



Choral Evensong

The Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany

February 16, 2025 • 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

Prelude and Fugue in D minor, Op. 16 No. 3

Clara Schumann (1819–1896)

The people stand as able as the procession enters.

HYMN • 36

O Gladsome Light

Sung by all.

Le Cantique de Siméon

1. O glad-some Light, O grace of God the Fa-ther's face, the e - ter - nal splen-dor wear - ing;
 2. Now, ere day fad - eth quite, we see the eve-ning light, our wont-ed hymn out-pour - ing;
 3. To thee of right be - longs all praise of ho - ly songs, O Son of God, Life-giv - er;

ce - les - tial, ho - ly, blest, our Sa - vior Je - sus Christ, joy - ful in thine ap-pear - ing.
 Fa - ther of might un-known, thee, his in - car-nate Son, and Ho - ly Spir it a - dor - ing.
 thee, there-fore, O Most High, the world doth glo - ri - fy, and shall ex - alt for ev - er.

THE OPENING SENTENCES FROM HOLY SCRIPTURE

PRECES

Stephen Caracciolo (b. 1962)

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.

PHOS HILARON

Matthew Glandorf (b. 1972)

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 Gladsome light, O grace
Of our Creator's face,
The eternal splendor wearing;
Celestial, holy, blest,
Our Savior, Jesus Christ,
Joyful in your appearing.
As fades the day's last light,
We see the lamps of night,
Our common hymn outpouring;
O God of might unknown,
You, the incarnate Son,
And Spirit, blest adoring.
To you of right belongs
All praise of holy songs,
O Son of God, life-giver;
You, therefore, O Most High,
The world does glorify
And shall exalt forever.

(3rd cent. Greek; paraphrase Robert S. Bridges, 1844–1930)

The people are seated.

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

Isaiah 62:6-12

Upon your walls, O Jerusalem, I have posted sentinels; all day and all night they shall never be silent. You who remind the Lord, take no rest, and give him no rest until he establishes Jerusalem and makes it renowned throughout the earth. The Lord has sworn by his right hand and by his mighty arm: “I will not again give your grain to be food for your enemies, and foreigners shall not drink the wine for which you have labored; but those who garner it shall eat it and praise the Lord, and those who gather it shall drink it in my holy courts.” Go through, go through the gates, prepare the way for the people; build up, build up the highway, clear it of stones, lift up an ensign over the peoples. The Lord has proclaimed to the end of the earth: Say to daughter Zion, “See, your salvation comes; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him.” They shall be called, “The Holy People, The Redeemed of the Lord”; and you shall be called, “Sought Out, A City Not Forsaken.”

Here ends the reading.

The people remain seated as the choir sings.

MAGNIFICAT

Evening Service in C major, Op. 115; Charles V. Stanford (1852–1924)

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

John 8:12-19

Jesus spoke to the scribes and Pharisees, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life." Then the Pharisees said to him, "You are testifying on your own behalf; your testimony is not valid." Jesus answered, "Even if I testify on my own behalf, my testimony is valid because I know where I have come from and where I am going, but you do not know where I come from or where I am going. You judge by human standards; I judge no one. Yet even if I do judge, my judgment is valid; for it is not I alone who judge, but I and the Father who sent me. In your law it is written that the testimony of two witnesses is valid. I testify on my own behalf, and the Father who sent me testifies on my behalf." Then they said to him, "Where is your Father?" Jesus answered, "You know neither me nor my Father. If you knew me, you would know my Father also."

Here ends the reading.

The people remain seated as the choir sings.

NUNC DIMITTIS

Evening Service in C major, Op. 115; C. V. Stanford

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

S. Caracciolo

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

S. Caracciolo

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.

O God, the strength of all who put their trust in thee: Mercifully accept our prayers; and because through the weakness of our mortal nature, we can do no good thing without thee, grant us the help of thy grace, that in keeping thy commandments we may please thee both in will and deed; 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.

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.

ANTHEM

O Most Merciful!

Sung by the choir.

Ernest Bullock (1890–1979)

O most merciful! O most bountiful!
God, the Father Almighty!
By the Redeemer's sweet intercession,
Hear us, help us, when we cry.

(Reginald Heber, 1783–1826)

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 • 678

Surely It Is God Who Saves Me

Sung by all.

College of Preachers



1. Sure - ly it is God who saves me; trust - ing him, I shall not fear.
2. Make his deeds known to the peo - ples; tell out his ex - alt - ed Name.



For the Lord de - fends and shields me and his sav - ing help is near.
Praise the Lord, who has done great things; all his works his might pro - claim.



So re - joice as you draw wa - ter from sal - va - tion's liv - ing spring;
Zi - on, lift your voice in sing - ing; for with you has come to dwell,



in the day of your de - liv - erance thank the Lord, his mer - cies sing.
in your ve - ry midst, the great and Ho - ly One of Is - ra - el.

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

Tocccata in D minor

C. V. Stanford

PARTICIPANTS Officiant: The Reverend Dr. Olivia P. L. Hilton; Musicians: The Boys Cathedral Choir, The Cathedral Choir of the Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine, New York, New York, Thomas M. Sheehan, Organist and Interim Director of Music, Julie DeBoer, Chorister Program Director and Associate Director of Music, Ariana Corbin, Organ Scholar, Bryan Zaros, Associate Director of Music and Choirmaster, The Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine, New York, New York.

FLOWERS The flowers throughout the Cathedral are given to the glory of God. The High Altar: in memory of Paul H. Kea; Children's Chapel: in memory of Virginia McVey Morris; Bethlehem Chapel Altar: in honor of the anniversary of Sarah Farmer Wall and John Edgar Wall, Jr.

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. *Phos hilaron*, psalm, canticles, suffrages, prayers, creed, collects, and thanksgiving taken from the Book of Common Prayer, 1979. Public domain. *O Gladsome Light*. Text: Greek, 3rd century; tr. Robert S. Bridges (1844–1930); para. of *O Gracious Light*. Music: *Le Cantique de Simeón*. Melody: Louis Bourgeois (ca. 1510–ca. 1561); harmony: Claude Goudimel (1514–1572). Public domain. *Surely It Is God Who Saves Me*. Text: Carl. P. Daw, Jr. (b. 1944); para. of *The First Song of Isaiah*. Copyright 1990, Hope Publishing Company. Reprinted under One License #A-709283. Music: *College of Preachers*. Arthur Rhea (1919–2016), Copyright 1985, Church Publishing Incorporated. Reprinted under One License #A-709283.

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.

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.

Thank you for your generosity.