

# THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF ST. PAUL

Detroit, Michigan

The Very Reverend Joseph Caldwell Alsay  
*Dean-Elect*

The Right Reverend Dr. Bonnie A. Perry  
*Eleventh Bishop of the Diocese of Michigan*

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December 7, 2025  
The Second Sunday of Advent  
Cathedral Evensong, 4:00 p.m.



**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 being streamed on our 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

Following the Invitatory, we sing (at times) a setting of the ancient *Phos hilaron*, a hymn originally sung in Greek at the lighting of the lamps at the time of Evening Prayer. This is followed by the singing of the appointed psalm. 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., September through May. On the first and third 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.

*At the bell, please stand as you are. The Procession enters and 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 Spi - rit:  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. A - men.

Al - le - lu - ia.

**Prayers at the Advent Wreath**

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

Bless - ed are you, \_\_\_\_\_ Sov - reign Lord, just \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_  
true; to you, be praise \_\_\_\_\_ and glo - ry for - ev - er!

*Cantor*

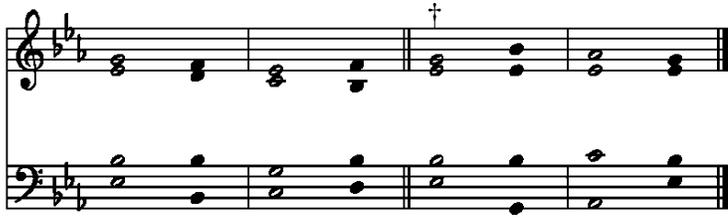
Of old you spoke by the mouth of your prophets but in our days you speak through your Son whom you have appointed the heir of all things. Grant us, your people, to walk in his light that we may be found ready and watching when he comes again in glory and judgement;

*People*

for you are our light and our sal - va - tion, Bless-ed be God \_\_\_\_\_ for - ev - er.

All then sing

Psalm 115:7-13 *Non nobis, Domine*



7 O Israel, trust in the / LORD; \* he is their help and their / shield.

8 O house of Aaron, trust in the / LORD; \* he is their help and their / shield.

9 You who fear the LORD, trust in the / LORD; \* he is their help and their / shield.

10 The LORD has been mindful of us, and he will / bless us; \* he will bless the house of Israel;  
he will bless the house of / Aaron;

11 He will bless those who fear the / LORD, \* both small and great to-/ gether.

12 May the LORD increase you more and / more, \* you and your children / after you.

†13 May you be blessed by the / LORD, \* the maker of heaven and / earth.

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. A-/ men.

Please be seated.

The First Lesson *Isaiah 5:1-7*

Please stand as you are able and sing

Magnificat



1. My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Sav - ior;



for he has looked with favor on his low - ly ser - vant.



2. From this day all generations will call me bless - ed; the Almighty has done great things for me,



and ho - ly is his Name. 3. He has mercy on those who fear him



in every gen - er - a - tion. 4. He has shown the strength of his arm,



*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

Carl MaultsBy (b. 1949)

*Cantor* *All*  
Show us your mercy, O Lord, And grant us your sal- vation.

*Cantor* *All*  
Clothe your ministers with right- eous- ness, Let your people sing with joy.

*Cantor* *All*  
Give peace, O Lord, in all the world, For only in you can we live in safety.

*Cantor* *All*  
Lord, keep this nation under your care, And guide us in the way of jus - tice and truth.

*Cantor* *All*  
Let your way be known up - on earth, Your saving health a - mong all nations.

*Cantor* *All*  
Let not the needy, O Lord be for - gotten, Nor the hope of the poor be ta - ken a - way.

*Cantor* *All*  
Create in us clean hearts, O God, And sustain us with your Ho - ly Spirit.

### *The Collect of the Day*

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and 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.**

### *All sing*

Hymn 53

Once he came in blessing

*Gottes Sohn ist kommen*

## The Homily

The Very Reverend Joseph C. Alsay  
*Dean-Elect*

*Please kneel.*

## 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 with*

### The Grace

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all  
evermore. *Amen.* 2 Corinthians 13:14

*or this*

May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing through the power of the Holy Spirit. *Amen.*  
*Romans 15:13*

*or this*

Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine: Glory to him from  
generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever. *Amen.* Ephesians 3:20,21

*Please remain standing as the procession leaves the Cathedral.*

**Organ** *Gottes Sohn ist kommen*, BWV 703

Bach

## In this afternoon's liturgy

### *Officiant*

The Very Reverend Joseph C. Alsay

### *Cantors*

Chad Johnson and Mimi Lanseur

### *Organist*

Canon Jeremy David Tarrant

### *Lector and Acolyte*

Paula Styer

### *Technology*

Erin McClellan

## Christmas at the Cathedral

Saturday, December 20

Nine Lessons and Carols, 5:00 p.m.

The traditional carol service in the style of Kings  
College Cambridge  
*with the Cathedral Choir*

Wednesday, December 24

*Christmas Eve*

Sung Holy Eucharist, 4:00 p.m.  
*with the Schola Cantorum*  
Festal Candlelight Eucharist, 10:30 p.m.  
*with the Cathedral Choir*

Thursday, December 25

*Christmas Day*

Sung Holy Eucharist, 11:00 a.m.  
*with members of the Cathedral Singers*

### Copyright acknowledgements

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