

Choral Evensong

The First Sunday after the Epiphany: The Baptism of our Lord

January 9, 2022 • 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

Rolling Jordan

J. William Greene (b. 1956)

The people stand as able as the procession enters.

HYMN • 439

What Wondrous Love Is This

Sung by all.

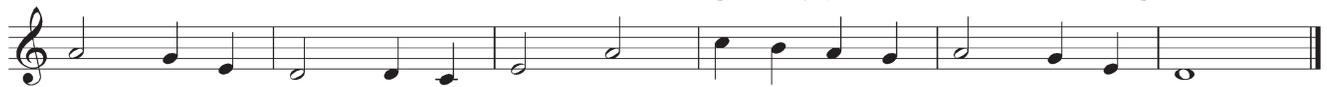
Wondrous Love



1. What won-drous love is this, O my soul, O my soul! What won-drous love is this, O my
 2. To God and to the Lamb, I will sing, I will sing, to God and to the Lamb, I will
 3. And when from death I'm free I'll sing on, I'll sing on, and when from death I'm free, I'll sing



soul! What won-drous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss to lay a - side his
 sing. To God and to the Lamb who is the great I AM, while mil-lions join the
 on. And when from death I'm free I'll sing and joy - ful be, and through e - ter - ni -



crown for my soul, for my soul, to lay a - side his crown for my soul.
 theme, I will sing, I will sing, while mil-lions join the theme, I will sing.
 ty I'll sing on, I'll sing on, and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing on.

OPENING SENTENCES FROM HOLY SCRIPTURE

PRECES

Gabriel Jackson (b. 1962)

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

Ronald Arnatt (1930–2018)

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.

PSALM • 113

Sung by the choir.

chant: Francis Jackson (b. 1917)

Hallelujah!
Give praise, you servants of the Lord;
praise the Name of the Lord.
Let the Name of the Lord be blessed,
from this time forth for evermore.
From the rising of the sun to its going down
let the Name of the Lord be praised.
The Lord is high above all nations,
and his glory above the heavens.
Who is like the Lord our God, who sits enthroned on high
but stoops to behold the heavens and the earth?
He takes up the weak out of the dust
and lifts up the poor from the ashes.
He sets them with the princes,
with the princes of his people.
He makes the woman of a childless house
to be a joyful mother of children.
Glory 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.

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day. And God said, "Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters." So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so. God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day. And God said, "Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear." And it was so. God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. Then God said, "Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it." And it was so. The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind, and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the third day. And God said, "Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth." And it was so. God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day. And God said, "Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky." So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm, and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good. God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth." And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day. And God said, "Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind." And it was so. God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind, and the cattle of every kind, and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good. Then God said, "Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth." So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth." God said, "See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food." And it was so. God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day. Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all their multitude. And on the seventh day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done. So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation.

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

The people remain seated as the choir sings.

MAGNIFICAT

Evening Service in B-flat; Charles Villiers Stanford (1852–1924)

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

John 1:29-34

John saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, "Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! This is he of whom I said, 'After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.' I myself did not know him; but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel." And John testified, "I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Son of God."

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The people remain seated as the choir sings.

NUNC DIMITTIS

Evening Service in B-flat; C. V. Stanford

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.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

Said by all, facing the high altar.

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.

THE LESSER LITANY

G. Jackson

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.

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 SUFFRAGES

G. Jackson

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.

THE COLLECTS

The officiant sings a series of prayers, appointed for the day, each followed by a choral Amen.

Father in heaven, who at the baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan didst proclaim him thy beloved Son and anoint him with the Holy Spirit: Grant that all who are baptized into his Name may keep the covenant they have made, and boldly confess him as Lord and Savior; who with thee and the same Spirit liveth and reigneth, one God, in glory everlasting. Amen.

Lord God, whose Son our Savior Jesus Christ triumphed over the powers of death and prepared for us our place in the new Jerusalem: Grant that we, who have this day given thanks for his resurrection, may praise thee in that City of which he is the light; and where he liveth and reigneth for ever and ever. Amen.

O God, who dost manifest in thy servants the signs of thy presence: Send forth upon us the Spirit of love, that in companionship with one another thine abounding grace may increase among us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The collects conclude with:

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

The people are seated.

OFFERING

For the safety of our worshippers and staff, we will not pass the traditional plate during today's service. Instead, all are invited to make a gift to support the Cathedral's ministry of sharing God's love with the world by texting the dollar amount you wish to give to (202) 856-9005 or visiting cathedral.org/support. These contact-free alternatives are highly encouraged to make giving as simple and safe as possible.

ANTHEM

"There Shall a Star Come out of Jacob" from *Christus*, Op. 97

Felix Mendelssohn (1809–1847)

There shall a star come out of Jacob, and a scepter rise out of Israel;
With might destroying princes and cities.

As bright the star of morning gleams.
So Jesus sheddeth glorious beams
Of light and consolation.
Thy Word, O Lord,
Radiance darting, truth imparting,
Gives salvation;
Thine be praise and adoration!

(Original German compiled by Christian Charles Josias von Bunsen, 1791–1860; after Numbers 24:17 and Philipp Nicolai, 1556–1608)

The people stand as able. Additional prayers and petitions may be said at this point, concluding with 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.

BLESSING

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

HYMN • 535

Ye Servants of God, Your Master Proclaim

Sung by all.

Paderborn

1. Ye ser - vants of God, your Mas - ter pro - claim, and pub - lish a - broad his
2. God rul - eth on high, al - might - y to save; and still he is nigh: his
3. Sal - va - tion to God who sits on the throne! Let all cry a - loud, and
4. Then let us a - dore, and give him his right: All glo - ry and power, all
won - der - ful Name; the Name all - vic - to - rious of Je - sus ex -
pres - ence we have. The great con - gre - ga - tion his tri - umph shall
hon - or the Son. The prais - es of Je - sus the an - gels pro -
wis - dom and might, and hon - or and bless - ing, with an - gels a -
tol: his king - dom is glo - rious; he rules o - ver all.
sing, as - crib - ing sal - va - tion to Je - sus our King.
claim, fall down on their fa - ces, and wor - ship the Lamb.
bove, and thanks nev - er - ceas - ing and in - fi - nite love.

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

Thank you for worshipping with Washington National Cathedral, your National Cathedral.

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PARTICIPANTS Officiant: The Reverend Patrick L. Kesyer, Priest Associate; Musicians: The Boys Cathedral Choir, Thomas M. Sheehan, Organist and Associate Director of Music, George H. Fergus, Associate Director of Music and Chorister Program.

FLOWERS The flowers throughout the Cathedral are given to the glory of God. The High Altar: in memory of Charles A. Kuehner family; St. Mary's Chapel Altar: in loving memory of Edith Martin; Holy Spirit Chapel Altar: in thanksgiving for the Charles Ray Long family and friends; St. John's Chapel Altar: in memory of Mrs. Jean MacArthur; Children's Chapel Altar: in memory of Emilie Jeanne Dana; War Memorial Chapel Altar: in loving memory of Hal Elliott Short; Bethlehem Chapel Altar: in memory of Ernest Addison Deahl.

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