



Sunday Choral Evensong

January 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.

Please find today's hymns and service information on page 4.

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

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

HYMN

OPENING SENTENCES FROM HOLY SCRIPTURE

PRECES

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

PHOS HILARON

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.

PSALM

The people are seated as the choir sings the psalm appointed for the day. Today's psalm is found in the service information. The text is found in The Book of Common Prayer, pages 585-808.

FIRST LESSON

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

The people remain seated as the choir sings the Magnificat, in English or Latin. 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.

MAGNIFICAT

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

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

The people remain seated for the singing of the Nunc dimittis, in English or Latin. This 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.

NUNC DIMITTIS

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, face the high altar, and recite the Apostles' Creed. The 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.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

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

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

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

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

The officiant sings a series of collects appointed for the day, each followed by a choral Amen. From the Latin meaning “to gather,” a collect gathers into one the prayers of the congregation. 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

OFFERING

The people remain seated while an offering is received to support the Cathedral’s ministry of sharing God’s love with the world.

ANTHEM

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

THE GENERAL THANKSGIVING

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

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

Sunday, January 12, 2020 • The First Sunday after the Epiphany:
The Baptism of our Lord

Sung by the Boys Cathedral Choir

Prelude choir: the University of Texas Chamber Singers

Voluntary: *Chorale Prelude on "Christum, wir loben sollen schon"*—
Healey Willan (1880-1968)

Opening hymn: 139, *When Jesus went to Jordan's stream*
(*Christ unser Herr zum Jordan kam*)

Responses: Stephen Caracciolo (b. 1962)

Phos hilaron: Matthew Glandorf (b. 1972)

Psalm: 112 • chant: Edgar Priest (1878-1935)

Readings: Isaiah 42:1-9 • Matthew 3:13-17

Canticles: *Service in B-flat*—Charles V. Stanford (1852-1924)

Anthem: *Blessed be the God and Father*—Samuel Sebastian Wesley (1810-1876)

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which, according to his abundant mercy, hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled, that fadeth not away, reserved in heav'n for you, who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation, ready to be revealed in the last time. But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; pass the time of your sojourning here in fear. Love one another with a pure heart fervently. See that ye love one another. Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God. For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass witherith, and the flower thereof falleth away. But the word of the Lord endureth for evermore. Amen.

(*1 Peter i:3-5, 15-17, 22-25*)

Closing hymn: 116, "I come," *the great Redeemer cries* (*This Endris Nyght*)

Voluntary: *Christ unser Herr zum Jordan kam*, BWV 684—
Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

*Thank you for worshiping at
Washington National Cathedral, your
National Cathedral.*

The work of the Cathedral in service to the city, the nation, and the world is made possible entirely through private support. The gifts of people from across the country and the world are behind every worship service, concert, public program, and the daily work of maintaining this historic landmark. It is only through your generosity that the Cathedral can fully live into its priorities of welcoming, deepening, convening, and serving.

We invite you to support the mission and ministry of the Cathedral. Visit cathedral.org to sign up for our weekly newsletter. You can also make a gift to help keep the Cathedral strong—either as the plate is passed or by using our mobile giving program. Simply text the dollar amount you wish to give to (202) 856-9005. You'll be taken to a secure website to enter your credit card information.

Thank you in advance for your generosity. Please know that your presence with us today has been a blessing.

