

THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF ST. PAUL

Detroit, Michigan

The Very Reverend Joseph Caldwell Alsay
Dean of the Cathedral

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



April 19, 2026

The Third Sunday of Easter

Choral Evensong, 4:00 p.m.

with the Schola Cantorum

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

Choral 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. 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 this service most of the music is sung by the Choir, and the Congregation participates by listening to and meditating on the praises, prayers and petitions offered. All join the Choir in singing the Creed, the Lord's Prayer, and the hymns.

After the introduction to the service (the Hymn or Introit, and the Preces), the Choir sings the appointed psalm(s). A lesson usually from the Old Testament (except of Saints days and in Easter season) follows. The Choir then sings 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 sing 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 sung by the Choir, ending with the Collects which collect our thoughts.

The timeless and simple liturgy of Evensong readily embraces musical expressions from many centuries. In Choral Evensong, the Choir's responses are drawn from traditional language, which remains the standard form of text for almost all musical settings of this liturgy owing to the unique beauty of its cadences and imagery.

Evensong is offered each Sunday at 4:00 p.m., September through May 10. Cathedral Evensong with hymns and canticles sung by the congregation is offered on the first and third Sundays of the month, and Choral Evensong, sung by the Choir is offered on the Second and fourth Sundays of the month. There are occasional exceptions to this pattern.

CHORAL EVENSONG

Organ

Prelude on *Llanfair*

McNeil Robinson (1943-2015)

At the bell, please stand as the procession enters the Cathedral. The Choir then sings

The Introit

Edward Bairstow (1874-1946)

I sat down under his shadow with great delight, and his fruit was sweet to my taste. He brought me to the banqueting house, and his banner over me was love.

Song of Solomon 2:3-4

The Officiant continues.

The Opening Sentences

GRACE be unto you, and peace, from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ. *Philippians 1:2*

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world; he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life." *Saint John 8:12*

The Congregation remains standing and the Choir sings

The Preces

William Smith of Durham (1603-1645)

V O Lord, open thou our lips:

R And our mouth shall shew forth thy praise.

V O God, make speed to save us:

R O Lord, make haste to help us.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

V Praise ye the Lord.

R The Lord's name be praised.

The Choir continues with

Psalm 114

In exitu Israel

Anglican chant: Bairstow

WHEN Israel came out of Egypt * and the house of Jacob from among the strange people,
2 Judah was his sanctuary * and Israel his dominion.

3 The sea saw that, and fled * Jordan was driven back.

4 The mountains skipped like rams * and the little hills like young sheep.

5 What aileth thee, O thou sea, that thou fleddest * and thou Jordan, that thou wast driven back?

6 Ye mountains, that ye skipped like rams * and ye little hills, like young sheep?

7 Tremble, thou earth, at the presence of the Lord * at the presence of the God of Jacob;

8 Who turned the hard rock into a standing water * and the flint-stone into a springing well.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Please be seated.

The First Lesson

Daniel 4:1-18

KING Nebuchadnezzar to all peoples, nations, and languages that live throughout the earth: May you have abundant prosperity! The signs and wonders that the Most High God has worked for me I am pleased to recount. How great are his signs, how mighty his wonders! His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and his sovereignty is from generation to generation. I, Nebuchadnezzar, was living at ease in my home and prospering in

my palace. I saw a dream that frightened me; my fantasies in bed and the visions of my head terrified me. So I made a decree that all the wise men of Babylon should be brought before me, in order that they might tell me the interpretation of the dream. Then the magicians, the enchanters, the Chaldeans, and the diviners came in, and I told them the dream, but they could not tell me its interpretation. At last Daniel came in before me—he who was named Belteshazzar after the name of my god and who is endowed with a spirit of the holy gods—and I told him the dream: “O Belteshazzar, chief of the magicians, I know that you are endowed with a spirit of the holy gods and that no mystery is too difficult for you. Hear the dream that I saw, and tell me its interpretation. Upon my bed this is what I saw: there was a tree at the center of the earth, and its height was great. The tree grew great and strong, its top reached to heaven, and it was visible to the ends of the whole earth. Its foliage was beautiful, its fruit abundant, and it provided food for all. The animals of the field found shade under it, the birds of the air nested in its branches, and from it all living beings were fed. “I continued looking, in the visions of my head as I lay in bed, and there was a holy watcher coming down from heaven. He cried aloud and said: ‘Cut down the tree and chop off its branches; strip off its foliage and scatter its fruit. Let the animals flee from beneath it and the birds from its branches. But leave its stump and roots in the ground, with a band of iron and bronze, in the tender grass of the field. Let him be bathed with the dew of heaven, and let his lot be with the animals in the grass of the earth. Let his mind be changed from that of a human, and let the mind of an animal be given to him. And let seven times pass over him. The sentence is rendered by decree of the watchers, the decision is given by order of the holy ones, in order that all who live may know that the Most High is sovereign over the kingdom of mortals; he gives it to whom he will and sets over it the lowliest of human beings.’ “This is the dream that I, King Nebuchadnezzar, saw. Now you, Belteshazzar, declare the interpretation, since all the wise men of my kingdom are unable to tell me the interpretation. You are able, however, for you are endowed with a spirit of the holy gods.”

The Choir then sings
Magnificat

A. Herbert Brewer (1865-1928) in F

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.

Please stand as you are able.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost:
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Please be seated.

The Second Lesson

1 John 2:7-17

BELOVED, I am writing you no new commandment but an old commandment that you have had from the beginning; the old commandment is the word that you have heard. Yet I am writing you a new commandment that is true in him and in you, because the darkness is passing away and the true light is already shining. Whoever says, "I am in the light," while hating a brother or sister, is still in the darkness. Whoever loves a brother or sister abides in the light, and in such a person there is no cause for stumbling. But whoever hates a brother or sister is in the darkness, walks in the darkness, and does not know the way to go, because the darkness has brought on blindness. I am writing to you, little children, because your sins are forgiven on account of his name. I am writing to you, fathers, because you know him who is from the beginning. I am writing to you, young people, because you have conquered the evil one. I write to you, children, because you know the Father. I write to you, fathers, because you know him who is from the beginning. I write to you, young people, because you are strong and the word of God abides in you, and you have overcome the evil one. Do not love the world or the things in the world. The love of the Father is not in those who love the world, for all that is in the world—the desire of the flesh, the desire of the eyes, the pride in riches—comes not from the Father but from the world. And the world and its desire are passing away, but those who do the will of God abide forever.

The Choir then sings

Nunc dimittis

Brewer in F

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.

Please stand as you are able.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost:
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

All sing together on one note

The Apostles' Creed

IBELIEVE in God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.
And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day he rose again from the dead
He ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father almighty.
From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Ghost,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

The Choir sings
The Lesser Litany

Smith

V The Lord be with you.
R And with thy spirit.
V Let us pray.
R Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.

All sing on one note
The Lord's Prayer

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. Amen.

The Choir sings
The Responses

Smith

V O Lord, shew thy mercy upon us;
R And grant us thy salvation.
V O Lord, save the State;
R And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.
V Endue thy ministers with righteousness;
R And make thy chosen people joyful.
V O Lord, save thy people;
R And bless thine inheritance.
V Give peace in our time, O Lord;
R Because there is none other that fighteth for us, but only thou, O God.
V O God, make clean our hearts within us;
R And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.

The Collects

The Collect of the Day

O God, whose blessed Son did manifest himself to his disciples in the breaking of bread: Open, we pray thee, the eyes of our faith, that we may behold him in all his redeeming work; through the same thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

A Collect for Peace

O God, from whom all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works do proceed: Give unto thy servants that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey thy commandments, and also that by thee, we, being defended from the fear of all enemies, may pass our time in rest and quietness; through the merits of Jesus Christ our Savior. *Amen.*

A Collect for Mission

KEEP watch, dear Lord, with those who work, or watch, or weep this night, and give thine 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 thy love's sake. *Amen.*

All sing

Hymn 542

Christ is the world's true light

St. Joan

The Homily

The Very Reverend Joseph C. Alsay

The Choir sings

Anthem

Ned Rorem (1923-2022)

SING my soul, His wondrous love,
Who, from yon bright throne above,
Ever watchful o'er our race,
Still to us extends his grace.

Heav'n and earth by Him were made,
All is by His scepter swayed;
What are we that He should show
So much love to us below?

God, the merciful and good,
Bought us with the Savior's blood,
And, to make our safety sure,
Guides us by His spirit pure.

Sing, my soul, adore His name;
Let His glory be thy theme:
Praise Him till He calls thee home,
Trust His love for all to come.

Anonymous, 1800, alt.

Please kneel.

Prayers of Intercession and Thanksgivings

Please stand as you are able. All say together

The General Thanksgiving

ALmighty God, Father of all mercies,
We thine unworthy servants
do give thee most humble and hearty thanks
for all thy goodness and loving kindness
to us and to all whom thou hast made.
We bless thee for our creation, preservation,
and all the blessings of this life;
but above all for thine inestimable 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 beseech thee,
give us that due sense of all thy mercies,
that our hearts may be unfeignedly thankful;
and that we show forth thy praise,
not only with our lips, but in our lives,
by giving up our selves to thy service,
and by walking before thee
in holiness and righteousness all our days;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost,
be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.

The Officiant says
The Grace

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*

The Choir sings

The Final Responses

Edward Naylor (1867-1934)

V The Lord be with you.
R And with thy spirit.
V The Lord give us his peace.
R And life eternal. Amen.

Please remain standing as the Procession leaves the Cathedral.

Organ

Paraphrase sur un chœur de Handel

Alexandre Guilmant (1837-1911)

IN THIS EVENING'S LITURGY

Officiant and Homilist

The Very Reverend Joseph C. Alsay

Lector and Acolyte

Paul Styer

Technology

Dr. Alan Cooper

The Schola Cantorum is under the direction of Canon Jeremy David Tarrant, Organist and Choirmaster, and is accompanied this afternoon by guest organist Charles Miller.



Diverse people Daily relevance Inspiring space

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