithful
his own self for heavenly food.

Rank on rank the host of heaven
spreads its vanguard on the way,
as the Light of light descendeth
from the realms of endless day,
that the powers of hell may vanish
as the darkness clears away.

At his feet the six-winged seraph;
cherubim with sleepless eye
veil their faces to the Presence,
as with ceaseless voice they cry,
Alleluia, alleluia,
alleluia, Lord most high.

Words: Gerard Moultrie (1829–85)
Liturgy of St. James

Tune: Picardy
French carol, 17th cent.

After communion, please remain kneeling or seated as the celebrant says

Prayers after Communion

Give thanks to the Lord for God is gracious.
God's mercy endures forever.

"Mortals ate the bread of angels;
the Lord sent them food in plenty."

Psalm 78.25

Almighty God,
we thank you for feeding us
with the Body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.
Through Christ we offer you ourselves
to be a living sacrifice.
Send us out in the power of your Spirit to live
and work to your praise and glory.
Amen.

The Dismissal

Blessing
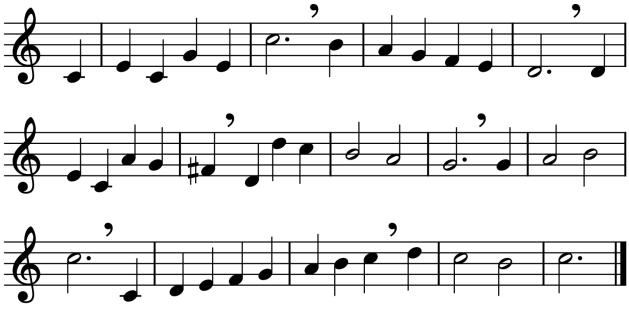
God keep you in the fellowship of his saints;
Christ protect you by the ministry of the angels;
the Spirit make you holy in God's service;
and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son,
and the Holy Spirit, be among you
and remain with you always.
Amen.

All stand
Go in peace to love and serve the Lord
In the name of Christ. Amen.

All stand to sing

Recessional Hymn

during which the servers and clergy depart



Ye holy angels bright,
who wait at God's right hand,
or through the realms of light
fly at your Lord's command,
assist our song,
for else the theme
too high doth seem
for mortal tongue.

Ye blessèd souls at rest,
who ran this earthly race,
and now, from sin released,
behold the Saviour's face,
God's praises sound,
as in his sight
with sweet delight
ye do abound.

Ye saints, who toil below,
adore your heavenly King,
and onward as ye go
some joyful anthem sing;
take what he gives
and praise him still,
through good and ill,
who ever lives.

My soul, bear thou thy part,
triumph in God above,
and with a well-tuned heart
sing thou the songs of love;
let all thy days
till life shall end,
whate'er he send,
be filled with praise.

Words: Richard Baxter (1615–91)

Tune: Darwall's 148th
John Darwall (1731–89)
Descant: John Scott (1956–2015)

Remain standing as the choir moves out.