Welcome! Our vision is to be an extraordinary spiritual gathering place where people of all backgrounds and ages are welcome to question and learn, pray, worship and serve; being loved by God in ways that change and improve their lives and the lives of others.

Please silence all electronic devices.
This service is also livestreamed on our Facebook page and YouTube channel.

Concerning the service

Evensong is an offering in song to God, the giver of all beauty and goodness. Based on services held daily in the medieval Church, Evensong as arranged in the Book of Common Prayer of the Anglican Church has been sung regularly since the sixteenth century, with only a few breaks (during the Commonwealth in the seventeenth century). This atmospheric and deeply personal form of worship appeals to persons of many faiths and has been adopted as an American tradition in many parishes and cathedrals of the Episcopal Church.

In Advent, the Invitatatory is followed by the lighting of the appropriate candles on the Advent Wreath, and then the appointed psalm is sung by all. A lesson, usually from the Old Testament (except of Saints days and in Easter season) is read and we then sing the first of the traditional Evening Canticles, Magnificat, the song of the Blessed Virgin Mary when the promises of the Old Testament came true (Luke 1). A lesson from the New Testament proclaims the good news of Jesus Christ, and this is followed by the Nunc Dimittis, the song of the aged Simeon when he had seen our Lord in the Temple at Jerusalem (Luke 2). Nunc Dimittis is a particularly appropriate text at the end of one’s day.

All then say the Apostles’ Creed, an expression of faith of those who, generation by generation in the Christian Church, respond to the Gospel of Jesus Christ, crucified and alive. Prayers are then sung and said, ending with the Collects which collect our thoughts.

The timeless and simple liturgy of Evensong readily embraces musical expressions from many centuries. Here in the Cathedral, Evensong is offered weekly at 4:00 p.m. On the first, third, and fifth Sundays of the month, Cathedral Evensong (the service offered this afternoon) is sung by the congregation. On the second and fourth Sundays of the month, Choral Evensong is sung by one of the Cathedral choirs.

In this afternoon’s service

Officiant  
The Very Rev’d Dr. S. Scott Hunter

Lector  
Miss Mary Grahame Hunter

Homilist  
Mr. Mike Dagle

Organist  
Canon Jeremy David Tarrant

Cantor  
Mr. Joseph Edmonds

Technology  
Dr. Sarah Simko
Please stand as you are able. The Officiant then begins with

The Invitatory

Officiant

O God, make speed to save us.

People

O Lord, make haste to help us.

Officiant and People

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:

as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

Alleluia.

Prayers at the Advent Wreath

The following is sung as the Advent wreath is lit. The Cantor sings and all repeat

Blessed are you, Sovereign Lord, just and true; to you, be praise and glory forever!

Cantor

Your light has shone in our darkened world through the child-bearing of blessed Mary; grant that we who have seen your glory may daily be renewed in your image and prepared like her for the coming of your Son,

for you are our light and our salvation, Blessed be God forever.
All then sing

Psalm 84:1-8  Quam dilecta!

1 How dear to me is your dwelling, O LORD of hosts! * My soul has a desire and longing for the courts of the LORD; my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.
2 The sparrow has found her a house and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young; * by the side of your altars, O LORD of hosts, my King and my God.
3 Happy are they who dwell in your house! * they will always be praising you.
4 Happy are the people whose strength is in you! * whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' way.
5 Those who go through the desolate valley will find it a place of springs, * for the early rains have covered it with pools of water.
6 They will climb from height to height, * and the God of gods will reveal himself in Zion.
7 LORD God of hosts, hear my prayer; * hearken, O God of Jacob.
8 Behold our defender, O God; * and look upon the face of your Anointed.

Please stand as you are able.
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, * and to the Holy Spirit:
As it was in the beginning, is now, * and will be for ever. Amen.

Please be seated.
The First Lesson  Genesis 3:8-15

They heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. But the LORD God called to the man, and said to him, “Where are you?” He said, “I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself.” He said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?” The man said, “The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate.” Then the LORD God said to the woman, “What is this that you have done?” The woman said, “The serpent tricked me, and I ate.” The LORD God said to the serpent,

“Because you have done this,
  cursed are you among all animals
  and among all wild creatures;
upon your belly you shall go,
  and dust you shall eat
all the days of your life.
I will put enmity between you and the woman,
  and between your offspring and hers;
he will strike your head,
  and you will strike his heel.”
Please stand as you are able and sing
The Song of Mary  Magnificat

1 My soul proclaims your greatness, Lord; I sing my Savior's praise!
2 To all who live in holy fear your mercy ever flows.
3 To Israel, your servant blest, your help is ever sure;

You looked upon my lowliness, and I am full of grace.
With mighty arm you dash the proud, their scheming hearts expose.

Now ev'ry land and ev'ry age this blessing shall proclaim—
The ruthless you have cast aside, the lowly throned instead;
Sing glory to the Holy One, give honor to the Word,

great wonders you have done for me, and holy is your name.
the hungry filled with all good things, the rich sent off unfed.
and praise the Pow'r of the Most High, one God, by all adored.

Words: paraphrase of the Magnificat
Music: Kingsfold, arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

Please be seated.

The Second Lesson  John 3:16-21

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the
world might be saved through him. Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgement, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.

Please stand as you are able and sing
The Song of Simeon  Nunc dimittis

Words  Ernest E. Ryden, 1886-1981, alt., based on the Nunc dimittis
Music  Nyland, Finnish folk melody
Remaining standing, all say together
The Apostles' Creed

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 Prayers

    Officiant    The Lord be with you.
    People      And also with you.
    Officiant    Let us pray.

    Officiant and People
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

Cantor or Officiant

That this evening may be holy, good, and peaceful,

People (sung after each petition)

We entreat you, O Lord.

That your holy angels may lead us in paths of peace and goodwill,

That we may be pardoned and forgiven for our sins and offenses,

That there may be peace to your Church and to the whole world,

That we may depart this life in your faith and fear,

and not be condemned before the great judgment seat of Christ,

That we may be bound together by your Holy Spirit in the communion of

[and] all your saints, entrusting one another and all our life to Christ,
The Collect of the Day
Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

A Collect for Sunday
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 you in that City of which he is the light, and where he lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.

A Collect for Mission
Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who work, or watch, or weep this night, and give your angels charge over those who sleep. Tend the sick, Lord Christ; give rest to the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering, pity the afflicted, shield the joyous; and all for your love's sake. Amen.

Please be seated.

Words of Welcome and Announcements

Please as stand you are able and sing
Hymn 53

The Homily

Prayers of Intercession and Thanksgivings

All say together
A Prayer of St. Chrysostom

Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. Amen.

Cantor or Officiant
Let us bless the Lord.

People

Thanks be to God.

The Officiant then concludes

The Grace

Please remain standing as the procession leaves the Cathedral.

Organ
Gottes Sohn ist kommen, BWV 703

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)