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**

*Song 13*  
Percy Whitlock (1903–1946)

*The people stand as able as the procession enters.*
Hymn • 609

Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life

1. Where cross the crowded ways of life, where sound the cries of
2. In haunts of wretchedness and need, on shadowed thresholds
3. The cup of water given for thee still holds the freshness
4. O Master, from the mountain side, make haste to heal these
5. till all the world shall learn thy love, and follow where thy

1. race and clan, above the noise of selfish
2. dark with fears, from paths where hide the lures of
3. of thy grace; yet long these multitudes to
4. hearts of pain; among these restless throngs a-
5. feet have trod; till glorious from thy heaven a-

1. strife, we hear thy voice, O Son of Man.
2. greed, we catch the vision of thy tears.
3. see the true compassion of thy face.
4. bide, O tread the city's streets again;
5. bove, shall come the city of our God.

The 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.

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.

Praise ye the Lord.

The Lord’s name be praised.

The candles are lighted as the choir sings.

**PHOS HILARON**

*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.*

David Hogan (1949–1996)

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.
How dear to me is your dwelling, O Lord of hosts!
   My soul has a desire and longing for the courts of the Lord;
      my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.
The sparrow has found her a house
   and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young;
      by the side of your altars, O Lord of hosts,
         my King and my God.
Happy are they who dwell in your house!
   they will always be praising you.
Happy are the people whose strength is in you!
   whose hearts are set on the pilgrims’ way.
Those who go through the desolate valley will find it a place of springs,
   for the early rains have covered it with pools of water.
They will climb from height to height,
   and the God of gods will reveal himself in Zion.
Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer;
   hearken, O God of Jacob.
Behold our defender, O God;
   and look upon the face of your Anointed.
For one day in your courts is better than a thousand in my own room,
   and to stand at the threshold of the house of my God
      than to dwell in the tents of the wicked.
For the Lord God is both sun and shield;
   he will give grace and glory;
No good thing will the Lord withhold
   from those who walk with integrity.
O Lord of hosts,
   happy are they who put their trust in you!
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.

THE FIRST LESSON

David intoned this lamentation over Saul and his son Jonathan. (He ordered that The Song of the Bow be taught to the people of Judah; it is written in the Book of Jashar.) He said: “Your glory, O Israel, lies slain upon your high places!
How the mighty have fallen! Tell it not in Gath, proclaim it not in the streets of Ashkelon; or the daughters of the Philistines will rejoice, the daughters of the uncircumcised will exult. You mountains of Gilboa, let there be no dew or rain upon you, nor bounteous fields! For there the shield of the mighty was defiled, the shield of Saul, anointed with oil no more. From the blood of the slain, from the fat of the mighty, the bow of Jonathan did not turn back, nor the sword of Saul return empty. Saul and Jonathan, beloved and lovely! In life and in death they were not divided; they were swifter than eagles, they were stronger than lions. O daughters of Israel, weep over Saul, who clothed you with crimson, in luxury, who put ornaments of gold on your apparel. How the mighty have fallen in the midst of the battle! Jonathan lies slain upon your high places. I am distressed for you, my brother Jonathan; greatly beloved were you to me; your love to me was wonderful, passing the love of women. How the mighty have fallen, and the weapons of war perished!”
Here ends the lesson.

The people remain seated as the choir sings.
Magnificat

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)

The Second Lesson

Jesus answered the disciples, “When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, ‘Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.’ Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?’ And the king will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.’ Then he will say to those at his left hand, ‘You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.’ Then they also will answer, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?’ Then he will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.’ And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”

Here ends the lesson.

The people remain seated as the choir sings.
**NUNC DIMITTIS**

*Mt. St. Alban Service; D. Hogan*

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**

*Officiant* The Lord be with you.

*Choir* And with thy spirit.

*Officiant* Let us pray.

*Choir* Lord, have mercy upon us.

*Choir* Christ, have mercy upon us.

*Choir* Lord, have mercy upon us.
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.

THE SUFFRAGES

R. Ayleward

O Lord, show thy mercy upon us;
And grant us thy salvation.
O Lord, save the State;
And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.
Endue thy ministers with righteousness;
And make thy chosen people joyful.
O Lord, save thy people;
And bless thine inheritance.
Give peace in our time, O Lord;
Because there is none other that fighteth for us, but only thou, O God.
O God, make clean our hearts within us;
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.

O God, the protector of all that trust in thee, without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy: Increase and multiply upon us thy mercy, that, thou being our ruler and guide, we may so pass through things temporal, that we finally lose not the things eternal; 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:

Let us bless the Lord.
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, by scanning the code on the back cover of this leaflet, or by texting the dollar amount you wish to give to 202-856-9005.

ANTHEM

Laudate Nomen

Sung by the choir.

Carlyle Sharpe (b. 1965)

Hallelujah!
Praise the Name of the Lord;
give praise, you servants of the Lord.
You who stand in the house of the Lord,
in the courts of the house of our God.
Praise the Lord, for the Lord is good;
sing praises to his Name, for it is lovely.
For the Lord has chosen Jacob for himself
and Israel for his own possession.
For I know that the Lord is great,
and that our Lord is above all gods.
Bless the Lord, O house of Israel;
O house of Aaron, bless the Lord.
Bless the Lord, O house of Levi;
you who fear the Lord, bless the Lord.
Blessed be the Lord out of Zion,
who dwells in Jerusalem.
Hallelujah!

(Psalm 135:1-5, 19-21)

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 • 614

Christ Is the King!  Sung by all.  Christus Rex

1. Christ is the King! O friends up-raise anthems of joy and holy praise for
2. O Christian wo-men, Chris-tian men, all the world o-ver, seek again the
3. Let Love’s un-con-quer-a ble might your scat-tered com-pa-nies unite in

his brave saints of an-cient days, who with a faith for ev-er new fol-
Way dis-ci-ples fol-lowed then. Christ through all a-ges is the same: place
ser-vice to the Lord of light: so shall God’s will on earth be done, new

lowed the King, and round him drew thou-sands of serv-ants brave and true.
lamps be lit, new tasks be-gun, and the whole Church at last be one.

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

Postlude  André Fleury (1903–1995)
PARTICIPANTS  Officiant: The Reverend Patrick L. Keyser, Priest Associate; Musicians: Church Street United Methodist Church Choir, Knoxville, Tennessee, Tim Ward, Director of Music Ministries, Church Street United Methodist Church, Knoxville, Tennessee, Edie Johnson, Music Associate/Organist, Church Street United Methodist Church, Knoxville, Tennessee, Thomas M. Sheehan, Organist and Associate Director of Music, Rebecca Ehren, Organ Scholar.

FLOWERS  The flowers throughout the Cathedral are given to the glory of God. The High Altar: in loving memory of George Walker Guthrie; in celebration of the marriage of Shanda Cooper and Hans Goff; Children’s Chapel Altar: in memory of Blanche E. Johnson.


All Cathedral worship services are livestreamed via video for our online congregation. By participating in this service you acknowledge that you may be visible on live broadcast or archived video. If you are uncomfortable about the possibility of appearing on video, please see an usher to be reseated in a more private area.
Thank you for joining us in worship.

The work of this Cathedral is made possible entirely through the support of individuals like you. 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 and house of prayer for all people.

All are invited to make a gift to support the Cathedral’s ministry of sharing God’s love as the plate is passed. Gifts may also be made online by scanning the QR code at the left, or by texting the dollar amount you wish to give to 202-856-9005.

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