

## A Proclamation

By the President of the United States of America, a Proclamation.

Whereas it is the duty of all Nations to acknowledge the providence of Almighty God, to obey his will, to be grateful for his benefits, and humbly to implore his protection and favor—and whereas both Houses of Congress have by their joint Committee requested me to recommend to the People of the United States a day of public thanksgiving and prayer to be observed by acknowledging with grateful hearts the many signal favors of Almighty God especially by affording them an opportunity peaceably to establish a form of government for their safety and happiness.

Now therefore I do recommend and assign Thursday the 26th day of November next to be devoted by the People of these States to the service of that great and glorious Being, who is the beneficent Author of all the good that was, that is, or that will be—That we may then all unite in rendering unto him our sincere and humble thanks—for his kind care and protection of the People of this Country previous to their becoming a Nation—for the signal and manifold mercies, and the favorable interpositions of his Providence which we experienced in the course and conclusion of the late war—for the great degree of tranquility, union, and plenty, which we have since enjoyed—for the peaceable and rational manner, in which we have been enabled to establish constitutions of government for our safety and happiness, and particularly the national One now lately instituted—for the civil and religious liberty with which we are blessed; and the means we have of acquiring and diffusing useful knowledge; and in general for all the great and various favors which he hath been pleased to confer upon us.

And also that we may then unite in most humbly offering our prayers and supplications to the great Lord and Ruler of Nations and beseech him to pardon our national and other transgressions—to enable us all, whether in public or private stations, to perform our several and relative duties properly and punctually—to render our national government a blessing to all the people, by constantly being a Government of wise, just, and constitutional laws, discreetly and faithfully executed and obeyed—to protect and guide all Sovereigns and Nations (especially such as have shewn kindness unto us) and to bless them with good government, peace, and concord—To promote the knowledge and practice of true religion and virtue, and the encrease of science among them and us—and generally to grant unto all Mankind such a degree of temporal prosperity as he alone knows to be best.

Given under my hand at the City of New York the third day of October in the year of our Lord 1789.

George Washington

# NATIONAL THANKSGIVING DAY SERVICE

# November 27, 2025 • 10:00 AM

## The people's responses are in **bold**.

#### **CARILLON PRELUDE**

All Creatures that on Earth Do Dwell

Come, Ye Thankful People, Come

We Plow the Fields and Scatter

Variations on Nun danket

We Cather Together

We Gather Together

Old Hundreth; arr. Leen 't Hart (1920–1992)

St. George's, Windsor; arr. Ronald Barnes (1927–1997)

Wir pflügen; arr. Kamiel Lefevere (1888–1984)

Anton van Ooik (1909–1996)

Kremser; arr. R. Barnes

#### **PRELUDE**

You Are Good Israel Houghton (b. 1971)

## THE ENTRANCE RITE

#### INTROIT

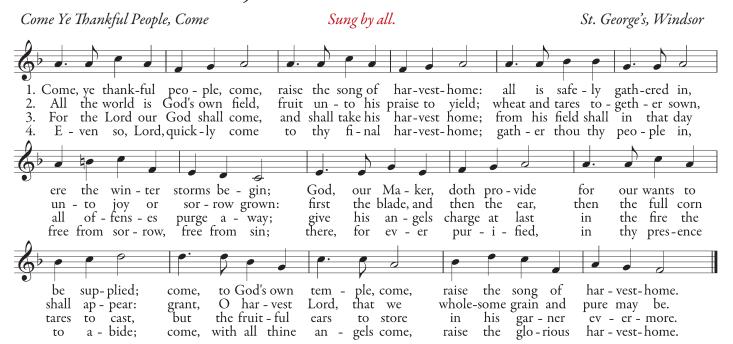
Eternal Light Leo Sowerby (1895–1968)

Eternal Light, shine into our hearts,
Eternal Goodness, deliver us from evil,
Eternal Power, be our support,
Eternal Wisdom, scatter the darkness of our ignorance,
Eternal Pity, have mercy upon us,
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Alcuin of York, ca. 735–804)

The people stand as able.

### HYMN AT THE PROCESSION • 290



#### THE OPENING ACCLAMATION

We give you thanks, O God, and call upon your Name; we make known your deeds among the peoples.

We sing to you; we sing your praise and speak of all your marvelous works.

We glory in your holy Name;

Let the hearts of those who seek you rejoice.

#### LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND INDIGENOUS PRAYER

## The people are seated.

#### **ANTHEM**

Alleluia! O Sing unto the Lord

Sung by the choir.

Jack Ossewaarde (1918–2004)

Alleluia!

O sing unto the Lord a new song: for he hath done marvelous things.

Alleluia!

(Psalm 98:1)

#### PROCLAMATION OF THANKSGIVING

By the President of the United States of America

The year that is drawing towards its close, has been filled with the blessings of fruitful fields and healthful skies. To these bounties, which are so constantly enjoyed that we are prone to forget the source from which they come, others have been added, which are of so extraordinary a nature, that they cannot fail to penetrate and soften even the heart which is habitually insensible to the ever watchful providence of Almighty God. . . . I do therefore invite my fellow citizens in every part of the United States, and also those who are at sea and those who are sojourning in foreign lands, to set apart and observe the last Thursday of November next, as a day of Thanksgiving and Praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the Heavens.

And I recommend to them that while offering up the ascriptions justly due to Him for such singular deliverances and blessings, they do also, with humble penitence for our national perverseness and disobedience, commend to His tender care all those who have become widows, orphans, mourners or sufferers in the lamentable civil strife in which we are unavoidably engaged, and fervently implore the interposition of the Almighty Hand to heal the wounds of the nation and to restore it as soon as may be consistent with the Divine purposes to the full enjoyment of peace, harmony, tranquillity and Union.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the United States to be affixed,

Done at the City of Washington, this Third day of October, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-three, and of the Independence of the United States the Eighty-eighth.

#### Abraham Lincoln

The people stand as able at the introduction to the hymn.

#### HYMN



#### THE COLLECT FOR THANKSGIVING DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Almighty and gracious Father, we give you thanks for the fruits of the earth in their season and for the labors of those who harvest them. Make us, we pray, faithful stewards of your great bounty, for the provision of our necessities and the relief of all who are in need, to the glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.** 

#### A PRAYER FOR THE NATION

Lord God Almighty, you have made all the peoples of the earth for your glory, to serve you in freedom and in peace: Give to the people of our country a zeal for justice and the strength of forbearance, that we may use our liberty in accordance with your gracious will; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

The people are seated.

## THE WORD OF GOD

THE FIRST LESSON Deuteronomy 26:1-11

When you have come into the land that the Lord your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess, and you possess it, and settle in it, you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the Lord your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the Lord your God will choose as a dwelling for his name. You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time, and say to him, "Today I declare to the Lord your God that I have come into the land that the Lord swore to our ancestors to give us." When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the Lord your God, you shall make this response before the Lord your God: "A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous. When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labor on us, we cried to the Lord, the God of our ancestors; the Lord heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. The Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders; and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O Lord, have given me." You shall set it down before the Lord your God and bow down before the Lord your God. Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the Lord your God has given to you and to your house.

Here ends the reading.

O be joyful in the Lord, all ye lands: serve the Lord with gladness, and come before his presence with a song. Be ye sure that the Lord he is God; it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

O go your way into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise; be thankful unto him, and speak good of his Name.

For the Lord is gracious, his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth from generation to generation.

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.

(*Psalm 100*)

## THE SECOND LESSON Philippians 4:4-9

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

Here ends the reading.

#### **ANTHEM**

Praise Is What I Do

Praise is what I do

When I wanna be close to You,

I lift my hands in praise.

Praise is who I am,

I will praise Him while I can,

I'll bless You at all times.

Refrain And I vow to praise You,

Through the good and the bad.

I'll praise You,

Whether happy or sad.

I'll praise You,

In all that I go through.

Because praise is what I do,

And I owe it all to You.

Sung by the ensemble.

William Murphy (b. 1973)

Praise is what I do,

Even when I'm going through,

I've learned to worship You.

No my circumstance

Doesn't even stand a chance,

My praise outweighs the bad.

Refrain

Praise is what I do,

It's what I do.

THE THIRD LESSON John 6:25-35

When the crowd found Jesus on the other side of the sea, they said to him, "Rabbi, when did you come here?" Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves. Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For it is on him that God the Father has set his seal." Then they said to him, "What must we do to perform the works of God?" Jesus answered them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent." So they said to him, "What sign are you going to give us then, so that we may see it and believe you? What work are you performing? Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat." Then Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world." They said to him, "Sir, give us this bread always." Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty."

Here ends the reading.

## The people stand as able at the introduction to the hymn.

HYMN • 433



The people are seated at the invitation of the homilist.

THE HOMILY

The Reverend Canon Jan Naylor Cope

#### **ANTHEM**

Goodness of God

Sung by the ensemble.

Ben Fielding (b. 1988), Ed Cash (b. 1971), Jason Ingram (b. 1974), Jenn Johnson (b. 1982),

Brian Johnson (b. 1978); arr. CeCe Winans (b. 1964)

I love You, Lord,

For Your mercy never fails me.

All my days, I've been held in Your hands.

From the moment that I wake up,

Until I lay my head,

Oh, I will sing of the goodness of God.

Refrain And all my life, You have been faithful.

And all my life, You have been so, so good.

With every breath that I am able,

Oh, I will sing of the goodness of God.

I love Your voice.

You have led me through the fire.

In the darkest night,

You are close like no other.

I've known You as a Father,

I've known You as a Friend,

And I have lived in the goodness of God.

The people stand as able.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

Said by all.

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.

Your goodness is running after,

It's running after me.

Your goodness is running after,

It's running after me.

With my life laid down,

I'm surrendered now.

I give You everything.

Your goodness is running after,

It's running after me.

Refrain

## 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.

## A LITANY OF THANKSGIVING

Let us give thanks to God our Father for all his gifts so freely bestowed upon us.

For the beauty and wonder of your creation, in earth and sky and sea,

We thank you, Lord.

For all that is gracious in the lives of men and women, revealing the image of Christ,

We thank you, Lord.

For our daily food and drink, our homes and families, and our friends,

We thank you, Lord.

For minds to think, and hearts to love, and hands to serve,

We thank you, Lord.

For health and strength to work, and leisure to rest and play,

We thank you, Lord.

For the brave and courageous, who are patient in suffering and faithful in adversity,

We thank you, Lord.

For all valiant seekers after truth, liberty, and justice,

We thank you, Lord.

For the communion of saints, in all times and places,

We thank you, Lord.

Above all, we give you thanks for the great mercies and promises given to us in Christ Jesus our Lord;

To him be praise and glory, with you, O Father, and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. Amen.

#### THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be always with you.

And also with you.

The people greet one another with a sign of God's peace and then are seated.

### THE OFFERTORY

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 AT THE OFFERTORY

It Is a Good Thing to Give Thanks

Sung by the choir.

David Hurd (b. 1950)

It is a good thing to give thanks to the Lord; and to sing praises to your Name, O Most High;
To tell of your loving-kindness early in the morning and of your faithfulness in the night season;
On the psaltery, and on the lyre, and to the melody of the harp.
For you have made me glad by your acts, O Lord; and I shout for joy because of the works of your hands.

(Psalm 92:1-4)

## The people stand as able.

#### A PRAYER FOR THE HUMAN FAMILY

O God, you made us in your own image and redeemed us through Jesus your Son: Look with compassion on the whole human family; take away the arrogance and hatred which infect our hearts; break down the walls that separate us; unite us in bonds of love; and work through our struggle and confusion to accomplish your purposes on earth; that, in your good time, all nations and races may serve you in harmony around your heavenly throne; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

#### A PRAYER FOR FAMILIES

Eternal God, our creator, you set us to live in families. We commend to your care all the homes where your people live. Keep them, we pray, free from bitterness, from the thirst for personal victory, and from pride in self. Fill them with faith, virtue, knowledge, moderation, patience, and godliness. Knit together in enduring affection those who have become one in marriage. Let children and parents have full respect for one another; and light the fire of kindliness among us all, that we may show affection for each other; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## A PRAYER FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE

Grant, O God, that your holy and life-giving Spirit may so move every human heart and especially the hearts of the people of this land, that barriers which divide us may crumble, suspicions disappear, and hatreds cease; that our divisions being healed, we may live in justice and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### A GENERAL THANKSGIVING

## Said by all.

Accept, O Lord, our thanks and praise for all that you have done for us. We thank you for the splendor of the whole creation, for the beauty of this world, for the wonder of life, and for the mystery of love.

We thank you for the blessing of family and friends, and for the loving care which surrounds us on every side.

We thank you for setting us at tasks which demand our best efforts, and for leading us to accomplishments which satisfy and delight us.

We thank you also for those disappointments and failures that lead us to acknowledge our dependence on you alone.

Above all, we thank you for your Son Jesus Christ; for the truth of his Word and the example of his life; for his steadfast obedience, by which he overcame temptation; for his dying, through which he overcame death; and for his rising to life again, in which we are raised to the life of your kingdom.

Grant us the gift of your Spirit, that we may know Christ and make him known; and through him, at all times and in all places, may give thanks to you in all things. Amen.

#### THE BLESSING

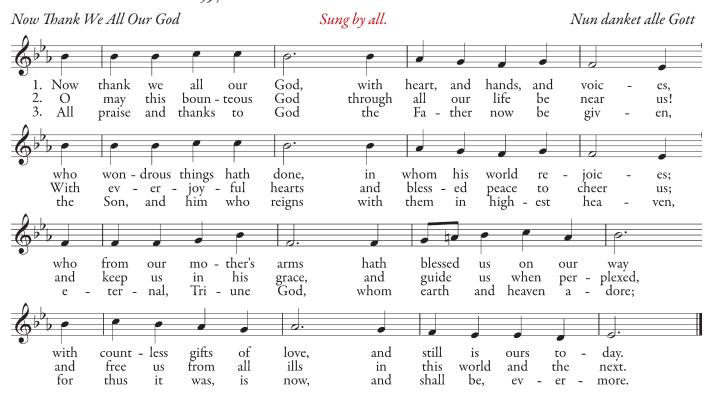
## The dean blesses the people, and the people respond, Amen.

#### THE DISMISSAL

Freely you have received, freely give. Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

## HYMN AT THE CLOSING • 397



## **POSTLUDE**

Wir danken dir, Gott, wir danken dir, BWV 29: No. 1, Sinfonia

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)





Those wishing to make flower gifts for Christmas are invited to submit their gifts by December 1 to the Flower Guild by scanning the QR code at the left.



## SERVICE PARTICIPANTS

#### OFFICIATING CLERGY

The Very Reverend Randolph Marshall Hollerith

Dean

The Reverend Canon Leonard L. Hamlin, Sr. Canon Missioner and Minister of Equity and Inclusion

The Reverend Spencer W. Brown Priest Associate

#### **HOMILIST**

The Reverend Canon Jan Naylor Cope *Provost* 

#### READERS

Edwin Gordon Marsha Muawwad Bob Reeg Tonya Parham

### **MUSICIANS**

The Cathedral Choir

The Cathedral Contemporary Ensemble

Michele Fowlin

Associate Director of Music and Director of Contemporary Ensemble, Washington National Cathedral

**Edward Hewes** 

Associate Director of Music and Cathedral Organist, Washington National Cathedral

Mina-Marie Jelinek Assistant Organist

Dr. Edward M. Nassor Carillonneur

Christopher Larios, trumpet
James McAloon, trumpet
Robert Rearden, horn
David Murray, trombone
Seth Cook, tuba
Lauren Floyd, timpani

FLOWERS The flowers throughout the Cathedral are given to the glory of God. The High Altar: in loving memory of August M. Stromberg and Harriett MacDonald Stromberg; St. Mary's Chapel Altar: in thanksgiving for the lives of the Wildman New England ancestors; Children's Chapel Altar: in thanksgiving for the life of Philip Hubert Frohman; in memory of Mrs. Charles Bradford Murray; War Memorial Chapel Altar: in memory of Martha Ingles Schrader; Dulin Bay: in memory of Eugenia Bell Dulin; Folger Bay: in memory of J. Clifford Folger; Bethlehem Chapel Altar: in loving memory of Polly Donnelly Hutton; Prince Tomb, Crypt: in thanksgiving for Norman Prince and in thanksgiving for Frederick and Abigail Norman Prince.

PERMISSIONS Opening Acclamation taken from *The Saint Helena Psalter*, The Order of St. Helena, Copyright 2004. All rights reserved. Bible texts of the Old Testament, Epistle, 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. All rights reserved. Used by permission. Collect, creed, prayers, litany, and general thanksgiving taken from the Book of Common Prayer, 1979. Public domain. Prayer for families taken from the *Book of Common Worship*, Copyright 1993, Westminster/John Knox Press. All rights reserved. Used by permission. Dismissal taken from the Holy Bible, New International Version, NIV, Copyright 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011, Biblica Inc., used by permission, all rights reserved, and the Book of Common Prayer, 1979.

Come, Ye Thankful People, Come. Text: Henry Alford (1810–1871), alt. Music: St. George's, Windsor. George Job Elvey (1816–1893). Public domain. Great Is Thy Faithfulness. Text: Thomas O. Chisholm (1866–1960). Music: Faithfulness. William M. Runyan (1870–1957). Public domain. We Gather Together. Text: Anonymous; tr. Theodore Baker (1851–1934). Music: Kremser. From Nederlantsch Gedenckclank, 1626; arr. Eduard Kremser (1838–1914). Public domain. Now Thank We All Our God. Text: Martin Rinckart (1586–1649); tr. Catherine Winkworth (1827–1878), alt. Music: Nun danket alle Gott. Johann Cruger (1598–1662). Public domain.

# ADVENT & CHRISTMAS 2025

## SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 30: FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Holy Eucharist • 8:00 AM (St. Mary's Chapel) • 11:15 AM (nave + live webcast)

Advent Lessons and Carols • 4:00 PM (nave + live webcast)

## FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5

Handel's Messiah • 7:00 PM (nave) tickets required

## SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6

Handel's *Messiah*: Highlights • 2:00 PM (nave) tickets required

Handel's *Messiah* • 6:00 PM (nave) tickets required

## SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7: SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Holy Eucharist • 8:00 AM (St. Mary's Chapel) • 11:15 AM (nave + live webcast)

Handel's *Messiah* • 6:00 PM (nave + live webcast) tickets required

## SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14: THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Holy Eucharist • 8:00 AM (St. Mary's Chapel) • 11:15 AM (nave + live webcast)

## WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17

Blue Christmas Service • 7:00 PM (Great Choir + live webcast)

#### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21: FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Holy Eucharist • 8:00 AM (St. Mary's Chapel) • 11:15 AM (nave + live webcast)

Gospel Christmas • 6:00 PM (live webcast; service at capacity)

## TUESDAY, DECEMBER 23

Family Christmas Service • 11:00 AM (live webcast; service at capacity)
Christmas Lessons and Carols • 6:00 PM (live webcast; service at capacity)

### Wednesday, December 24: Christmas Eve

Christmas Lessons and Carols • 6:00 PM (live webcast; service at capacity)
Festival Holy Eucharist of Christmas Eve • 10:00 PM (live webcast; service at capacity)

## THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25: CHRISTMAS DAY

Festival Holy Eucharist of Christmas Day • 11:15 AM (nave + live webcast)

Christmas Day Organ Recital • 2:00 PM (nave + live webcast)

Messiah tickets are available at: Cathedral.org/Christmas

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.



Those wishing to make flower gifts for Christmas are invited to submit their gifts by December 1 to the Flower Guild by scanning the QR code at the left.

## 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.

## LIVESTREAMED SERVICES

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.

## ASSISTIVE LISTENING DEVICES

Sound amplification is available for worship services held in the nave. Please ask an usher for the appropriate device.

