



# Choral Evensong

The First Sunday in Lent

February 18, 2024 • 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

Psalm-Prelude, Set Two, Number One "De profundis"

Herbert Howells (1892–1983)

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

### HYMN • 142

*Lord, Who throughout These Forty Days*

*Sung by all.*

*St. Flavian*

1. Lord, who through-out these for - ty days for us didst fast and pray,  
 2. As thou with Sa - tan didst con - tend and didst the vic - to ry win,  
 3. As thou didst hun - ger bear and thirst, so teach us, gra - cious Lord,  
 4. And through these days of pen - i - tence, and through thy Pas - sion - tide,  
 5. A - bid with us, that so, this life of suf - fer - ing o - ver - past,

1. teach us with thee to mourn our sins, and close by thee to stay.  
 2. O give us strength in thee to fight, in thee to con - quer sin.  
 3. to die to self, and chief - ly live by thy most ho - ly word.  
 4. yea, ev - er - more, in life and death, Je - sus! with us a - bid.  
 5. an Eas - ter of un - end - ing joy we may at - tain at last!

## THE OPENING SENTENCES FROM HOLY SCRIPTURE

*The people may kneel as able or be seated.*

## CONFESSION OF SIN & 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 officiant offers absolution and the people respond, Amen.*

*The people stand as able.*

## PRECES

Richard Ayleward (1626–1669)

*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.

## PHOS HILARON

plainsong mode 1

*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 • 103:1-12

*Sung by the choir.*

chant: John Barnard (b. 1948)

Bless the Lord, O my soul,  
and all that is within me, bless his holy Name.  
Bless the Lord, O my soul,  
and forget not all his benefits.  
He forgives all your sins  
and heals all your infirmities;  
He redeems your life from the grave  
and crowns you with mercy and loving-kindness;  
He satisfies you with good things,  
and your youth is renewed like an eagle's.  
The Lord executes righteousness  
and judgment for all who are oppressed.  
He made his ways known to Moses  
and his works to the children of Israel.  
The Lord is full of compassion and mercy,  
slow to anger and of great kindness.

He will not always accuse us,  
nor will he keep his anger for ever.  
He has not dealt with us according to our sins,  
nor rewarded us according to our wickedness.  
For as the heavens are high above the earth,  
so is his mercy great upon those who fear him.  
As far as the east is from the west,  
so far has he removed our sins from us.

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

Daniel 9:3-10

I turned to the Lord God, to seek an answer by prayer and supplication with fasting and sackcloth and ashes. I prayed to the Lord my God and made confession, saying, "Ah, Lord, great and awesome God, keeping covenant and steadfast love with those who love you and keep your commandments, we have sinned and done wrong, acted wickedly and rebelled, turning aside from your commandments and ordinances. We have not listened to your servants the prophets, who spoke in your name to our kings, our princes, and our ancestors, and to all the people of the land. Righteousness is on your side, O Lord, but open shame, as at this day, falls on us, the people of Judah, the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and all Israel, those who are near and those who are far away, in all the lands to which you have driven them, because of the treachery that they have committed against you. Open shame, O Lord, falls on us, our kings, our officials, and our ancestors, because we have sinned against you. To the Lord our God belong mercy and forgiveness, for we have rebelled against him, and have not obeyed the voice of the Lord our God by following his laws, which he set before us by his servants the prophets."

Here ends the reading.

*The people remain seated as the choir sings.*

## MAGNIFICAT

Short Evening Service; Thomas Tallis (ca. 1505–1585)

*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)*

Jesus cried aloud: "Whoever believes in me believes not in me but in him who sent me. And whoever sees me sees him who sent me. I have come as light into the world, so that everyone who believes in me should not remain in the darkness. I do not judge anyone who hears my words and does not keep them, for I came not to judge the world, but to save the world. The one who rejects me and does not receive my word has a judge; on the last day the word that I have spoken will serve as judge, for I have not spoken on my own, but the Father who sent me has himself given me a commandment about what to say and what to speak. And I know that his commandment is eternal life. What I speak, therefore, I speak just as the Father has told me."

Here ends the reading.

*The people remain seated as the choir sings.*

## NUNC DIMITTIS

Short Evening Service; T. Tallis

*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.*

*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

R. Ayleward

*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

R. Ayleward

*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 God, whose blessed Son was led by the Spirit to be tempted of Satan: Make speed to help thy servants who are assaulted by manifold temptations; and, as thou knowest their several infirmities, let each one find thee mighty to save; through Jesus Christ thy Son our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for 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.

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

*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, by scanning the QR code on the back of this leaflet, or online at [cathedral.org/give](http://cathedral.org/give).*

## ANTHEM

*Salvator mundi*

*Sung by the choir.*

T. Tallis

*Sung in Latin.*

Savior of the world, save us,  
Who by your cross and blood has redeemed us,  
Help us, we pray, O Lord our God.

*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 GRACE

*Forty Days and Forty Nights*

*Sung by all.*

*Aus der Tiefe rufe ich*

1. For - ty days and for - ty nights thou wast fast - ing in the wild;  
 2. Should not we thy sor - rows share and from world - ly joys ab - stain,  
 3. Then if Sa - tan on us press, Je - sus, Sa - vior, hear our call!  
 4. So shall we have peace di - vine; ho - lier glad - ness ours shall be;  
 5. Keep, O keep us, Sa - vior dear, ev - er con - stant by thy side;

1. for - ty days and for - ty nights tempt - ed, and yet un - de - filed.  
 2. fast - ing with un - ceas - ing prayer, strong with thee to suf - fer pain?  
 3. Vic - tor in the wil - der - ness, grant we may not faint nor fall!  
 4. round us, too, shall an - gels shine, such as min - is - tered to thee.  
 5. that with thee we may ap - pear at the e - ter - nal Eas - ter - tide.

**ORGAN VOLUNTARY**

Preludio e fuga in modo frigio, Op. 1439

Carson Cooman (b. 1982)

**Lent & Easter 2024**

For more information about the schedule of services, musical offerings, and meditations for the season, visit:  
[cathedral.org/lent](http://cathedral.org/lent)

**EASTER FLOWERS**

Gifts for Easter flowers may be made online at:  
[cathedral.org/support/memorial-honor-gifts](http://cathedral.org/support/memorial-honor-gifts)

To be included in the Easter service leaflets, eligible gifts must be received by March 8.

*Thank you for joining us in worship. Please know that your participation with us today has been a blessing.*

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. • By scanning the QR code at the left. • Online at [cathedral.org/give](http://cathedral.org/give).

By texting the dollar amount you wish to give to 202-856-9005.

*Thank you for your generosity.*

## ORGAN RENOVATION PROJECT

From January through March, the Cathedral will be under active construction as part of the Organ Renovation Project. The High Altar, Great Choir, and St. John's Chapel will be closed and inaccessible due to scaffolding installed during this period. The Cathedral remains open for Sunday Eucharist, weekday services, and programming throughout the project. Please check [www.cathedral.org](http://www.cathedral.org) for the most up-to-date information about service and program locations. Learn more about the Organ Renovation at [www.cathedral.org/organ](http://www.cathedral.org/organ).

**PARTICIPANTS** Officiant: The Reverend Spencer W. Brown, Priest Associate; Musicians: The Boys Cathedral Choir, Canon Michael McCarthy, Canon for Music and Director of Institutional Planning, Thomas M. Sheehan, Organist and Associate Director of Music, Julie DeBoer, Chorister Program Director and Associate Director of Music.

**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 and honored in the Easter service leaflet.

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