



Choral Evensong

The First Sunday in Lent

March 9, 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

Vexilla regis

Raymond Weidner (b. 1949)

The people stand as able as the procession enters.

HYMN • 414 (STANZAS 1-3, 6)

God, My King, Thy Might Confessing

Sung by all.

Stuttgart

1. God, my King, thy might confessing, ever will I bless thy Name;
 2. Hon - or great our God be - fit - teth; who his ma - jes - ty can reach?
 3. They shall talk of all thy glo - ry, on thy might and great - ness dwell,
 6. All thy works, O Lord, shall bless thee; thee shall all thy saints a - dore;

day by day thy throne address - ing, still will I thy praise pro - claim.
 Age to age his works trans - mit - teth, age to age his power shall teach.
 speak of thy dread acts the sto - ry, and thy deeds of won - der tell.
 King su - preme shall they confess thee, and pro - claim thy sov - ereign power.

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

William Smith (ca. 1603–1645)

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 candles are lighted as the choir sings.

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

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.
As a father cares for his children,
so does the Lord care for those who fear him.
For he himself knows whereof we are made;
he remembers that we are but dust.
Our days are like the grass;
we flourish like a flower of the field;
When the wind goes over it, it is gone,
and its place shall know it no more.
But the merciful goodness of the Lord endures for ever on those who fear him,
and his righteousness on children's children;
On those who keep his covenant
and remember his commandments and do them.
The Lord has set his throne in heaven,
and his kingship has dominion over all.
Bless the Lord, you angels of his,
you mighty ones who do his bidding,
and hearken to the voice of his word.
Bless the Lord, all you his hosts,
you ministers of his who do his will.
Bless the Lord, all you works of his,
in all places of his dominion;
bless the Lord, O my soul.
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

Deuteronomy 8:1-10

Moses summoned all Israel, and said to them, "This entire commandment that I command you today you must diligently observe, so that you may live and increase, and go in and occupy the land that the Lord promised on oath to your ancestors. Remember the long way that the Lord your God has led you these forty years in the wilderness, in order to humble you, testing you to know what was in your heart, whether or not you would keep his commandments. He humbled you by letting you hunger, then by feeding you with manna, with which neither you nor your ancestors were acquainted, in order to make you understand that one does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord. The clothes on your back did not wear out and your feet did not swell these forty years. Know then in your heart that as a parent disciplines a child so the Lord your God disciplines you. Therefore keep the commandments of the Lord your God, by walking in his ways and by fearing him. For the Lord your God is bringing you into a good land, a land with flowing streams, with springs and underground waters welling up in valleys and hills, a land of wheat and barley, of vines and fig trees and pomegranates, a land of olive trees and honey, a land where you may eat bread without scarcity, where you will lack nothing, a land whose stones are iron and from whose hills you may mine copper. You shall eat your fill and bless the Lord your God for the good land that he has given you."

Here ends the reading.

The people remain seated as the choir sings.

MAGNIFICAT

Huntsville Evening Service; Philip Moore (b. 1943)

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

Mark 2:18-22

John's disciples and the Pharisees were fasting; and people came and said to Jesus, "Why do John's disciples and the disciples of the Pharisees fast, but your disciples do not fast?" Jesus said to them, "The wedding guests cannot fast while the bridegroom is with them, can they? As long as they have the bridegroom with them, they cannot fast. The days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast on that day. No one sews a piece of unshrunk cloth on an old cloak; otherwise, the patch pulls away from it, the new from the old, and a worse tear is made. And no one puts new wine into old wineskins; otherwise, the wine will burst the skins, and the wine is lost, and so are the skins; but one puts new wine into fresh wineskins."

Here ends the reading.

The people remain seated as the choir sings.

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

W. Smith

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

W. Smith

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.

ANTHEM

Bring Us, O Lord

Sung by the choir.

William Henry Harris (1883–1973)

Bring us, O Lord God, at our last awakening into the house and gate of heaven, to enter into that gate and dwell in that house, where there shall be no darkness nor dazzling but one equal light, no noise nor silence, but one equal music, no fears nor hopes but one equal possession, no ends nor beginnings, but one equal eternity, in the habitation of thy glory and dominion, world without end. Amen.

(From A Sermon Preached at White-hall, February 29, 1628; John Donne, 1572–1631)

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

HYMN • 709

O God of Bethel, by Whose Hand

Sung by all.

Dundee

1. O God of Beth - el, by whose hand thy peo - ple still are fed;
2. Our vows, our prayers, we now pre - sent be - fore thy throne of grace;
3. Through each per - plex - ing path of life our wan - dering foot - steps guide;
4. O spread thy shel - ter ing wings a - round, till all our wan - derings cease,
5. Such bless - ings from thy gra - cious hand our hum - ble prayers im - plore;

1. who through this earth - ly pil - grim - age hast all thine Is - rael led:
2. O God of Is - rael, be the God of this suc - ceed - ing race.
3. give us each day our dai - ly bread, and rai - ment fit pro - vide.
4. and at our Fa - ther's loved a - bode our souls ar - rive in peace!
5. and thou shalt be our cov - enant God and por - tion ev - er - more.

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

Aus tiefer Not schrei' ich zu dir, BWV 686

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)

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.

EASTER FLOWERS

Gifts for Easter flowers may be made online at:
cathedral.org/support/memorial-honor-gifts

To be included in the Easter service leaflets, eligible gifts must be received by March 30.

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, Julie DeBoer, Chorister Program Director and Associate Director of Music, Ariana Corbin, Organ Scholar.

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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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.

