

# Choral Evensong

The Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

January 29, 2023 • 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

Variations on "Jesu, dulcis memoria"

Jessica French (b. 1984)

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

### HYMN • 34

*Christ, Mighty Savior*

*Sung by all.*

*Innisfree Farm*

1. Christ, might - y Sa - vior, Light of all cre - a - tion, you make the  
2. Now comes the day's end as the sun is set - ting: mir - ror of  
3. There - fore we come now eve - ning rites to of - fer, joy - ful - ly  
4. Give heed, we pray you, to our sup - pli - ca - tion: that you may  
5. Though bo - dies slum - ber, hearts shall keep their vi - gil, for ev - er

1. day - time ra - diant with the sun - light and to the night give  
2. day - break, pledge of re - sur - rec - tion; while in the hea - vens  
3. chant - ing ho - ly hymns to praise you, with all cre - a - tion  
4. grant us par - don for of - fens - es, strength for our weak hearts,  
5. rest - ing in the peace of Je - sus, in light or dark - ness

1. glit - ter - ing a - dorn - ment, stars in the hea - vens.  
2. choirs of stars ap - pear - ing hal - low the night - fall.  
3. join - ing hearts and voic - es sing - ing your glo - ry.  
4. rest for ach - ing bo - dies, sooth - ing the wear - y.  
5. wor - ship - ing our Sa - vior now and for ev - er.

### THE OPENING SENTENCES FROM HOLY SCRIPTURE

PRECES

Kenneth Leighton (1929–1988)

*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 • 8

*Sung by the choir.*

chant: Richard Wayne Dirksen (1921–2003)

O Lord our Governor,  
how exalted is your Name in all the world!  
Out of the mouths of infants and children  
your majesty is praised above the heavens.  
You have set up a stronghold against your adversaries,  
to quell the enemy and the avenger.  
When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers,  
the moon and the stars you have set in their courses,  
What is man that you should be mindful of him?  
the son of man that you should seek him out?  
You have made him but little lower than the angels;  
you adorn him with glory and honor;  
You give him mastery over the works of your hands;  
you put all things under his feet:  
All sheep and oxen,  
even the wild beasts of the field,  
The birds of the air, the fish of the sea,  
and whatsoever walks in the paths of the sea.  
O Lord our Governor,  
how exalted is your Name in all the world!

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.

Awake, awake, put on strength, O arm of the Lord! Awake, as in days of old, the generations of long ago! Was it not you who cut Rahab in pieces, who pierced the dragon? Was it not you who dried up the sea, the waters of the great deep; who made the depths of the sea a way for the redeemed to cross over? So the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away. I, I am he who comforts you; why then are you afraid of a mere mortal who must die, a human being who fades like grass? You have forgotten the Lord, your Maker, who stretched out the heavens and laid the foundations of the earth. You fear continually all day long because of the fury of the oppressor, who is bent on destruction. But where is the fury of the oppressor? The oppressed shall speedily be released; they shall not die and go down to the Pit, nor shall they lack bread. For I am the Lord your God, who stirs up the sea so that its waves roar— the Lord of hosts is his name. I have put my words in your mouth, and hidden you in the shadow of my hand, stretching out the heavens and laying the foundations of the earth, and saying to Zion, “You are my people.”

Here ends the lesson.

*The people remain seated as the choir sings.*

## MAGNIFICAT

*Jesus College Service, Op. 53; William Mathias (1934–1992)*

*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)*

About the middle of the feast of Tabernacles Jesus went up into the temple and began to teach. The Jews were astonished at it, saying, "How does this man have such learning, when he has never been taught?" Then Jesus answered them, "My teaching is not mine but his who sent me. Anyone who resolves to do the will of God will know whether the teaching is from God or whether I am speaking on my own. Those who speak on their own seek their own glory; but the one who seeks the glory of him who sent him is true, and there is nothing false in him. Did not Moses give you the law? Yet none of you keeps the law. Why are you looking for an opportunity to kill me?" The crowd answered, "You have a demon! Who is trying to kill you?" Jesus answered them, "I performed one work, and all of you are astonished. Moses gave you circumcision (it is, of course, not from Moses, but from the patriarchs), and you circumcise a man on the sabbath. If a man receives circumcision on the sabbath in order that the law of Moses may not be broken, are you angry with me because I healed a man's whole body on the sabbath? Do not judge by appearances, but judge with right judgment." Now some of the people of Jerusalem were saying, "Is not this the man whom they are trying to kill? And here he is, speaking openly, but they say nothing to him! Can it be that the authorities really know that this is the Messiah? Yet we know where this man is from; but when the Messiah comes, no one will know where he is from." Then Jesus cried out as he was teaching in the temple, "You know me, and you know where I am from. I have not come on my own. But the one who sent me is true, and you do not know him. I know him, because I am from him, and he sent me." Then they tried to arrest him, but no one laid hands on him, because his hour had not yet come. Yet many in the crowd believed in him and were saying, "When the Messiah comes, will he do more signs than this man has done?"

Here ends the lesson.

*The people remain seated as the choir sings.*

#### NUNC DIMITTIS

*Jesus College Service, Op. 53; W. Mathias*

*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

K. Leighton

*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

K. Leighton

*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.*

Almighty and everlasting God, who dost govern all things in heaven and earth: Mercifully hear the supplications of thy people, and in our time grant us thy peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. 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.

Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who work, or watch, or weep this night, and give thine angels charge over those who sleep. Tend the sick, Lord Christ; give rest to the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering, pity the afflicted, shield the joyous; and all for thy love's sake. Amen.

*The collects conclude with:*

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

*The people are seated.*

## OFFERING

*An offering is received to support the Cathedral's ministry of sharing God's love. All are invited to make a gift as the plate is passed, at [cathedral.org/give](http://cathedral.org/give), or by texting the dollar amount you wish to give to 202-856-9005.*

## ANTHEM

*Jesu, dulcis memoria*

*Sung by the choir.*

Richard Shephard (1949–2021)

*Sung in Latin.*

Jesu, the very thought of thee  
With sweetness fills my breast;  
But sweeter far thy face to see,  
And in thy presence rest.

No word is sung more sweet than this,  
No sound is heard more full of bliss,  
No thought brings sweeter comfort nigh  
Than Jesus, Son of God most high.

O hope of every contrite heart,  
O joy of all the meek,  
To those who fall, how kind thou art!  
How good to those who seek!

Jesu, thou joy of loving hearts!  
Thou fount of life, thou light of men!  
From the best bliss that earth imparts  
We turn unfilled to thee again.

No tongue of mortal can express,  
No pen can write the blessedness:  
He only who hath proved it knows  
What bliss from love of Jesus flows. Amen.

*(Attr. St. Bernard of Clairvaux, 1090–1153)*

*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.

#### THE BLESSING

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

#### HYMN • 31

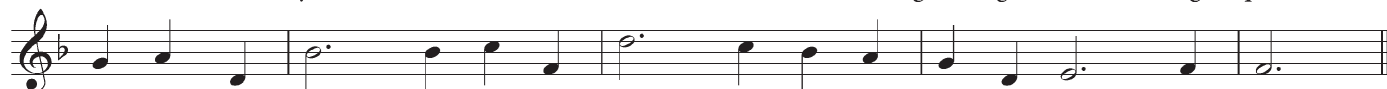
*Most Holy God, the Lord of Heaven*

*Sung by all.*

*Dunedin*



1. Most Ho - ly God, the Lord of heaven, who in the high arched sky has placed
2. for you the daz - zling star shines forth which in its gleam - ing path de - clares
3. The day de - parts, the eve - ning stars se - rene - ly light the dark - en ing sky;
4. You, Ho - ly One, Cre - a - tor, Lord, you in the pri - mal world once set
5. Like sun and day, shine in our hearts; like moon and night, give lov - ing peace.



1. the sun that flames up from the east and brings the splen-dors of the dawn:
2. the won - ders of your glo-rious power, and beck-ons us to wor - ship you.
3. the moon with cool re - flect - ed glow will bring the si - lenc - es of night.
4. the bound-a-ries of the day and night and or - dered sea - sons in their round.
5. Free us from bonds of blind-ing sin and guide us on our path to you.

#### ORGAN VOLUNTARY

Improvisation on "Spanish Hymn"

Jaebon Hwang (b. 1982)



*Thank you for joining us in worship.*

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All are invited to make a gift to support the Cathedral's ministry of sharing God's love as the plate is passed, at [cathedral.org/give](http://cathedral.org/give), or by texting the dollar amount you wish to give to 202-856-9005.

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

**PARTICIPANTS** Officiant: The Reverend Patrick L. Keyser, Priest Associate; Musicians: The Boys Cathedral Choir, Thomas M. Sheehan, Organist and Associate Director of Music.

**FLOWERS** The flowers are given to the glory of God. In memory of Phillip A. Rollings, Captain USN. **PERMISSIONS** Texts of the Old Testament and Gospel taken from the New Revised Standard Version Bible, Copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Psalms, hymns, canticles, suffrages, prayers, creed, collects, and thanksgiving taken from the Book of Common Prayer, 1979. Public domain. *Christ, Mighty Savior*. Text: Mozarabic, 10th century; tr. Alan G. McDougall (1895–1964); Rev. Anne K. LeCroy (1930–2016), Copyright 1982, United Methodist Publishing House/Abingdon Press. Reprinted under One License #A-709283. Music: *Innisfree Farm*. Richard Wayne Dirksen (1921–2003), Copyright 1984, The Protestant Episcopal Cathedral Foundation (admin. by Selah Publishing, Inc.). Used by permission. *Most Holy God, the Lord of Heaven*. Text: Latin; tr. A. K. LeCroy. Copyright 1982, Church Publishing Incorporated. Reprinted under One License #A-709283. Music: *Dunedin*. Vernon Griffiths (1894–1985), Copyright 1971, Faber Music, Ltd. Reprinted under One License #A-709283.

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