



# Choral Evensong

The Twenty-Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

November 17, 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

"Ostinato" from Suite in Three Movements

David Hurd (b. 1950)

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

### HYMN • 488

*Be Thou My Vision*

*Sung by all.*

*Slane*

1. Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart; all else be  
 2. Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word; I ev - er  
 3. High King of hea - ven, when vic - tory is won, may I reach

nought to me, save that thou art - thou my best thought, by  
 with thee and thou with me, Lord; thou my great Fa - ther; thine  
 hea - ven's joys, bright hea - ven's Sun! Heart of my heart, what -

day or by night, wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.  
 own may I be; thou in me dwell - ing, and I one with thee.  
 ev - er be - fall, still be my vi - sion, O Ru - ler of all.

### THE OPENING SENTENCES FROM HOLY SCRIPTURE

PRECES

Gary Davison (b. 1961)

*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

Stephen Caracciolo (b. 1962)

*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 • 46

*Sung by the choir.*

chant: after Martin Luther (1483–1546)

God is our refuge and strength,  
a very present help in trouble.  
Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved,  
and though the mountains be toppled into the depths of the sea;  
Though its waters rage and foam,  
and though the mountains tremble at its tumult.  
The Lord of hosts is with us;  
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.  
There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,  
the holy habitation of the Most High.  
God is in the midst of her;  
she shall not be overthrown;  
God shall help her at the break of day.  
The nations make much ado, and the kingdoms are shaken;  
God has spoken, and the earth shall melt away.  
The Lord of hosts is with us;  
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.  
Come now and look upon the works of the Lord,  
what awesome things he has done on earth.

It is he who makes war to cease in all the world;  
he breaks the bow, and shatters the spear,  
and burns the shields with fire.

“Be still, then, and know that I am God;  
I will be exalted among the nations;  
I will be exalted in the earth.”

The Lord of hosts is with us;  
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

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

Habakkuk 1:1–2:1

The oracle that the prophet Habakkuk saw. O Lord, how long shall I cry for help, and you will not listen? Or cry to you “Violence!” and you will not save? Why do you make me see wrong-doing and look at trouble? Destruction and violence are before me; strife and contention arise. So the law becomes slack and justice never prevails. The wicked surround the righteous— therefore judgment comes forth perverted. Look at the nations, and see! Be astonished! Be astounded! For a work is being done in your days that you would not believe if you were told. For I am rousing the Chaldeans, that fierce and impetuous nation, who march through the breadth of the earth to seize dwellings not their own. Dread and fearsome are they; their justice and dignity proceed from themselves. Their horses are swifter than leopards, more menacing than wolves at dusk; their horses charge. Their horsemen come from far away; they fly like an eagle swift to devour. They all come for violence, with faces pressing forward; they gather captives like sand. At kings they scoff, and of rulers they make sport. They laugh at every fortress, and heap up earth to take it. Then they sweep by like the wind; they transgress and become guilty; their own might is their god! Are you not from of old, O Lord my God, my Holy One? You shall not die. O Lord, you have marked them for judgment; and you, O Rock, have established them for punishment. Your eyes are too pure to behold evil, and you cannot look on wrongdoing; why do you look on the treacherous, and are silent when the wicked swallow those more righteous than they? You have made people like the fish of the sea, like crawling things that have no ruler. The enemy brings all of them up with a hook; he drags them out with his net, he gathers them in his seine; so he rejoices and exults. Therefore he sacrifices to his net and makes offerings to his seine; for by them his portion is lavish, and his food is rich. Is he then to keep on emptying his net, and destroying nations without mercy? I will stand at my watchpost, and station myself on the rampart; I will keep watch to see what he will say to me, and what he will answer concerning my complaint.

Here ends the reading.

*The people remain seated as the choir sings.*

## MAGNIFICAT

*St. Thomas Service; Trevor Weston (b. 1967)*

*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

Matthew 23:13-24

Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples, "But woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you lock people out of the kingdom of heaven. For you do not go in yourselves, and when others are going in, you stop them. Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you cross sea and land to make a single convert, and you make the new convert twice as much a child of hell as yourselves. Woe to you, blind guides, who say, 'Whoever swears by the sanctuary is bound by nothing, but whoever swears by the gold of the sanctuary is bound by the oath.' You blind fools! For which is greater, the gold or the sanctuary that has made the gold sacred? And you say, 'Whoever swears by the altar is bound by nothing, but whoever swears by the gift that is on the altar is bound by the oath.' How blind you are! For which is greater, the gift or the altar that makes the gift sacred? So whoever swears by the altar, swears by it and by everything on it; and whoever swears by the sanctuary, swears by it and by the one who dwells in it; and whoever swears by heaven, swears by the throne of God and by the one who is seated upon it. Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint, dill, and cummin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faith. It is these you ought to have practiced without neglecting the others. You blind guides! You strain out a gnat but swallow a camel!"

Here ends the reading.

*The people remain seated as the choir sings.*

NUNC DIMITTIS

*St. Thomas Service; T. Weston*

*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. Davison

*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. Davison

*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.*

Blessed Lord, who hast caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant that we may in such wise hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them; that, by patience and comfort of thy holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which thou hast given us in our Savior Jesus Christ; 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.

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

*Abendlied*, Op. 69, No. 3

*Sung by the choir.*

Josef Rheinberger (1839–1901)

*Sung in German.*

Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.

*(Luke 24:29b)*

*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.*

1. O God of ev - ery na - tion, of ev - ery race and land,  
 2. From search for wealth and pow - er and scorn of truth and right,  
 3. Lord, strength - en all who la - bor that we may find re - lease  
 4. Keep bright in us the vi - sion of days when war shall cease,

re - deem the whole cre - a - tion with your al - might - y hand;  
 from trust in bombs that show - er de - struc - tion through the night;  
 from fear of rat - tling sa - ber, from dread of war's in - crease;  
 when ha - tred and di - vi - sion give way to love and peace,

where hate and fear di - vide us and bit - ter threats are hurled,  
 from pride of race and na - tion and blind - ness to your way,  
 when hope and cou - rage fal - ter, your still small voice be heard;  
 till dawns the morn - ing glo - rious when truth and jus - tice reign

in love and mer - cy guide us and heal our strife - torn world.  
 de - liv - er ev - ery na - tion, e - ter - nal God, we pray.  
 with faith that none can al - ter, your ser - vants un - der - gird.  
 and Christ shall rule vic - to - rious o'er all the world's do - main.



ORGAN VOLUNTARY

“Scherzo” from Suite in Three Movements

D. Hurd

**PARTICIPANTS** Officiant: The Reverend Patrick L. Keyser, Associate Priest for Worship; Musicians: The Girls Cathedral Choir, Thomas M. Sheehan, Organist and Interim Director of Music, Ariana Corbin, Organ Scholar.

**FLOWERS** The flowers throughout the Cathedral are given to the glory of God. The High Altar: in memory of Harry Lee Rust; Holy Spirit Chapel Altar: in memory and honor of the Davis and Capers families; Children's Chapel Altar: in thanksgiving for the life of Philip Hubert Frohman; Bethlehem Chapel Altar: in loving memory of David Edwards Varner.

*Those wishing to make flower gifts for Christmas  
are invited to submit their gifts by December 1 to the Altar Guild.*

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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.

**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](http://www.cathedral.org/organ).



*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](https://cathedral.org/give).

*Thank you for your generosity.*