



Choral Evensong

The Fourth Sunday of Easter

April 21, 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.

1 ORGAN VOLUNTARY

St. Columba

Kenneth Leighton (1929–1988)

The people stand as able as the procession enters.

Entrance procession from mid nave on voluntary

2 **Officiant**

3

*O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing**Sung by all.**Azmon*

1. O for a thou - sand tongues to sing my dear Re - deem - er's praise,
 2. My gra - cious Mas - ter and my God, as - sist me to pro - claim
 3. Je - sus! the Name that charms our fears and bids our sor - rows cease;
 4. He speaks; and, lis - tening to his voice, new life the dead re - ceive,
 5. Hear him, ye deaf: ye voice - less ones, your loos - ened tongues em - ploy;

1. the glo - ries of my God and King, the tri - umphs of his grace!
 2. and spread through all the earth a - broad the hon - ors of thy Name.
 3. 'tis mu - sic in the sin - ner's ears, 'tis life and health and peace.
 4. the mourn - ful bro - ken hearts re - joice, the hum - ble poor be - lieve.
 5. ye blind, be - hold, your Sa - vior comes; and leap, ye lame, for joy!

6. Glory to God and praise and love
 be now and ever giv'en
 by saints below and saints above,
 the Church in earth and heav'en.

THE OPENING SENTENCES FROM HOLY SCRIPTURE

Officiant + Choir

PRECES

Stephen Caracciolo (b. 1962)

4

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.
Officiant Praise ye the Lord.
Choir The Lord's name be praised.

The candles are lighted as the choir sings.

5

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.

Focus on acolytes lighting candelabra

The people are seated.

6

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 Lord said to Moses, “Bring near to you your brother Aaron, and his sons with him, from among the Israelites, to serve me as priests—Aaron and Aaron’s sons, Nadab and Abihu, Eleazar and Ithamar. You shall make sacred vestments for the glorious adornment of your brother Aaron. And you shall speak to all who have ability, whom I have endowed with skill, that they make Aaron’s vestments to consecrate him for my priesthood. These are the vestments that they shall make: a breastpiece, an ephod, a robe, a checkered tunic, a turban, and a sash. They shall make these sacred vestments for your brother Aaron and his sons to serve me as priests. In the breastpiece of judgment you shall put the Urim and the Thummim, and they shall be on Aaron’s heart when he goes in before the Lord; thus Aaron shall bear the judgment of the Israelites on his heart before the Lord continually. You shall make the robe of the ephod all of blue. It shall have an opening for the head in the middle of it, with a woven binding around the opening, like the opening in a coat of mail, so that it may not be torn. On its lower hem you shall make pomegranates of blue, purple, and crimson yarns, all around the lower hem, with bells of gold between them all around—a golden bell and a pomegranate alternating all around the lower hem of the robe. Aaron shall wear it when he ministers, and its sound shall be heard when he goes into the holy place before the Lord, and when he comes out, so that he may not die. You shall make a rosette of pure gold, and engrave on it, like the engraving of a signet, ‘Holy to the Lord.’ You shall fasten it on the turban with a blue cord; it shall be on the front of the turban. It shall be on Aaron’s forehead, and Aaron shall take on himself any guilt incurred in the holy offering that the Israelites consecrate as their sacred donations; it shall always be on his forehead, in order that they may find favor before the Lord.”

Here ends the reading.

The people remain seated as the choir sings.

MAGNIFICAT **Choir**

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

8 *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)

9

The apostles gathered around Jesus, and told him all that they had done and taught. He said to them, "Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest a while." For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat. And they went away in the boat to a deserted place by themselves. Now many saw them going and recognized them, and they hurried there on foot from all the towns and arrived ahead of them. As he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd; and he began to teach them many things. When it grew late, his disciples came to him and said, "This is a deserted place, and the hour is now very late; send them away so that they may go into the surrounding country and villages and buy something for themselves to eat." But he answered them, "You give them something to eat." They said to him, "Are we to go and buy two hundred denarii worth of bread, and give it to them to eat?" And he said to them, "How many loaves have you? Go and see." When they had found out, they said, "Five, and two fish." Then he ordered them to get all the people to sit down in groups on the green grass. So they sat down in groups of hundreds and of fifties. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to his disciples to set before the people; and he divided the two fish among them all. And all ate and were filled; and they took up twelve baskets full of broken pieces and of the fish. Those who had eaten the loaves numbered five thousand men.

Here ends the reading.

The people remain seated as the choir sings.

10

NUNC DIMITTIS

Choir

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. **Said by all; led by officiant**

11 *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 + Choir

S. Caracciolo

12 *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.

13 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

14

Officiant + Choir

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

Officiant + Choir

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

O God, whose Son Jesus is the good shepherd of thy people: Grant that when we hear his voice we may know him who calleth us each by name, and follow where he doth lead; who, with thee and the Holy Spirit, liveth and reigneth, 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.

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.

15

16

ANTHEM

Choir

My Beloved Spake

Sung by the choir.

Patrick Hadley (1899–1973)

My beloved spake, and said unto me, Rise up, my love, my fair one, and come away.
For, lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone;
The flowers appear on the earth; the time of the singing of birds is come, and the voice of the turtle is heard in our land;
The fig tree putteth forth her green figs, and the vines with the tender grape give a good smell. Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away.

(Song of Solomon 2:10-13)

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.

17

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.

Said by all; led by Officiant

THE BLESSING

Officiant

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

18

*Thine Arm, O Lord, in Days of Old**Sung by all.**St. Matthew*

1. Thine arm, O Lord, in days of old was strong to heal and save;
 2. And lo! thy touch brought life and health, gave hear - ing, strength, and sight;
 3. Be thou our great de - liv - erer still, thou Lord of life and death;

it tri - umphed o'er dis - ease and death, o'er dark - ness and the grave.
 and youth re - newed and fren - zy calmed owned thee, the Lord of light:
 re - store and quick - en, soothe and bless, with thine al - might - y breath:

To thee they went, the blind, the deaf, the pal - sied, and the lame,
 and now, O Lord, be near to bless, al - might - y as of yore,
 to hands that work and eyes that see, give wis - dom's heaven - ly lore,

the lep - er set a - part and shunned, the sick with fe - vered frame.
 in crowd - ed street, by rest - less couch, as by Gen - nes - ar - et's shore.
 that whole and sick, and weak and strong, may praise thee ev - er - more.

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

19

Paeon

K. Leighton

Retiring procession on voluntary

20 21

PARTICIPANTS Officiant: The Reverend Spencer W. Brown, Priest Associate; Musicians: The Boys Cathedral Choir, The Cathedral Contemporary Ensemble, 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 The flowers throughout the Cathedral are given to the glory of God. The High Altar: in memory of Campbell and Jeanette Plugge; St. Mary's Chapel Altar: in honor of Brodie and Anjie Williams (Jase, Keegan, and Sophie) and Robert and Sara Williams (Kathryn); Holy Spirit Chapel Altar: in memory of Marjorie Fisher Stekl; Children's Chapel Altar: in memory of Jeremy Pobor; Bethlehem Chapel Altar: in memory of Mrs. H. Duke Shackelford; Prince Tomb Crypt: in commemoration of the creation of the Lafayette Escadrille.

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ORGAN RENOVATION PROJECT The Cathedral is under active construction as part of the Organ Renovation Project, and St. John's Chapel is currently closed and inaccessible. Learn more about the Organ Renovation at www.cathedral.org/organ.

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

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All are invited to make a gift to support the Cathedral's ministry of sharing God's love.

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

Thank you for your generosity.