



Choral Evensong

The Presentation of Our Lord Jesus Christ in the Temple

February 2, 2020 • 4:00 PM

WASHINGTON NATIONAL CATHEDRAL

THE TRADITION OF CHORAL EVENSONG

Welcome to Washington National Cathedral. It is an ancient tradition for the people of God to offer praise and prayer as the day draws to a close. Choral Evensong is a service of sung evening prayer. The text of the service is drawn almost entirely from the Bible. The main purpose is to proclaim the wonderful works of God in human history, and in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Sung psalms and canticles are interwoven with readings from the Old and New Testaments and the recitation of the Apostles' Creed and Lord's Prayer. Other prayers and hymns are drawn from the many centuries of the Christian Church. The congregation is invited to listen reflectively and prayerfully as the choir offers prayer and praise on their behalf. Many find this frees them to offer to God their own thoughts and prayers.

The people's responses are in bold.

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

Mit Fried und Freud ich fahr dahin, BWV 616

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

The people stand, as able, as the procession enters.

HYMN • 257

O Zion, open wide thy gates

Sung by all.

Edmonton

OPENING SENTENCES FROM HOLY SCRIPTURE

PRECES

Margaret Burk (b. 1990)

Officiant O Lord, open thou our lips;

Choir And our mouth shall show forth thy praise.

Officiant O God, make speed to save us;

Choir O Lord, make haste to help us.

Officiant Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

Choir As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be:

world without end. Amen.

Officiant Praise ye the Lord.

Choir The Lord's Name be praised.

The candles are lighted as the choir sings.

PHOS HILARON

Douglas Major (b. 1953)

The Phos hilaron is an ancient lamp-lighting hymn. Meaning "gladdening light" in Greek, it is among the earliest-known hymn texts recorded outside of the Bible that is still in use today.

O gracious Light, pure brightness of the everliving Father in heaven, O Jesus Christ, holy and blessed! Now as we come to the setting of the sun, and our eyes behold the vesper light, we sing thy praises, O God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Thou art worthy at all times to be praised by happy voices, O Son of God, O Giver of life, and to be glorified through all the worlds.

The people are seated as the choir sings the psalm appointed for this evening. The text is found in The Book of Common Prayer, pages 651-652 and 711.

PSALMS • 48, 87

chants: Samuel Sebastian Wesley (1810-1876); John Goss (1800-1880)

FIRST LESSON

Malachi 3:1-4

The lesson is read; the people respond, Thanks be to God.

The people remain seated as the choir sings.

MAGNIFICAT

“Short” Service, Thomas Tallis (1505-1585)

The Magnificat is the Blessed Virgin Mary’s song of thanksgiving in response to the fact that she will bear the Son of God, fulfilling the promises of the Old Testament.

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 showed 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 for ever. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. (*Luke 1:46-55*)

SECOND LESSON

Luke 2:22-40

The lesson is read; the people respond, Thanks be to God.

The people remain seated as the choir sings.

NUNC DIMITTIS

“Short” Service, T. Tallis

The Nunc dimittis is the song of the aged Simeon, who had been promised by the Holy Spirit that he would not die until he had seen the Messiah. Upon taking the infant Jesus into his arms, Simeon utters these words of thanksgiving.

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 Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. (*Luke 2:29-32*)

The people stand, as able, and face the high altar.

THE APOSTLES’ CREED

Said by all.

The Apostles’ Creed grew from statements of belief made by early Christians at their baptism. The Church continues to confess this same faith in the Holy Trinity: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

LESSER LITANY

M. Burk

Officiant The Lord be with you.
Choir And with thy spirit.
Officiant Let us pray.
Choir Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Said by all.

Found in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke, the Lord's Prayer is the prayer that Jesus taught his disciples when explaining to them how they should pray.

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.

SUFFRAGES

M. Burk

Officiant O Lord, show thy mercy upon us;
Choir And grant us thy salvation.
Officiant O Lord, save the State;
Choir And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.
Officiant Endue thy ministers with righteousness;
Choir And make thy chosen people joyful.
Officiant O Lord, save thy people;
Choir And bless thine inheritance.
Officiant Give peace in our time, O Lord;
Choir Because there is none other that fighteth for us,
but only thou, O God.
Officiant O God, make clean our hearts within us;
Choir And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.

COLLECTS

From the Latin meaning "to gather," a collect gathers into one the prayers of the congregation.

The officiant sings a series of collects appointed for the day, each followed by a choral Amen. The collects conclude with:

Officiant Let us bless the Lord.
Choir **Thanks be to God.**

The people are seated at the invitation of the homilist.

HOMILY

The Reverend Dr. Wesley S. Williams, Jr.

OFFERING

An offering is received to support the Cathedral's ministry of sharing God's love with the world. All are invited to make a gift to help keep the Cathedral strong—either as the plate is passed or texting the dollar amount you wish to give to (202) 856-9005.

ANTHEM

When to the temple Mary went

Johannes Eccard (1553-1611)

When to the temple Mary went, and brought the Holy Child, him did the aged Simeon see, as it had been revealed. He took up Jesus in his arms, and, blessing God, he said: In peace I now depart, my Savior having seen, the Hope of Israel, the Light of men. Help now thy servants, gracious Lord, that we may ever be as once the faithful Simeon was, rejoicing but in thee; and when we must from Earth departure take, departure take, may gently fall asleep and with thee wake.

(Tr. from original German by John Troutbeck, 1832-1899.)

The people stand, as able, and join in praying The General Thanksgiving.

THE GENERAL THANKSGIVING

Said by all.

Almighty God, Father of all mercies,
we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks
for all your goodness and loving-kindness
to us and to all whom you have made.
We bless you for our creation, preservation,
and all the blessings of this life;
but above all for your immeasurable 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 pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies,
that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise,
not only with our lips, but in our lives,
by giving up our selves to your service,
and by walking before you
in holiness and righteousness all our days;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.

The officiant blesses the people and the people respond, Amen.

HYMN • 259

Hail to the Lord who comes

Sung by all.

Old 120th

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

Magnificat: Gloria Patri, Op. 18, No. 15

Marcel Dupré (1886-1971)

WORSHIP LEADERS The Right Reverend Carl Walter Wright, The Reverend Dr. Wesley S. Williams, Jr., Canon Michael McCarthy, Thomas M. Sheehan, The Girls Cathedral Choir.