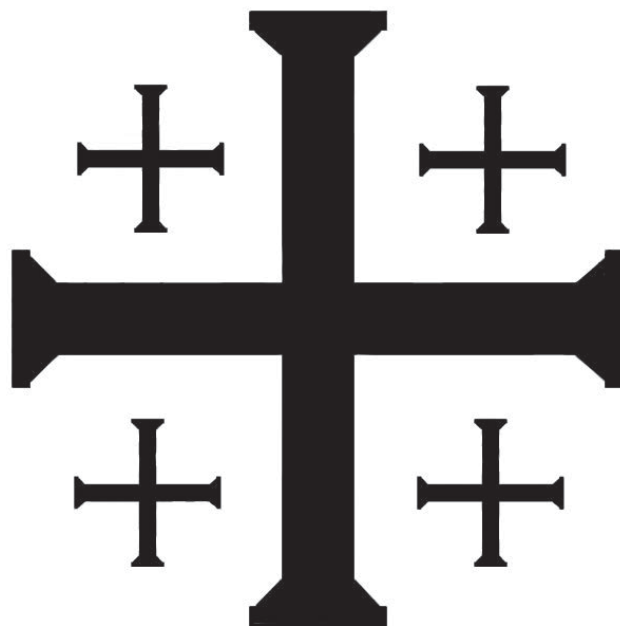


CHORAL EVENSONG

The Sunday of the Passion:
Palm Sunday



April 13, 2025

4:00 PM

WASHINGTON NATIONAL CATHEDRAL

PALM SUNDAY

Today marks the beginning of Holy Week. From early times Christians have observed the week before Easter as a time of special devotion. From this beginning evolved the rites we observe today. Holy Week will culminate in the Triduum—the Sacred Three Days of Mandy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday, commemorating Jesus' suffering, death, and resurrection.



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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 on *Rockingham*

Healey Willan (1880–1968)

The people stand as able as the procession enters.

HYMN • 158

Ah, Holy Jesus

Sung by all.

Herzliebster Jesu

1. Ah, ho - ly Je - sus, how hast thou of - fend - ed, that man to
 2. Who was the guilt - y? Who brought this up - on thee? A - las, my
 3. Lo, the Good Shep - herd for the sheep is of - fered; the slave hath
 4. For me, kind Je - sus, was thy in - car - na - tion, thy mor - tal
 5. There - fore, kind Je - sus, since I can - not pay thee, I do a -
 judge thee hath in hate pre - tend - ed? By foes de - rid - ed,
 trea - son, Je - sus, hath un - done thee. 'Twas I, Lord Je - sus,
 sin - ned, and the Son hath suf - fered; for our a - tone - ment,
 sor - row, and thy life's ob - la - tion; thy death of an - guish
 dore thee, and will ev - er pray thee, think on thy pi - ty
 by thine own re - ject - ed, O most af - flict - ed.
 I it was de - nied - thee: I cru - ci - fied - thee.
 while we noth - ing heed - ed, God in - ter - ced - ed.
 and thy bit - ter pas - sion, for my sal - va - tion.
 and thy love un - swerv - ing, not my de - serv - ing.

THE OPENING SENTENCES FROM HOLY SCRIPTURE

All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all. *Isaiah 53:6*

Christ Jesus, being found in human form, humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even death on a cross. *Philippians 2:8*

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

Ferial

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

plainsong mode I

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.

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.

Thus says the Lord, "On that day I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem. And I will pour out a spirit of compassion and supplication on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, so that, when they look on the one whom they have pierced, they shall mourn for him, as one mourns for an only child, and weep bitterly over him, as one weeps over a firstborn. On that day the mourning in Jerusalem will be as great as the mourning for Hadadrimmon in the plain of Megiddo. On that day a fountain shall be opened for the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, to cleanse them from sin and impurity." "Awake, O sword, against my shepherd, against the man who is my associate," says the Lord of hosts. "Strike the shepherd, that the sheep may be scattered; I will turn my hand against the little ones. In the whole land, says the Lord, two-thirds shall be cut off and perish, and one-third shall be left alive. And I will put this third into the fire, refine them as one refines silver, and test them as gold is tested. They will call on my name, and I will answer them. I will say, 'They are my people'; and they will say, 'The Lord is our God.'"

Here ends the reading.

The people remain seated as the choir sings.

MAGNIFICAT

Evening Service; plainsong

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.

Antiphon: The people go forth with palms and flowers to meet the Redeemer, and render him the homage worth of a Conqueror: as Son of the Highest the Gentiles acclaim him; and in Christ's honor resoundeth through the heavens: Hosanna!

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 entered the temple and drove out all who were selling and buying in the temple, and he overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who sold doves. He said to them, "It is written, 'My house shall be called a house of prayer'; but you are making it a den of robbers." The blind and the lame came to him in the temple, and he cured them. But when the chief priests and the scribes saw the amazing things that he did, and heard the children crying out in the temple, "Hosanna to the Son of David," they became angry and said to him, "Do you hear what these are saying?" Jesus said to them, "Yes; have you never read, 'Out of the mouths of infants and nursing babies you have prepared praise for yourself'?" He left them, went out of the city to Bethany, and spent the night there.

Here ends the reading.

The people remain seated as the choir sings.

NUNC DIMITTIS

Evening Service; plainsong

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

Ferial

Officiant The Lord be with you.
Choir And with thy spirit.
Officiant Let us pray.
Lord, have mercy upon us.
Choir Christ, have mercy upon us.
Officiant 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

Ferial

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 and everlasting God, who, of thy tender love towards mankind, hast sent thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ to take upon him our flesh, and to suffer death upon the cross, that all mankind should follow the example of his great humility: Mercifully grant that we may both follow the example of his patience, and also be made partakers of his resurrection; through the same 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 and Father of all, whom the whole heavens adore: Let the whole earth also worship thee, all nations obey thee, all tongues confess and bless thee, and men and women everywhere love thee and serve thee in peace; 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

"Hymn" from *Crucifixus pro nobis*

Sung by the choir.

Kenneth Leighton (1929–1988)

Drop, drop, slow tears,
And bathe those beauteous feet
Which brought from Heaven
The news and Prince of Peace:
Cease not, wet eyes,
His mercy to entreat;
To cry for vengeance
Sin doth never cease.
In your deep floods
Drown all my faults and fears;
Nor let His eye
See sin, but through my tears.

(A Litany; *Phineas Fletcher, 1582–1650*)

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 • 167

There Is a Green Hill Far Away

Sung by all.

Horsley



1. There is a green hill far a - way, out - side a ci - ty wall,
 2. We may not know, we can - not tell, what pains he had to bear,
 3. He died that we might be for - given, he died to make us good,
 4. There was no o - ther good e - nough to pay the price of sin,
 5. O dear - ly, dear - ly has he loved! And we must love him too,



where our dear Lord was cru - ci - fied who died to save us all.
 but we be - lieve it was for us he hung and suf - fered there.
 that we might go at last to heaven, saved by his pre - cious blood.
 he on - ly could un - lock the gate of heaven and let us in.
 and trust in his re - deem - ing blood, and try his works to do.

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

Improvisation on *Horsley*

HOLY WEEK & EASTER DAY 2025

SUNDAY, APRIL 13: THE SUNDAY OF THE PASSION: PALM SUNDAY

The Solemn Holy Eucharist with the Liturgy of the Palms • 8:00 AM and 11:15 AM (nave + live webcast)
Choral Evensong • 4:00 PM (Great Choir + live webcast)

MONDAY, APRIL 14: MONDAY IN HOLY WEEK

Holy Eucharist • NOON
Choral Evensong • 5:00 PM

TUESDAY, APRIL 15: TUESDAY IN HOLY WEEK

Holy Eucharist with Renewal of Vows and Blessing of Chrism • NOON
Choral Evensong • 5:00 PM

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 16: WEDNESDAY IN HOLY WEEK

Holy Eucharist • NOON

THURSDAY, APRIL 17: MAUNDY THURSDAY

The Solemn Liturgy of Maundy Thursday • 7:00 PM (Great Choir + live webcast)
Watch with the Reserved Sacrament • 9:00 PM–midnight (War Memorial Chapel + live webcast)

FRIDAY, APRIL 18: GOOD FRIDAY

Morning Prayer in the Presence of the Reserved Sacrament • 10:00 AM
Rite of Reconciliation (Confession) • 10:00–11:30 AM and 2:00–6:30 PM
The Solemn Liturgy of Good Friday • NOON (nave + live webcast)
Good Friday Evening Service • 7:00 PM (nave + live webcast)

SATURDAY, APRIL 19: EASTER EVE

The Great Vigil of Easter • 8:00 PM (nave + live webcast)

SUNDAY, APRIL 20: THE SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION: EASTER DAY

The Festival Holy Eucharist • 8:00 AM and 11:15 AM (nave + live webcast) **passes required**
Organ Recital • 2:00 PM (nave + live webcast)
Choral Evensong • 4:00 PM (Great Choir + live webcast)

For a full listing of special services and events for Holy Week and Easter:
cathedral.org/easter

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.

PARTICIPANTS Officiant: The Reverend Spencer W. Brown, Priest Associate; Musicians: The Cathedral Choir, Thomas M. Sheehan, Organist and Interim Director of Music, Ariana Corbin, Organ Scholar; Readers: Daniel Weatherholt, Keeva P. Harmon.

FLOWERS The palms throughout the Cathedral are given to the glory of God and in thanksgiving for the Cathedral sextons.

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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.