



Richard Meux Benson (1918) and Charles Gore (1915)  
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**ST. MARY'S  
SERVICE OF HOLY EUCHARIST**

Including a reflection on the life and witness of

**RICHARD MEUX BENSON,  
RELIGIOUS, 1915  
AND CHARLES GORE,  
BISHOP OF WORCESTER, OF BIRMINGHAM, AND OF OXFORD, 1932**

**Wednesday, January 15, 2025**

**<https://zoom.us/j/584949088>**

**COLLECT OF THE DAY**

*Celebrant:* God be with you

*People:* ***And also with you.***

*Celebrant:* Let us pray.

Gracious God, you have inspired a rich variety of ministries in your Church: We give you thanks for Richard Meux Benson and Charles Gore, instruments in the revival of Anglican monasticism. Grant that we, following their example, may call for perennial renewal in your Church through conscious union with Christ, witnessing to the social justice that is a mark of the reign of our Savior Jesus, who is the light of the world; and who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

**PSALM 27:5-11**

*The St. Helena Psalter*

One thing have I asked of you, O God; one thing I seek:  
that I may dwell in your house all the days of my life,

To behold your fair beauty, O God,  
and to seek you in your temple.

For in the day of trouble you shall keep me safe in your shelter;  
you shall hide me in the secrecy of your dwelling and set me high upon a rock.

Even now you lift up my head  
above my enemies round about me.

Therefore I will offer in your dwelling an oblation with sounds of great gladness;  
I will sing and make music to you.

Hearken to my voice, O Most High, when I call;  
have mercy on me and answer me.

You speak in my heart and say, "Seek my face."  
Your face, O God, will I seek.

## THE HOLY GOSPEL

John 17:6–11

'I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.

The Word of the Lord

*People: Thanks be to God.*

## REMEMBERING RICHARD MEUX BENSON AND CHARLES GORE

Richard Meux Benson and Charles Gore are remembered for their role in the revival of Anglican monasticism in the nineteenth century.

Richard Meux Benson, the principal founder of the Society of Saint John the Evangelist, was born on July 6, 1824, in London. As a student at Christ Church, Oxford, he came under the influence of Edward Bouverie Pusey, who became his spiritual mentor and lifelong friend.

In 1849 Benson was ordained a priest and became rector of Cowley, a village neighboring Oxford. In 1866, together with two other priests, he founded the Society of Saint John the Evangelist (SSJE), "a small body to realize and intensify the gifts and energies belonging to the whole Church." SSJE became the first stable religious community for men in the Anglican Church since the Reformation, styled as a missionary order patterned on St. Vincent de Paul's Company of Mission Priests. A branch house was established in Boston in 1870. In 1874 work began in Bombay, and later Poona. By 1880 SSJE had opened a mission house in Cape Town, South Africa, and in 1903 in the Transkei. Benson wrote the original SSJE Rule and served as Superior until 1890.

Charles Gore was born in 1853 in Wimbledon and educated mainly at Oxford. He was ordained in 1876 and served in positions at Cuddleston and Pusey House, Oxford, both of which were focused upon theological education and the formation of clergy. While at Pusey House, Gore founded the Community of the Resurrection, a community for men that sought to combine the rich traditions of the religious life with a lively concern for the demands of ministry in the modern world.

Gore, a prolific writer, was a principal progenitor of liberal Anglo-Catholicism in late nineteenth and early twentieth century Anglicanism. He was concerned to make available to the church the critical scholarship of the age, particularly with respect to the Bible. A second but no less important concern was to prick the conscience of the church and plead for its engagement in the work of social justice for all. Between 1902 and 1919, Gore served successively as bishop of the dioceses of Worcester, Birmingham, and Oxford.

## PRAYERS

*Prayers may be offered, silently or aloud.*

## HOLY EUCHARIST

Form A (*Enriching Our Worship*, p. 65)

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

*People* ***And also with you.***

*Celebrant* Lift up your hearts.

*People* ***We lift them to the Lord.***

*Celebrant* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*People* ***It is right to give God thanks and praise.***

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, Creator of heaven and earth, for the wonderful grace and virtue declared in all your saints, who have been the chosen vessels of your grace, and the lights of the world in their generations.

And so we join the saints and angels in proclaiming your glory, as we say,

*Celebrant and People*

***Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.***

***Hosanna in the highest.***

***Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.***

***Hosanna in the highest.***

And so, Loving God, we who have been redeemed by Christ, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

*At the following words concerning the bread, the Celebrant is to hold it, or lay a hand upon it; and at the words concerning the cup, to hold or place a hand upon the cup and any other vessel containing wine to be consecrated.*

On the night before he died for us, our Savior Jesus Christ took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his friends, and said: "Take, eat: This is my Body which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said: "Drink this, all of you: This is my blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

*The Celebrant then continues*

We now celebrate, O God, the memorial of Christ our Savior. By means of this holy bread and cup, we show forth the sacrifice of Christ's death, and proclaim the resurrection, until Christ comes in glory. Gather us by this Holy Communion into one body in the Risen One, and make us a living sacrifice of praise. Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever. **AMEN.**

And now, in the words Christ taught us, we are bold to pray, saying,

*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.*

*For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.*

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

*Eternal and Life-Giving God, 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.*

## BLESSING

## THE PEACE