The people's responses are in bold.

**The Entrance Rite**

**Organ Voluntary**

*Passacaglia in C minor, BWV 582*  
Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

The people stand as the procession enters in silence.

**The Lenten Acclamation**

Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.  
His mercy endures for ever.

**The Invitation to a Holy Lent**

Dear People of God: The first Christians observed with great devotion the days of our Lord's passion and resurrection, and it became the custom of the Church to prepare for them by a season of penitence and fasting. This season of Lent provided a time in which converts to the faith were prepared for Holy Baptism. It was also a time when those who, because of notorious sins, had been separated from the body of the faithful were reconciled by penitence and forgiveness, and restored to the fellowship of the Church. Thereby, the whole congregation was put in mind of the message of pardon and absolution set forth in the Gospel of our Savior, and of the need which all Christians continually have to renew their repentance and faith.

I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church, to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's holy Word. And, to make a right beginning of repentance, and as a mark of our mortal nature, let us now kneel before the Lord, our maker and redeemer.

The people kneel, as able, and keep silence.

**The Litany of Penitence**

*The people sing their responses*  
Michael McCarthy (b. 1966)

Most holy and merciful Father: We confess to you and to one another, and to the whole communion of saints in heaven and on earth, that we have sinned by our own fault in thought, word and deed; by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.

We have not loved you with our whole heart, and mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others, as we have been forgiven.

We have been deaf to your call to serve, as Christ served us. We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved your Holy Spirit. We confess to you.

Have mercy on us.

All our past unfaithfulness: the pride, hypocrisy and impatience of our lives, we confess to you.

Have mercy on us.
Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people, we confess to you.
*Have mercy on us.*

Our anger at our own frustration and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves, we confess to you.
*Have mercy on us.*

Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts, and our dishonesty in daily life and work, we confess to you.
*Have mercy on us.*

Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to commend the faith that is in us, we confess to you.
*Have mercy on us.*

Accept our repentance, Lord, for the wrongs we have done: for our blindness to human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty.

Accept our repentance, O Lord.

For all false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and for our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us, have mercy on us.
*Accept our repentance, O Lord.*

For our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us, have mercy on us.
*Accept our repentance, O Lord.*

Restore us, good Lord, and let your anger depart from us.

*Accomplish in us the work of your salvation,*

*By the cross and passion of your Son our Lord,*

---

Cantor

Have mer-cy on us. Ac-cepts re-pent-ance, O Lord.

Congregation

Fav-or-ab-ly hear us, for your mer-cy is great.

For all false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and for our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us, have mercy on us.
*Accept our repentance, O Lord.*

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Cantor

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Congregation

Fav-or-ab-ly hear us, for your mer-cy is great.
KYRIE ELEISON

Silence is kept.

THE DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

The presider prays the declaration of forgiveness, and the people respond, Amen.

THE WORD OF GOD

THE COLLECT FOR THE FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Let us pray.

Almighty God, whose blessed Son was led by the Spirit to be tempted by Satan: Come quickly to help us who are assaulted by many temptations; and, as you know the weaknesses of each of us, let each one find you mighty to save; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.
Amen.
The people are seated.

THE FIRST READING

Genesis 9:8-17

God said to Noah and to his sons with him, “As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.” God said, “This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.” God said to Noah, “This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.”
The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.
To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul; 
my God, I put my trust in you; 
let me not be humiliated, 
nor let my enemies triumph over me.
Let none who look to you be put to shame; 
let the treacherous be disappointed in their schemes.
Show me your ways, O Lord, 
and teach me your paths.
Lead me in your truth and teach me, 
for you are the God of my salvation; 
in you have I trusted all the day long.
Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love, 
for they are from everlasting.
Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; 
remember me according to your love 
and for the sake of your goodness, O Lord.
Gracious and upright is the Lord; 
therefore he teaches sinners in his way.
He guides the humble in doing right 
and teaches his way to the lowly.
All the paths of the Lord are love and faithfulness 
to those who keep his covenant and his testimonies.

Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

The Reverend Canon Kelly Brown Douglas

The people stand.
THE NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.
The people greet one another with a sign of God’s peace and are seated.

THE OFFERTORY

An offering is received to support the Cathedral’s ministry of sharing God’s love with the world.
The altar is prepared for Holy Communion.

ANTHEM AT THE OFFERTORY

Wash me throughly

Samuel Sebastian Wesley (1810-1876)

Wash me throughly from my wickedness, and forgive me all my sin. For I acknowledge my faults, and my sin is ever before me. (Psalm 51:2, 3)
The people stand.

HYMN AT THE PRESENTATION

Lord, who throughout these forty days

St. Flavian
The Holy Communion

The Great Thanksgiving

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 God thanks and praise.

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, who was tempted in every way as we are, yet did not sin. By his grace we are able to triumph over every evil, and to live no longer for ourselves alone, but for him who died for us and rose again.

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:

The presider offers our thanks to God for the grace and mercy made available in Christ, and in response the people sing:

Sanctus & Benedictus

David Hurd (b. 1950)

The presider gives thanks to God for the reconciling work of Christ’s passion and resurrection and prays over the bread and wine.

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. AMEN.

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,
THE LORD’S PRAYER

Notre Père..., Padre nuestro..., Vater unser..., 
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.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD & THE FRACTION ANTHEM

Agnus Dei

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: have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: grant us peace.

The people are seated.

THE INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION

All who seek God and a deeper life in Christ are welcome to receive Holy Communion. Please receive the bread in open and outstretched hands and sip the wine from the chalice, guiding it gently to your lips; or you may dip the wafer into the wine. Gluten-free wafers are available; please make your need known to the minister. Respond to receiving Communion by saying “Amen.” If you prefer to receive a blessing instead, please indicate your choice by crossing your hands across your chest.

During the administration of Holy Communion the laying on of hands and prayers for healing is offered in St. John’s Chapel. Please enter the chapel by the ramp to the right of the pulpit.

ANTHEM DURING THE COMMUNION

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. For God sent not his son into the world to condemn the world; But that the world through him might be saved. (John 3:16)

The people stand.
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.

In Lent, in place of a final blessing, the presider offers a Prayer over the People.

THE PRAYER OVER THE PEOPLE

Let us bow down before the Lord.

The people kneel or bow, as able.

Grant, most merciful Lord, to your faithful people pardon and peace, that they may be cleansed from all their sins, and serve you with a quiet mind; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The people stand.

CLOSING HYMN • 143

The glory of these forty days

Erhalt uns, Herr

THE DISMISSAL

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

Prelude and Fugue in A minor, BWV 543

J. S. Bach

WORSHIP LEADERS


In the mid-nave, the Lenten pedestals of branches are given in loving memory of Mary Ashley Scarborough. In accordance with the Cathedral practice of bare altars during the Lenten season, all Flower Endowments during Lent will be named in the leaflet and honored at Easter.

Gifts for Easter flowers may be sent to the Washington National Cathedral Altar Guild, Massachusetts and Wisconsin Avenues NW, Washington, DC 20016. To be included in the Easter service leaflet, gifts must be received by March 8.

PERMISSIONS