

EVENSONG

WITH INVESTITURE OF CHORISTERS

November 9, 2025

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

FIVE O'CLOCK IN THE EVENING



SUNG BY: THE CATHEDRAL CHORISTERS AND CATHEDRAL SCHOLA

OFFICIANT & DEAN: THE VERY REV. PENNY BRIDGES

LECTOR: BOB LONGSTRETH

The Rev. Canon Brooks Mason, *Canon Liturgist*

Canon Martin Green, *Organist & Director of Music*

Seonjeong Park, *Organ Scholar*

Canon Lucinda Parsons, *Head Usher*

Bob Longstreth, *Usher*

We welcome all to this service. If you are here this evening to experience the service as a “sound bath” we invite you to find a space on the floor at the front of the south aisle (to the left), in the area with a rug. Please use the QR code on page 12 to make a contribution.

Assisted hearing devices are available from an usher.

For the link to the webpage with the announcements and bulletins, use this QR code:

Services are regularly streamed and recorded and you can find them:

<http://www.stpaulcathedral.org/watch>

If you're interested in more information about the cathedral's ministries, we would like to hear from you: <http://stpaulcathedral.org/im-new/>



This service is being streamed live and if you don't wish to be seen on camera, please ask an usher for appropriate seating.

As a courtesy to others, please silence electronic devices.

St. Paul's Cathedral acknowledges that we gather on unceded Kumeyaay land. We value the knowledge, culture, and worldview of Indigenous people. We commit to the vital work of educating ourselves, increasing community awareness, and promoting reconciliation with our Indigenous neighbors. As we examine actions and practices that perpetuate harm against Indigenous communities, we pledge to work toward a meaningful and respectful relationship as we follow their example in honoring this sacred land. *Approved by the Cathedral Chapter, May 2023*

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

Andante Sostenuto (from Symphonie Gothique, Op. 70)
Charles-Marie Widor (1844-1937)

INTROIT

Te lucis ante terminum
Thomas Tallis (c. 1505-1585)

*Te lucis ante terminum,
rerum Creator, poscimus
ut pro tua clementia
sis praesul et custodia.
Procul recedant somnia
et noctium phantasmata;
hostemque nostrum comprime,
ne polluantur corpora.
Praesta, Pater piissime,
Patrique compar Unice,
cum Spiritu Paraclito
regnans per omne saeculum.
Amen.*

Thee, Lord, before the close of day,
Maker of all things, Thee we pray
For Thy dear loving kindness' sake
To guard and guide us in Thy way.
Banish the dreams that terrify,
And night's fantastic company;
Keep us from Satan's tyranny:
Defend us from unchastity.
Protect us, Father, God ador'd,
Thou too, co-equal Son and Lord,
Thou, Holy Ghost, our Advocate,
Whose reign can know nor bound nor date.
Amen.

¶ Please stand as you are able at the tolling of the bell.

Investiture of Choristers

¶ *Standing in front of the altar with the chorister(s) to be admitted, the Choirmaster says:*
I have found these/this boy(s)/girl(s) to have sufficient musical knowledge to be admitted as (a) full chorister(s) of this Cathedral.

¶ *The Dean asks the following questions of the chorister(s):*
Do you desire to be admitted as a Chorister of this Cathedral?

Answer: I do.

Do you promise to be faithful to the duties of this office?

Answer: I do.

Do you promise to be reverent in all your conduct within this Cathedral?

Answer: I do.

¶ *The Dean then addresses the chorister(s):*

Remember well that what you sing with your lips you believe in your hearts, and what you believe in your hearts, you practice in your lives, and may God grant you grace so to worship and serve on earth, that the praises you sing may echo eternally among the redeemed in heaven.

People: **Amen.**

¶ *The Choirmaster then places the surplice on each new Chorister.*

The Dean then addresses each one, saying:

N.____, I admit you to the choir of this Cathedral, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.

People: **Amen.**

¶ *The newly invested choristers take their place in the choir.*

The Office continues with the Opening Sentence.

OPENING SENTENCE (*Officiant*)

PRECES

William Smith (1603-1645)

Officiant O Lord, open thou our lips.

Choir And our mouth shall shew 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 Ghost;

Choir as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end.

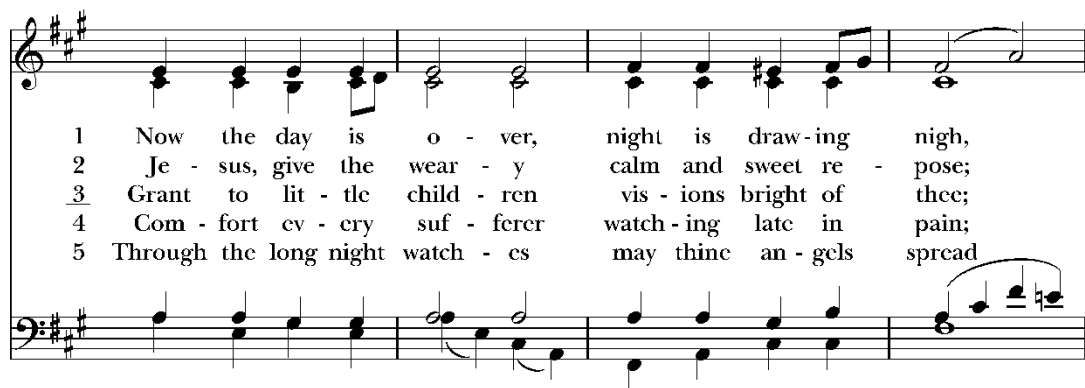
Amen.

Officiant Praise ye the Lord.

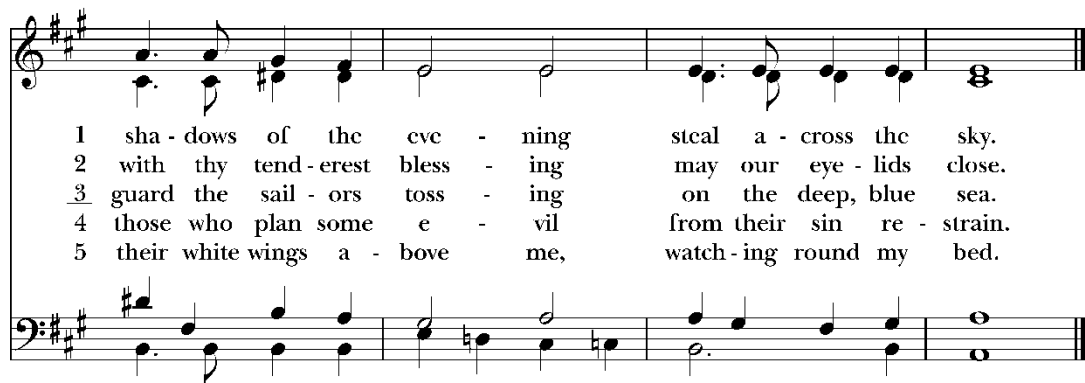
Choir The Lord's name be praised.

¶ Please remain standing as able for the hymn.

OFFICE HYMN 42



1 Now the day is o - ver, night is draw - ing nigh,
2 Je - sus, give the wear - y calm and sweet re - pose;
3 Grant to lit - tle child - ren vis - ions bright of thee;
4 Com - fort ev - ery suf - ferer watch - ing late in pain;
5 Through the long night watch - es may thine an - gels spread



1 sha - dows of the eve - ning steal a - cross the sky.
2 with thy tend - erest bless - ing may our eye - lids close.
3 guard the sail - ors toss - ing on the deep, blue sea.
4 those who plan some e - vil from their sin re - strain.
5 their white wings a - bove me, watch - ing round my bed.

1 eve - ning steal a - cross the sky.
2 bless - ing may our eye - lids close.
3 toss - ing on the deep, blue sea.
4 e - vil from their sin re - strain.
5 bove me, watch - ing round my bed.

6 When the morning wakens,
then may I arise
Pure, and fresh, and sinless
in thy holy eyes.

Words: Sabine Baring-Gould (1834-1924), alt. Music: *Merrial*, Joseph Barnby (1838-1896).

¶ Please be seated.

Psalm 34. *Benedicam Dominum.*

Chant: Boyce/Barnby

I WILL always give thanks unto the LORD; * his praise shall ever be in my mouth.

2 My soul shall make her boast in the LORD; * the humble shall hear thereof, and be glad.

3 O praise the LORD with me, * and let us magnify his Name together.

4 I sought the LORD, and he heard me; * yea, he delivered me out of all my fear.

5 They had an eye unto him, and were lightened; * and their faces were not ashamed.

6 Lo, the poor crieth, and the LORD heareth him; * yea, and saveth him out of all his troubles.

7 The angel of the LORD tarrieth round about them that fear him, * and delivereth them.

8 O taste, and see, how gracious the LORD is; * blessed is the man that trusteth in him.
 9 O fear the LORD, ye that are his saints; * for they that fear him lack nothing.
 10 The lions do lack, and suffer hunger; * but they who seek the LORD shall want no manner of thing that is good.
 11 Come, ye children, and hearken unto me; * I will teach you the fear of the LORD.
 12 What man is he that lusteth to live, * and would fain see good days?
 13 Keep thy tongue from evil, * and thy lips, that they speak no guile.
 14 Eschew evil, and do good; * seek peace, and ensue it.
 15 The eyes of the LORD are over the righteous, * and his ears are open unto their prayers.
 16 The countenance of the LORD is against them that do evil, * to root out the remembrance of them from the earth.
 17 The righteous cry, and the LORD heareth them, * and delivereth them out of all their troubles.
 18 The LORD is nigh unto them that are of a contrite heart, * and will save such as be of an humble spirit.
 19 Great are the troubles of the righteous; * but the LORD delivereth him out of all.
 20 He keepeth all his bones, * so that not one of them is broken.
 21 But misfortune shall slay the ungodly; * and they that hate the righteous shall be desolate.
 22 The LORD delivereth the souls of his servants; * and all they that put their trust in him shall not be destitute.

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.

FIRST READING

Ezra 10:1-17

The first reading is taken from the Hebrew Scriptures.

¶ Please stand as you are able.

MAGNIFICAT “Collegium Regale”

Herbert Howells (1892-1983)

The Magnificat is Mary's song (Luke 1:46-55) responding to the declaration that the child she is to bear will fulfill the promises of the Hebrew Scriptures.

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 forever.

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.*

SECOND READING

Luke 14:12-24

The second reading is taken from the New Testament, which tells of the life and teaching of Jesus and the witness of the early Church.

¶ *Please stand as you are able.*

NUNC DIMITTIS

Howells

The Nunc Dimittis is the song of Simeon (Luke 2:29-32) who, before he dies, sees the Infant Jesus and holds him in his arms.

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 Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, * world without end. Amen.

¶ *Please remain standing.*

THE APOSTLES' CREED *(led by the Officiant and choir)*

**I believe 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.

SALUTATION

Officiant The Lord be with you.

Choir And with thy spirit.

Officiant Let us pray.

THE LESSER LITANY *(choir)*

Smith

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

THE LORD'S PRAYER *(led by the Officiant and choir)*

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
in 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

Officiant O Lord, shew 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 Collect of the Day

O GOD, whose blessed Son was manifested that he might destroy the works of the devil and make us the children of God and heirs of eternal life: Grant us, we beseech thee, that, having this hope, we may purify ourselves even as he is pure; that, when he shall appear again with power and great glory, we may be made like unto him in his eternal and glorious kingdom; where with thee, O Father, and thee, O Holy Ghost, he liveth and reigneth ever, one God, world without end. **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.**

¶ Please be seated for the anthem.

Offerings at Evensong directly support ministries at the Cathedral. See page 12.

AT THE OFFERING, ANTHEM

Hymn to the Virgin
Benjamin Britten (1913-1976)

Of one that is so fair and bright (*velut maris stella*) [*like a star of the sea*]
Brighter than the day is light, (*parens et puella*) [*mother and virgin*]
I cry to thee, thou see to me,
Lady, pray thy Son for me, (*tam pia*) [*so pious*]
That I may come to thee. (*Maria!*)
All this world was forlorn (*Eva peccatrice*) [*after Eve, all sinning*]
Till our Lord was y-born. (*de te genetrix*) [*born of you*]

With “*Ave*” it went away darkest night, and comes the day; (*salutis*) [*of salvation*]
The well springeth out of thee. (*virtutis*) [*of virtue*]
Lady, flow’r of ev’rything, (*rosa sine spina*) [*rose without thorn*]
Thou bare Jesu, Heaven’s King, (*gratia divina*) [*by grace divine*]
Of all thou bear’st the prize, lady, queen of paradise, (*electa*) [*chosen*]
Maid mild, mother. (*es effecta*) [*made*]

[Text: anonymous (c. 1300)]

THE WELCOME

¶ *Please stand as you are able.*

CLOSING PRAYERS

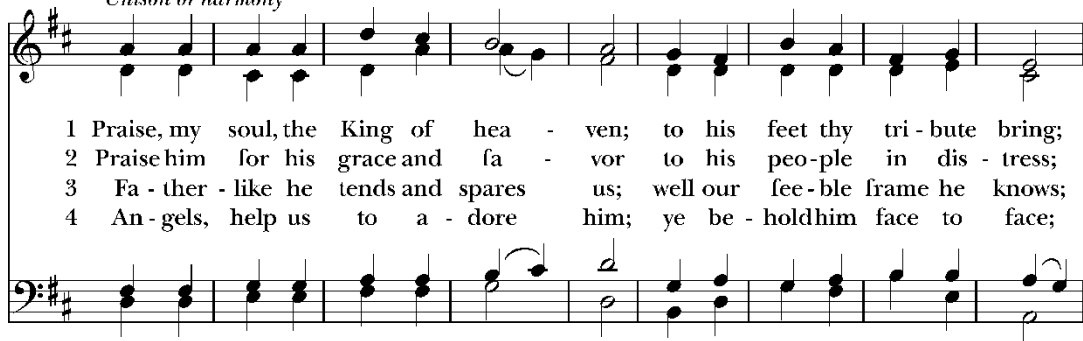
DISMISSAL

The grace ☩ of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Ghost, be with us all evermore. **Amen.**

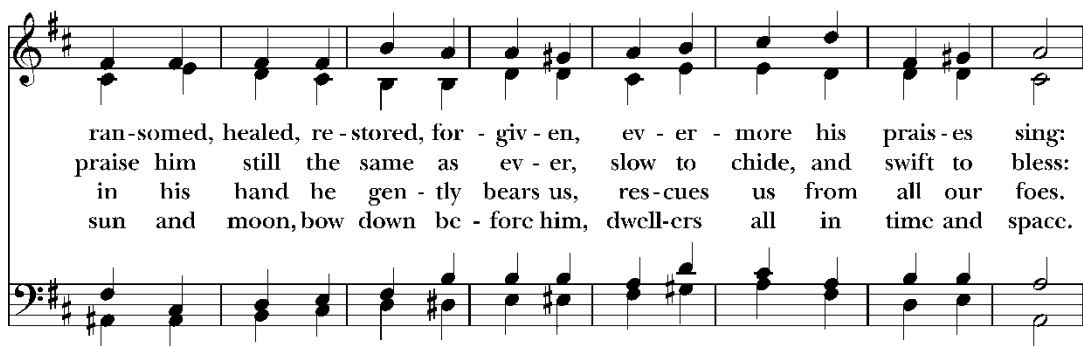
¶ *Please remain standing.*

HYMN 410

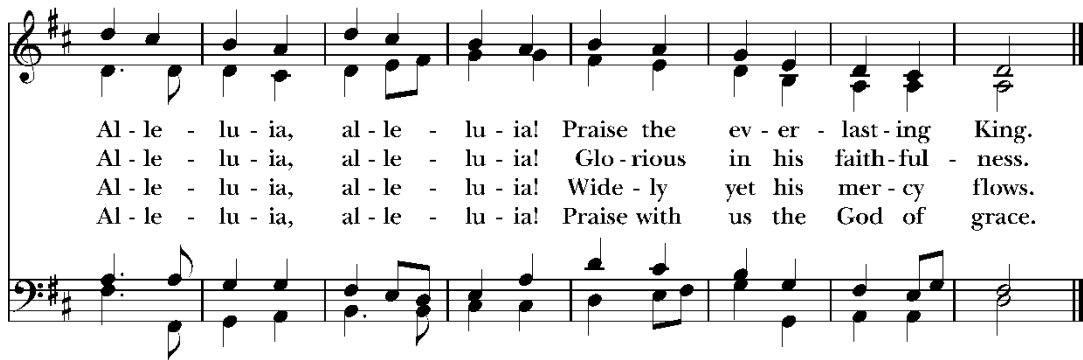
Unison or harmony



1 Praise, my soul, the King of hea - ven; to his feet thy tri - bute bring;
 2 Praise him for his grace and fa - vor to his peo - ple in dis - tress;
 3 Fa - ther - like he tends and spares us; well our fee - ble frame he knows;
 4 An - gels, help us to a - dore him; ye be - hold him face to face;

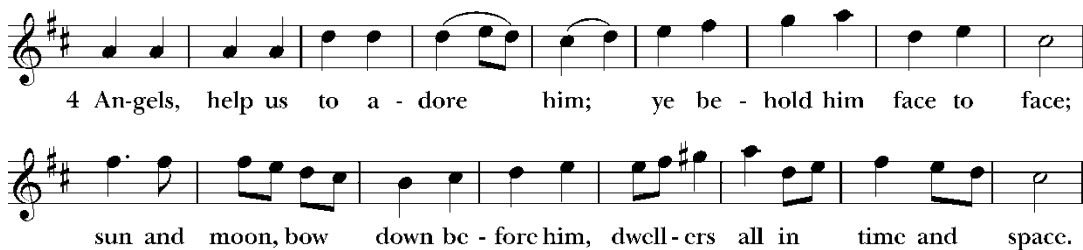


ran - somed, healed, re - stored, for - giv - en, ev - er - more his prais - es sing:
 praise him still the same as ev - er, slow to chide, and swift to bless:
 in his hand he gen - tly bears us, res - cues us from all our foes.
 sun and moon, bow down be - fore him, dwell - ers all in time and space.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Praise the ev - er - last - ing King.
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Glo - rious in his faith - ful - ness.
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Wide - ly yet his mer - cy flows.
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Praise with us the God of grace.

Descant for use with unison singing



4 An - gels, help us to a - dore him; ye be - hold him face to face;
 sun and moon, bow down be - fore him, dwell - ers all in time and space.



Words: Henry Francis Lyte (1793-1847). Music: *Lauda anima*, John Goss (1800-1880); desc. Craig Sellar Lang (1891-1971).
Descant by permission of Novello and Company, Limited.

Cantor Let us bless the Lord.

Choir Thanks be to God.

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

Wir glauben all an einen Gott, BWV 680
Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

If you choose not to remain for the Organ Voluntary, please leave quietly out of respect for those who would like to stay and pray for a while. Thank you.

The *Friends of Cathedral Music* welcome you!

Please introduce yourself at our greeters' table and say "Hello."

We would love to meet you!

You may give online now by using your phone's camera to scan the quick response code:



or text stpaulcathedral to 73256 using your cell phone. Thank you!

In the unlikely event of an emergency requiring us to evacuate the cathedral please follow the directions of the ushers and vergers, and remain as quiet and calm as possible.

The exit doors are:

- ❖ South porch doors at Nutmeg Street and Fifth Avenue*
- ❖ North porch doors to Fifth Avenue Courtyard*
- ❖ South transept east and west doors to Nutmeg Street*
- ❖ Northeast hallway door to Fifth Avenue breezeway*
- ❖ West chapel (to the left of chapel altar) stairs leading down to landing.*

Please locate an exit nearest you.
