Worship lies at the heart of the Christian life. It is in worship that we express our theology and define our identity. It is through encountering God within worship that we are formed and transformed as the people of God. One of the glories of the Episcopal Church is its liturgical worship. Liturgy refers to the patterns, forms, words, and actions through which public worship is conducted.

The people’s responses are in bold.

This type of note, offering directions about the service is called a “rubric,” which comes from the Latin word rubrica (red)—referring to a time when these instructional notes were always written in red.

The Entrance Rite

When the service is accompanied by music, it often begins with an instrumental piece of music, during which the congregation can prepare for worship.

PRELUDE

Psalm-Prelude Set 2, No. 1: De profundis

Herbert Howells (1892-1983)

The people remain seated for the introit.

INTROIT

God so loved the world

Bob Chilcott (b. 1955)

God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whoso believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

(John 3:16)

The people stand as able at the introduction to the hymn.

HYMN AT THE PROCESSION • 401

The God of Abraham praise

Sung by all.

Leoni

We begin our worship as a gathered community by praising God in song.

OPENING ACCLAMATION

Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

God’s mercy endures for ever.

Penitential Sentences

Jesus said, “The first commandment is this: Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is the only Lord. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this: Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no other commandment greater than these.”

(Mark 12:29-31)
THE CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you 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; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

The presider offers absolution and the people respond, Amen.

TRISAGION

Sung by all.

David Hurd (b. 1950)

Ho-ly God, Ho-ly and Might-y, Ho-ly Im- mor-tal One, Have mer-cy up-on us.

Ho-ly God, Ho-ly and Might-y, Ho-ly Im- mor-tal One, Have mer-cy up-on us.

Ho-ly God, Ho-ly and Might-y, Ho-ly Im- mor-tal One, Have mer-cy up-on us.

THE WORD OF GOD

THE COLLECT FOR THE SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

The Collect is the prayer appointed for each Sunday that “collects” or captures the theme of the day or season of the Church year. It summarizes the attributes of God as revealed in the scriptures for the day.

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Let us pray.
O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy: Be gracious to all who have gone astray from your ways, and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of your Word, Jesus Christ your Son; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

The people are seated.
THE FIRST READING

This reading is typically from the Old Testament (Hebrew Scriptures) which Jesus knew and from which he often referred or quoted.

Now the Lord said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.” So Abram went, as the Lord had told him.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM 121:1-4, 7-8

The psalms are prayers that Jesus used and cover every mood of humanity’s relationship with God and one another.

The choir introduces the refrain, then all repeat.

My help comes from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth.

The choir sings the psalm.

I lift up my eyes to the hills;
from where is my help to come?

My help comes from the Lord,
the maker of heaven and earth.

All repeat the refrain.

He will not let your foot be moved
and he who watches over you will not fall asleep.

Behold, he who keeps watch over Israel
shall neither slumber nor sleep;

All repeat the refrain.

The Lord shall preserve you from all evil;
it is he who shall keep you safe.

The Lord shall watch over your going out and your coming in,
from this time forth for evermore.

All repeat the refrain.
What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. For what does the scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness.” Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. But to one who without works trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness. For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation. For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”) —in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The people stand as able at the introduction to the hymn.

**HYMN AT THE SEQUENCE**  • 603

_When Christ was lifted from the earth_  
_Sung by all._  
_St. Botolph_

The sequence hymn or Alleluia moves us toward the summit of the Liturgy of the Word—the reading of the Holy Gospel. Gospel means “good news”—specifically the “good news of Jesus.”
The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.” Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” Jesus answered him, “Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things? Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The people are seated at the invitation of the preacher.

The Reverend Canon Dana Colley Corsello

The sermon directly follows the Gospel because it is to be grounded in the scriptures. It illuminates the scriptural readings and relates them to daily life.
The Nicene Creed

The word “creed” comes from the Latin “credo” for “I believe.” First formulated at the Council of Nicaea in 325 AD and confirmed in 381 AD, the Nicene Creed is said at the Holy Eucharist and reflects what Christians believe regarding the relationship between the Father, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit: The Holy Trinity.

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 PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

We pray for ourselves and particularly on behalf of others. In our prayers we pray for the Universal Church, the nation and all who govern, the welfare of the world, the concerns of our community of faith, including those who are in need or suffer, and for the departed. We are reminded in prayer that we are part of a larger fellowship, the Church—the Body of Christ.

After each intercession,

Lord in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

The presider prays the concluding collect, and the people respond, Amen.

THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

As we care for one another’s health, instead of the traditional handshake or hug, continue to verbally share the Peace with those around you with eye contact, slightly bowing your head, a shoulder-bump, or offering a friendly wave.

The Holy Communion

THE OFFERTORY

Having listened to the Word of God, affirmed our faith, confessed our sins, received forgiveness and shared in the peace, we are prepared for the drama and miracle of the Holy Communion. At the offertory, we gratefully offer back to God some of what God has given us, symbolically in the bread and wine, and in the money we give.

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.

The altar is prepared for Holy Communion.

ANTHEM AT THE OFFERTORY

I will lift up mine eyes

I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help. My help cometh from the Lord, which made heaven and earth. He will not suffer thy foot to be moved: he that keepeth thee will not slumber. Behold, he that keepeth Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep. The Lord is thy keeper, thy shade upon thy right hand. The sun shall not smite thee by day, nor the moon by night. The Lord shall preserve thee from all evil: he shall preserve thy soul. The Lord shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in from this time forth, and even for evermore.

(Psalm 121)
'The people stand as able at the introduction to the hymn.

HYMN AT THE PRESENTATION • 337, st. 1-2
And now, O Father, mindful of the love Sung by all. Unde et memores

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING
In the Great Thanksgiving, we do what Jesus himself asked us to do: thank God and recall all that God has done for us in the life, death, and resurrection of Christ. The Great Thanksgiving, or Eucharistic Prayer, is a long prayer with four parts. Each of these four parts corresponds to a different action of Jesus at the Last Supper, where he took, blessed, broke, and gave bread and wine as sacraments of his body and blood. We begin the Great Thanksgiving with the Sursum corda, meaning "Lift up your hearts."

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 every where 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:

SANCTUS & BENEDICTUS Sung by all. D. Hurd

The Sanctus (Holy, Holy, Holy) is the hymn of praise that never ceases before God and is based on Isaiah 6:3.

Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly Lord, God of pow-er and might, heav-en and
earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san-na in the high-est.

Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high-est.
We recall God's acts of salvation history. The presider says the “Words of Institution” that Jesus said at the Last Supper. At the Memorial Acclamation we remember Christ's death, resurrection, and promise to return at the end of the age. During the prayer, the Holy Spirit is invoked to bless and sanctify the gifts of bread and wine.

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, “Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.”

After supper he 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 shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.”

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.

THE LORD’S PRAYER
We pray together the prayer that Jesus taught his disciples to pray. The link between our daily bread and the spiritual food we receive in the Eucharist is an ancient connection.

Notre Père..., Padre nostro..., 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

The presider breaks the bread in silence.

Agnus Dei

Sung by all.

D. Hurd

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 INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION

The people are seated.

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 receive Communion in one kind by eating the consecrated bread only.

Intinction (dipping your bread into the chalice) is not to be practiced as a form of receiving the Sacrament.

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 are offered in War Memorial Chapel.

ANTHEM DURING THE COMMUNION

Ad te levavi

Sung in Latin.

Robert White (ca. 1538-1574)

To you I lift up my eyes,

to you enthroned in the heavens.

As the eyes of servants look to the hand of their masters,

and the eyes of a maid to the hand of her mistress,

So our eyes look to the Lord our God,

until he show us his mercy.

(Psalm 123:1-3)
The people stand as able.

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.

During the season of 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 may kneel or bow as able.

The presider prays over the people, and the people respond, Amen.

The people stand as able at the introduction to the hymn.

HYMN AT THE CLOSING • 473

Lift high the cross

Sung by all.

Crucifer

THE DISMISSAL

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Introduction and Passacaglia in D minor

Max Reger (1873-1916)
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.

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

Gifts for Easter flowers may be sent to the Washington National Cathedral Altar Guild, 3101 Wisconsin Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20016. If you wish to give flowers in honor or memory of a loved one, you may also email flowers@cathedral.org. To be included in the Easter service leaflet, gifts must be received by March 12.


Flowers  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.