

THE COVENANTING AND BLESSING  
OF THE LIFE-LONG UNION OF

N and N

Welcome to the service as indicated. The congregation is encouraged to participate fully in the service as indicated. Page numbers refer to the Book of Common Prayer, and hymn numbers to the Hymnal 1982, both of which can be found on the bookracks in the pews. Please refrain from the taking of photographs at any time during the service.

23 September 2000  
3:00 p.m.

, New York City

**Prelude** *Epistle Sonata in D Major, KY 245*  
*Epistle Sonata in G Major, KY 274*

W. A. Mozart  
(1756-1791)

*A bell sounds and all stand.*

**Entrance Hymn 376**

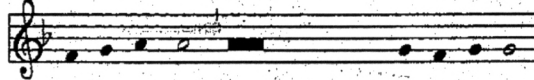
*Hymn to Joy*

THE WORD OF GOD

The Acclamation

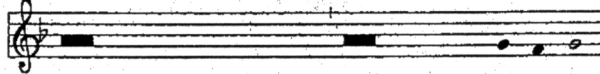
Ambrosian Chant

*Celebrant:*



Bless-ed be God: Father, Son, and Ho-ly Spi-rit:

*People:*



And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ev-er. A-men.

*All remain standing for the*

**Gloria in excelsis** *Missae Brevis in D Major, KV 194*

W. A. Mozart

Gloria in excelsis deo. Et in terra pax hominibus bonae voluntatis. Laudamus te, benedicimus te, adoramus te, glorificamus te, gratias agimus tibi propter magnam gloriam tuam. Domine Deus, Rex caelestis, Deus Pater omnipotens. Domini Fili unigenite, Jesu Christe. Domine Deus, Agnus Dei, Filius Patris, qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis; qui tollis peccata mundi, suscipe deprecationem nostram. Qui sedes ad dexteram patris, miserere nobis. Quoniam tu solus Sanctus, tu solus Dominus, tu solus Altissimus, Jesu Christe, cum Sancto Spiritu in gloria Dei Patris. Amen

*Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth. Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.*

**The Collect of the Day**

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: *And also with you.*

Celebrant: Let us pray.

O gracious and everliving God, look joyfully upon \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, who come before this assembled community to make a covenant of love, fidelity, and life-long commitment. Grant them your blessing and assist them with your grace, that, with true fidelity and steadfast love, they may honor and keep the covenant they make, through Jesus Christ, our Savior, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, forever and ever. *Amen.*

*All are seated.*

**The First Lesson** 1 Samuel 18:1b, 3; 20:16-17, 42a

The soul of Jonathan was bound to the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul. Then Jonathan made a covenant with David, because he loved him as his own soul. Thus Jonathan made a covenant with the house of David, saying, "May the LORD seek out the enemies of David." Jonathan made David swear again by his love for him; for he loved him as he loved his own life. Then Jonathan said to David, "Go in peace, since both of us have sworn in the name of the LORD, saying, 'The LORD shall be between me and you, and between my descendants and your descendants, forever.'"

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: *Thanks be to God.*

*All remain seated.*

Psalm 67

Anglican chant

May God be merciful to us and bless us,  
show us the light of his countenance and come to us.  
Let your ways be known upon earth,  
your saving health among all nations.  
Let the peoples praise you, O God;  
let all the peoples praise you.  
May God give us his blessing,  
and may all the ends of the earth stand in awe of him.

The Second Lesson Galatians 3:26-28

In Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith. As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.

Lector: The Word of the Lord.  
People: *Thanks be to God.*

All stand to sing the

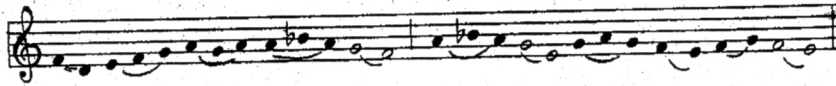
Sequence Hymn 657

*Hyfrydol*

Alleluia

Plainsong, Mode IV

The Gospel procession makes its way to the pulpit. A Cantor intones the Alleluia, and the congregation repeats it once, then again following the Versicle.



Al- le- lu- ia.

V. If we love one another, God abides in us,  
and his love is brought to perfection within us.

The Holy Gospel John 15:9-12

The Deacon announces the Gospel:

Deacon: The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.  
People: *Glory to you, Lord Christ.*

Jesus said to his disciples, "As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete. This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you."

*At the conclusion of the Gospel, the Deacon proclaims:*

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord  
People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

*At a signal from the preacher, the congregation is seated.*

## **Homily**

### **THE COVENANTING AND BLESSING**

*The Celebrant asks the Couple:*  
What do you seek?

*The Couple responds in unison:*  
We ask a blessing from this community on our covenant.

*The Celebrant asks the Couple:*  
Who sponsors you in this commitment?

*The Sponsors stand and respond in unison:*  
We do in the belief that God has blessed \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ by calling them into this covenant with each other.

*The Celebrant then addresses the People, saying:*  
Will you, brothers and sisters in Christ, give your pledge to honor and uphold \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_; to recognize them as a family in this community, to guide and pray for them in times of trouble; to celebrate with them in times of joy, to respect the bonds of their covenant, and to seek to discern the continuing presence of Christ within them?

*The People respond:*  
We will.

*Each partner of the Couple vows:*  
In the name of God and before this congregation, I, N, promise you, N, to honor and cherish you; to share with you in life's joys and triumphs, and to stand with you in times of grief and misfortune. I will be truthful in all things and strive with you to create a home filled with reverence and hospitality. I promise to love you all the days of my life. This is my solemn vow.

*The rings are then blessed.*

*The giver places the ring on the finger of the other's hand, saying:*  
I give you this ring as a symbol of my vow to you, my friend, my brother, my partner, my spouse. In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

*The Celebrant joins the right hands of the Couple. The People say in unison:*

May the God who has given and the grace to love one another and to enter into this covenant, give them the strength and power to walk in it all of their days. Amen.

*All stand as the Deacon bids the intercessions.*

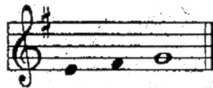
### **The Prayers of the People**

*The intercessor will say or sing:*

Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world.

Lord, in your mercy.



Hear our prayer.

Bless and in their life-long covenant. Give them wisdom and devotion in the ordering of their common life, that each may be to the other a strength in need, a counselor in perplexity, a comfort in sorrow, and a companion in joy. Lord in your mercy.

*Hear our prayer.*

Grant that their wills may be so knit together in your will, and their spirits in your Spirit, that they may grow in love and peace with you and one another all the days of their life.

Lord in your mercy.

*Hear our prayer.*

Give them grace, when they hurt each other, to recognize and acknowledge their fault, and to seek each other's forgiveness and yours. Lord in your mercy.

*Hear our prayer.*

Make their life together a sign of Christ's love to a sinful and broken world, that unity may overcome estrangement, forgiveness heal guilt, and joy conquer despair. Lord in your mercy.

*Hear our prayer.*

Give them such fulfillment of their mutual affection that they may reach out in love and concern for others. Lord in your mercy.

*Hear our prayer.*

Bless all whose lives are closely linked with theirs, and grant that they may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us. Lord, in your mercy.

*Hear our prayer.*

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation. Lord, in your mercy.

*Hear our prayer.*

We commend to your mercy all who have died, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom. Lord, in your mercy.

*Hear our prayer.*

*The Celebrant concludes with the following collect:*

O God, lover of humankind, in whom all our covenants are established, send your blessing upon your servants and that they may so love, honor, and cherish each other in faithfulness and patience, in wisdom and true godliness, that their home may be a haven of blessing and peace; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*

### The Peace

*The Celebrant says to the congregation:*

The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: *And also with you.*

*Then the Ministers and People greet each other in the name of the Lord. All are then seated as the Couple bring forward the offering of bread and wine.*

## THE HOLY COMMUNION

### Offertory Anthem

César Franck  
(1822-1890)

Panis angelicus  
fit panis hominum:  
Dat panis caelicus  
figuris terminum:  
O res mirabilis  
manducat Dominum  
Pauper, servus et humilis

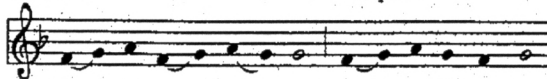
*Bread of angels  
Made bread for mortals:  
Giving us heavenly bread  
Through his sacrifice  
O wonderful substance  
Revealing the Lord  
Our poor and humble servant.*

*All stand to sing*

**The Great Thanksgiving: Eucharistic Prayer B, Prayer Book, page 367**

*Celebrant:*

*People:*



The Lord be with you. And also with you.

*Celebrant:* *People:*

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

*Celebrant:* *People:*

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

*The Celebrant continues:*

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, through Jesus Christ our Lord. For you are the source of light and life; you made us in your image, and called us to new life in Jesus Christ our Lord. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

*All remain standing for the*

**Sanctus and Benedictus** *Missa Brevis in D Major, KV 194*

W. A. Mozart

Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus, Dominus Deus Sabaoth. Pleni sunt coeli et terra gloria tua. Hosanna in excelsis. Benedictus qui venit in nomine domini. Hosanna in excelsis.

*Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.*

*All stand or kneel. Midway through the Eucharistic Prayer, the Celebrant says: Therefore according to his command, O Father,*

*Celebrant and People: We remember his death,  
We proclaim his resurrection,  
We await his coming in glory.*

*The Celebrant then concludes the Prayer.*

*The congregation sings*

**The Lord's Prayer** Hymnal S119

Plainsong

*The Celebrant breaks the bread. A short period of silence follows.*

**Fraction Anthem** Hymnal S172

Ambrosian chant

*All baptized persons are encouraged to share in the Holy Communion.  
Please follow the directions of the ushers in approaching the altar.*

**Agnus Dei** *Missa Brevis in D Major, KV 194*

W. A. Mozart

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis. Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, dona nobis pacem.

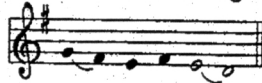
*Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world. Have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world. Grant us your peace.*

*All remain standing and say the*

**Postcommunion Prayer**

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

*The Celebrant gives a blessing. The Deacon dismisses the congregation. All sing the following response:*



Thanks be to God.

**Organ Postlude** *Toccata (Symphonie V)*

Charles-Marie Widor  
(1844-1937)

Soloists for the Offertory Anthem are \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, *sopranos*.

Soloists for the *Missa Brevis* are \_\_\_\_\_, *soprano*; \_\_\_\_\_, *mezzo-soprano*; \_\_\_\_\_, *tenor*; and \_\_\_\_\_, *baritone*.

Instrumentalists at this service are \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, *violin*, and \_\_\_\_\_, *cello*, \_\_\_\_\_, *organ*.