Choral Evensong

The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 13, 2026 • 4:00 PM

Washington National Cathedral

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

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

Prelude No. 3 from *Six Preludes for Organ* — Ernst Bloch (1880–1959)

The people stand as able as the procession enters.

HYMN • 34

Christ, Mighty Savior — *Sung by all.* — *Innisfree Farm*

THE OPENING SENTENCES FROM HOLY SCRIPTURE

PRECES

First Set, Bernard Rose (1916–1996)

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

Gary Davison (b. 1961)

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 texts are found on pages 592 and 707 of the Book of Common Prayer.

PSALM • 8

Sung by the choir. — chant: Richard Wayne Dirksen (1921–2003)

PSALM • 84

Sung by the choir. — chant: Charles H. H. Parry (1848–1918)

THE FIRST LESSON

Job 38:1, 18-41

The people remain seated as the choir sings.

MAGNIFICAT

Evening Service; Jessica French (b. 1984)

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

Matthew 5:21-26

The people remain seated as the choir sings.

NUNC DIMITTIS

Evening Service; J. French

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

First Set, B. Rose

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

First Set, B. Rose

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.

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

And I Saw a New Heaven — *Sung by the choir.* — Edgar Bainton (1880–1956)

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 • 538

God of Mercy, God of Grace — *Sung by all.* — *Lucerna Laudoniae*

PSALM IN PROCESSION • 150 — *Sung by the choir.* — chant: George S. Talbot (1875–1918)

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

Prelude and Fugue in C minor, BVW 546 — Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)

PARTICIPANTS Officiant: The Reverend Spencer W. Brown, Priest Associate; Musicians: The Girls Cathedral Choir, Jared Johnson, Director of Music and Canon-Elect, Edward Hewes, Associate Director of Music and Cathedral Organist.

PERMISSIONS Canticles, suffrages, prayers, creed, and thanksgiving taken from the Book of Common Prayer, 1979. Public domain.

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ASSISTIVE LISTENING DEVICES Sound amplification is available. Please ask an usher for the appropriate device.

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