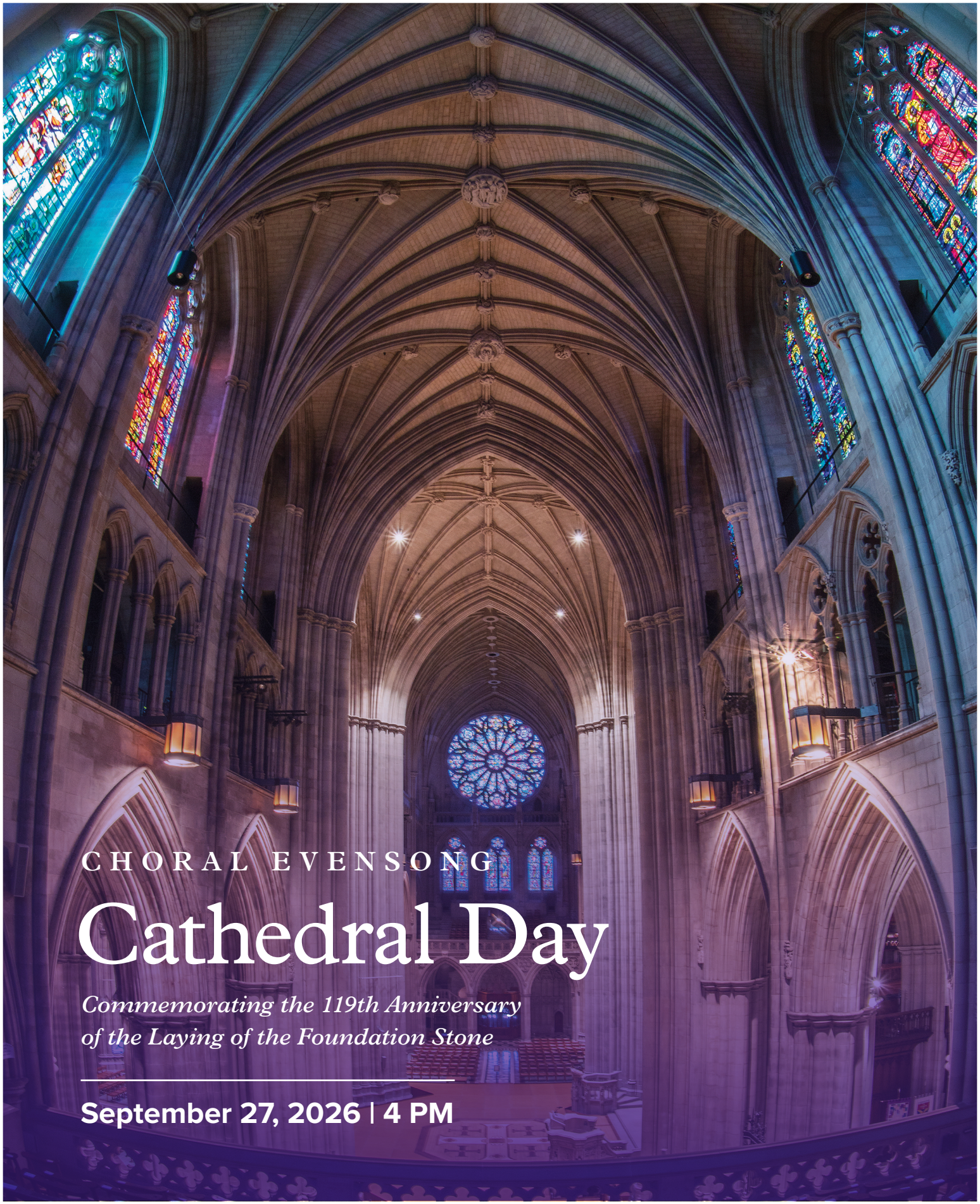


CHORAL EVENSONG

Cathedral Day

Commemorating the 119th Anniversary of the Laying of the Foundation Stone

September 27, 2026 | 4 PM

WASHINGTON NATIONAL CATHEDRAL



Laying of the Foundation Stone

On September 29, 1907, the Feast of Saint Michael and All Angels, workers laid the foundation stone for Washington National Cathedral, formally known as the Cathedral Church of Saint Peter and Saint Paul in the City and Diocese of Washington. President Theodore Roosevelt and the Bishop of London spoke to a crowd of ten thousand. The foundation stone came from a field near Bethlehem and was set into a larger piece of American granite. Its inscription reads: "The Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us" (John 1:14).

Long envisioned as a great church for national purposes, an idea first expressed by George Washington, the Cathedral was built in the Gothic tradition as a house of prayer for all people, as reflected in the words of the prophet Isaiah: "My house shall be called a house of prayer for all people" (Isaiah 56:7). Construction continued in times of war, economic hardship, and significant social change, made possible by the dedication of countless artisans, clergy, benefactors, and members of the wider community.

Today with special music, readings, and prayers, we celebrate the history and mission of this House of Prayer for All People.

Choral Evensong

Commemorating the 119th Anniversary of the Laying of the Foundation Stone

September 27, 2026 • 4:00 PM

The people's responses are in **bold.**
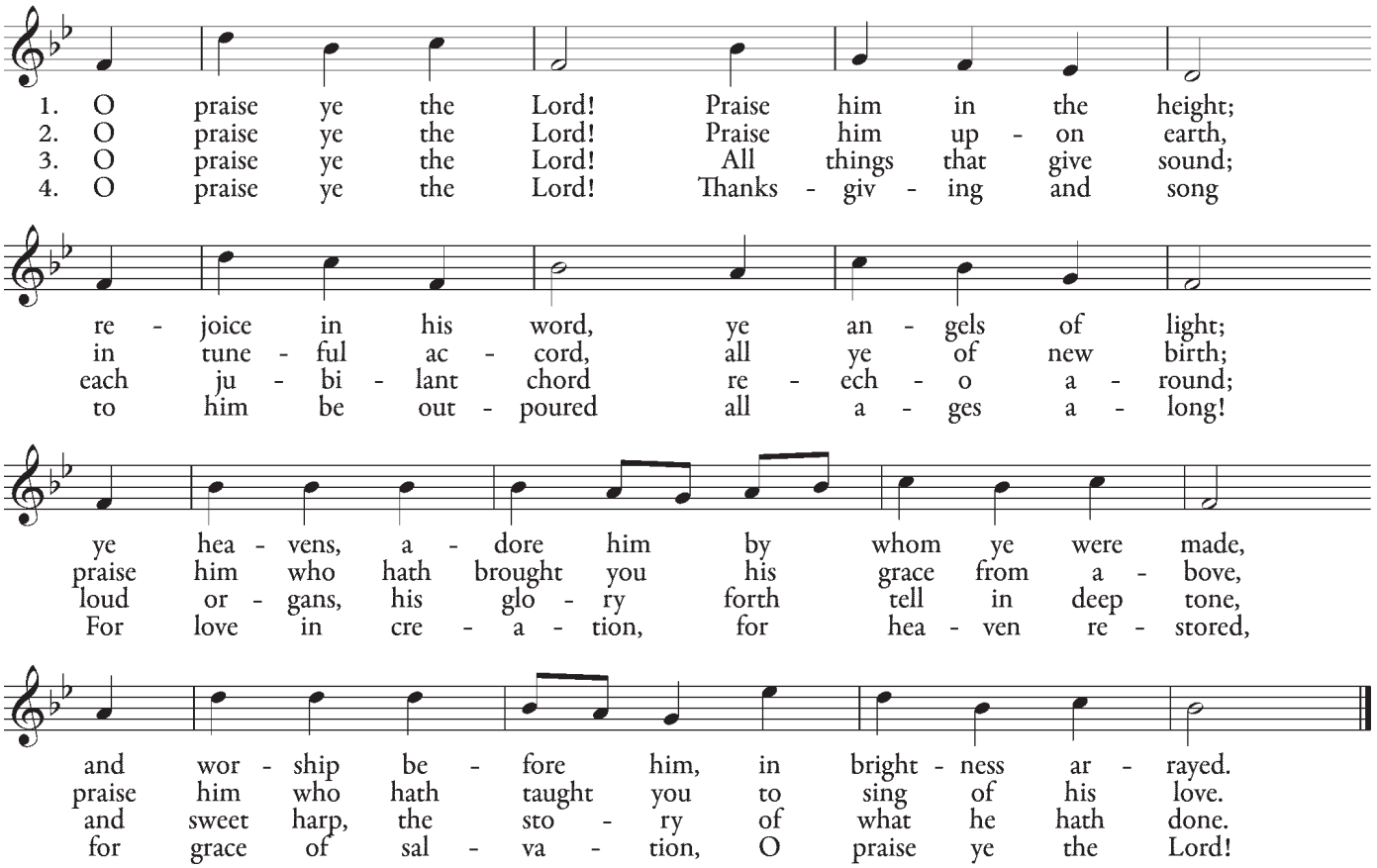
ORGAN VOLUNTARY

Prelude and Fugue in G major, BWV 550 — Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)

The people stand as able as the procession enters.

HYMN • 432

O Praise Ye the Lord — *Sung by all.* — *Laudate Dominum*



THE OPENING SENTENCES FROM HOLY SCRIPTURE

Give thanks to the Lord, and call upon his Name; make known his deeds among the peoples. *Psalm 105:1*

The Lord is in his holy temple; let all the earth keep silence before him. *Habakkuk 2:20*

PRECES

Thomas Tomkins (1572–1656)

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

Charles Wood (1866–1926)

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.*

Hail, gladdening light, of his pure glory poured
Who is the immortal Father, heavenly, blest,
Holiest of holies, Jesu Christ, our Lord.

Now we are come to the sun's hour of rest,
The lights of evening round us shine,
We hymn the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit Divine.

Worthiest art thou at all times to be sung
With undefiled tongue,
Son of our God, giver of life alone!
Therefore in all the world thy glories, Lord, they own. Amen.

(2nd or 3rd century; trans. John Keble, 1792-1866)

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 1 Kings 8:54-62

When Solomon finished offering all the prayer and the plea to the Lord, he arose from facing the altar of the Lord, where he had knelt with hands outstretched toward heaven; he stood and blessed all the assembly of Israel with a loud voice: "Blessed be the Lord, who has given rest to his people Israel according to all that he promised; not one word has failed of all his good promise, which he spoke through his servant Moses. The Lord our God be with us, as he was with our ancestors; may he not leave us or abandon us, but incline our hearts to him, to walk in all his ways, and to keep his commandments, his statutes, and his ordinances, which he commanded our ancestors. Let these words of mine, with which I pleaded before the Lord, be near to the Lord our God day and night, and may he maintain the cause of his servant and the cause of his people Israel, as each day requires; so that all the peoples of the earth may know that the Lord is God; there is no other. Therefore devote yourselves completely to the Lord our God, walking in his statutes and keeping his commandments, as at this day." Then the king, and all Israel with him, offered sacrifice before the Lord.

Here ends the reading.

The people remain seated as the choir sings.

MAGNIFICAT

Mt. St. Alban Evening Service; David Hogan (1949–1996)

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

Hebrews 10:19-25

Since we have confidence to enter the sanctuary by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain (that is, through his flesh), and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us approach with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful. And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

Here ends the reading.

The people remain seated as the choir sings.

NUNC DIMITTIS

Mt. St. Alban Evening Service; D. Hogan

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

T. Tomkins

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

T. Tomkins

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, to whose glory we celebrate the dedication of this house of prayer: We give thee thanks for the fellowship of those who have worshiped in this place, and we pray that all who seek thee here may find thee, and be filled with thy joy and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of 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

Jubilate Deo — *Sung by the choir.* — William Walton (1902–1983)

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 children 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 Ghost;
as it was and ever shall be: world without end. Amen.

(Psalm 100)

The people stand as able.

THE GENERAL THANKSGIVING

Said by all.

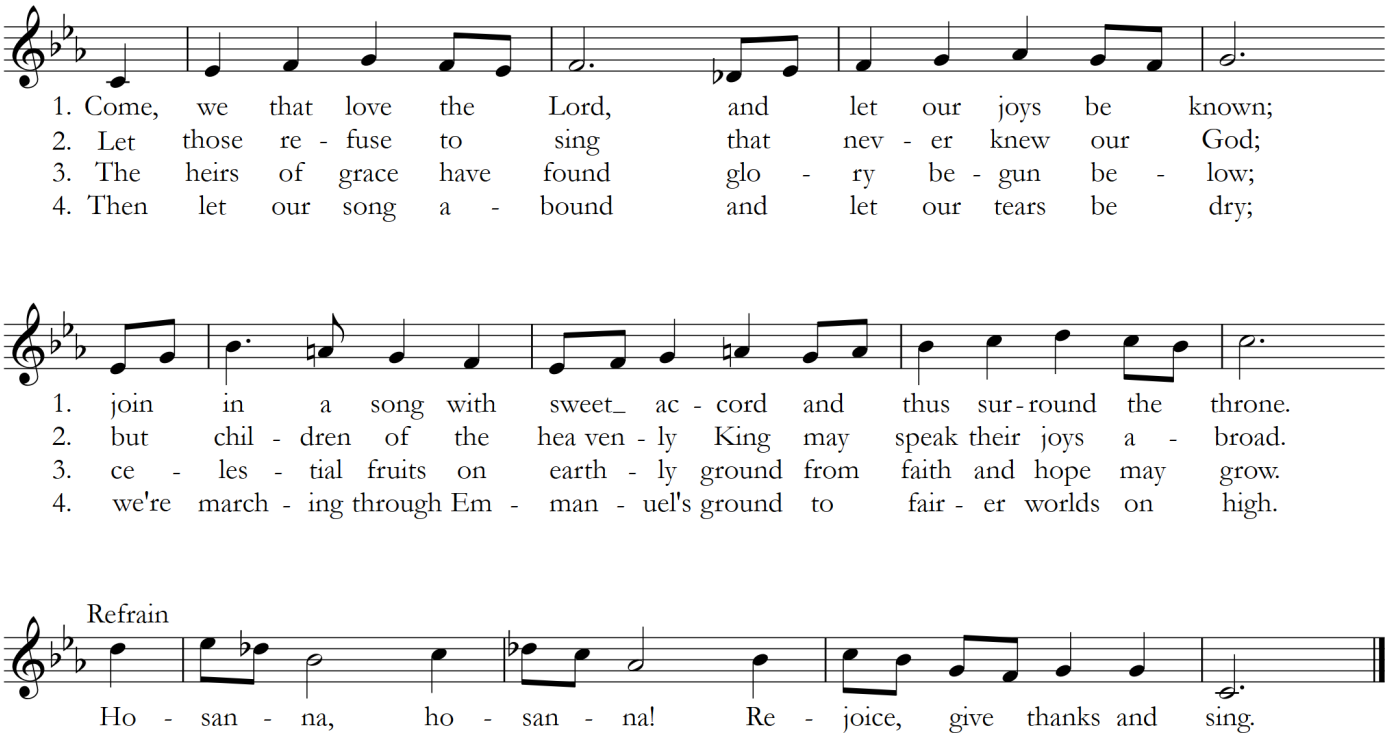
**Almighty God, Father of all mercies,
we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks
for all your goodness and loving-kindness
to us and to all whom you have made.
We bless you for our creation, preservation,
and all the blessings of this life;
but above all for your immeasurable love
in the redemption 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 • 392

Come, We That Love the Lord *Sung by all.* *Vineyard Haven*



PSALM IN PROCESSION • 150

Sung by the choir. chant: George S. Talbot (1875–1918)

O praise God in his holiness :
praise him in the firmament of his power.
Praise him in his noble acts :
praise him according to his excellent greatness.
Praise him in the sound of the trumpet :
praise him upon the lute and harp.
Praise him in the cymbals and dances :
praise him upon the strings and pipe.
Praise him upon the well-tuned cymbals :
praise him upon the loud cymbals.
Let every thing that hath breath :
praise the Lord.

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

Te Deum, Op. 11 Jeanne Demessieux (1921–1968)

PARTICIPANTS Officiant: The Reverend Canon Rosemarie Logan Duncan, Canon Precentor; Musicians: The Girls Cathedral Choir & The Cathedral Choir, Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford, United Kingdom, Jared Johnson, Director of Music and Canon-Elect, Edward Hewes, Associate Director of Music and Cathedral Organist, Peter Holder, Organist and Director of Music, Christ Church Cathedral, Richard Moore, Sub-Organist, Christ Church Cathedral.

FLOWERS The flowers throughout the Cathedral are given to the glory of God. Holy Spirit Chapel Altar: in loving memory of Bryan Leithauser; Folger Bay: in honor of Julie Folger.

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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.

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.

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.

WASHINGTON
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