

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

December 14, 2025

The Third Sunday of Advent: Gaudete
Cathedral Evensong, Four O'Clock



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 able. The Procession enters the Cathedral 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

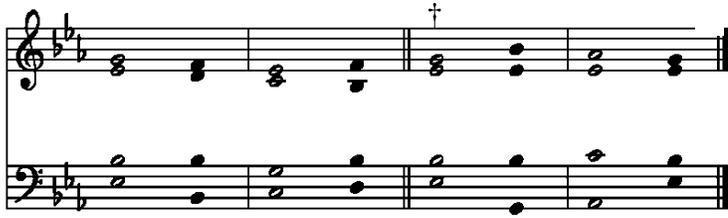
Your prophet John the Baptist was witness to the truth as a burning and shining light. May we your servants rejoice in his light, and so be led to witness to him who is the Lord of our coming kingdom

People

Je - sus our Sav - vior and King of the a - ges, Bless-ed be God _____ for - ev - er.

All then sing

Psalm 103:6-9, 20-22 *Benedic anima mea*



6 The LORD executes / righteousness * and judgment for all who are op-/ pressed.

7 He made his ways known to / Moses * and his works to the children of / Israel.

8 The LORD is full of compassion and / mercy, * slow to anger and of great / kindness.

9 He will not always ac-/ cuse us, * nor will he keep his anger for / ever.

20 Bless the LORD, you angels of his, you mighty ones who do his / bidding, *
and hearken to the voice of his / word.

21 Bless the LORD, all you his / hosts, * you ministers of his who do his / will.

†22 Bless the LORD, all you works of his, in all places of his do-/ minion; * bless the LORD, O my / soul.

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 13:6-13*

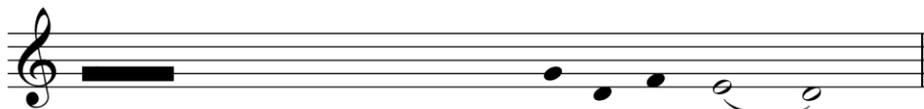
Please stand as you are able and sing

Magnificat

Tonus Peregrinus



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,

he has scattered the proud in their con - ceit. 5. He has cast down the might - y
 from their thrones, and has lifted up the low - ly. 6. He has filled the hun - gry
 with good things, and the rich he has sent a - way emp - ty. 7. He has come to the help of
 his ser - vant Is - ra - el, for he has remembered his promise of mer - cy.
 8. The promise he made to our fa - thers, to Abraham and his children for ev - er.
 Glo - ry to the Fa - ther and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Spi - rit;
 As it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and will be for ev - er. A - men.

Please be seated.

The Second Lesson 2 Thessalonians 2:1-3, 13-17

Please stand as you are able and sing the refrain as indicated.

Nunc dimittis

Russell Schulz-Widmar (b. 1944)

Refrain

Free to go in peace as you have prom-ised.

Now, Lord, you have set your servant free, free to go in peace as you have promised. *Refrain*
 For these eyes of mine have seen the Savior whom you have prepared for all the world to see: *Refrain*
 A light to enlighten the nations, and the glory of your people Israel. *Refrain*
 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. *Refrain*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Collect of the Day

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, 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 54

Savior of the nations, come

Nun komm

The Homily

The Very Rev'd Joseph C. Alsay

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

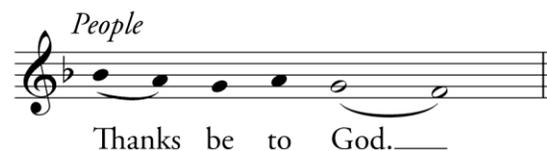
you will be in the midst of them:

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.*

Please stand.



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 *Trio super: Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland, BWV 660*

Bach

In this afternoon's liturgy

Officiant Emery Dumas

Organist Canon Jeremy David Tarrant

Preacher The Very Rev'd Joseph C. Alsay

Lector and Acolyte Paula Styer

Cantors Aaron Denk and Chad Johnson

Technology John LaDuke

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

*The Cathedral Choirs are in recess from December 26
through January 4.*

Sunday, December 28

The First Sunday after Christmas

Morning Prayer, 7:30 a.m.

Holy Eucharist, 8:15 a.m.

Sung Holy Eucharist with Carols, 11:00 a.m.

Thursday, January 1

The Feast of the Holy Name

Holy Eucharist in Nativity Chapel, 12:00 Noon

Sunday, January 4

The Second Sunday after Christmas

Morning Prayer, 7:30 a.m.

Holy Eucharist, 8:15 a.m.

Sung Holy Eucharist, 11:00 a.m.

*Please note that Evensong is not offered on December 28
and January 4 but will resume of January 11.*

Tuesday, January 6

The Feast of the Epiphany

Sung Holy Eucharist, 7:00 p.m.

with the Cathedral Singers

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