

SAINT JOHN'S CHURCH

LAFAYETTE SQUARE • WASHINGTON, DC

CHORAL EVENSONG

March 19, 2025

*St. John's is a church for people of all races, ethnicities, genders, sexual orientations,
and viewpoints grounded in love. Whoever you are, we welcome you.*

WELCOME TO ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

Whether you are a longtime member or a visitor, we are happy to welcome you this evening. If you would like to learn more about St. John's and our presence in this city, we invite you to fill out a "Welcome" card that can be placed in the offering plate or handed to an usher. Choral Evensong is offered on the third Wednesday of most months from September through May. To see a schedule of upcoming services and events, visit our website: www.stjohns-dc.org.

Steeped in the beauty of the Anglican tradition, Evensong meets us at the even point between the active day and the restful night. It draws on the richness of monastic worship by inviting us to reflect upon scripture, to sing praises to God, and to pray. In its cadence, Evensong speaks to many of our deepest 21st-century needs, providing space for peace and for contemplation. We hope that this service, in the midst of this busy city, refreshes and restores you this evening.

SETTINGS FOR THIS EVENING

Preces and Responses by William Smith (1603–1645)
Canticles—Gloucester Service by Herbert Howells (1892–1983)

VOLUNTARY

O Gott, du frommer Gott

Johannes Brahms (1833–1897)

INTROIT

Abendlied

Josef Rheinberger (1893–1901)

*Bleib bei uns, denn es will Abend werden,
und der Tag hat sich geneiget.*

Bide with us, for evening shadows darken,
and the day will soon be over.

—*Luke 24:29*

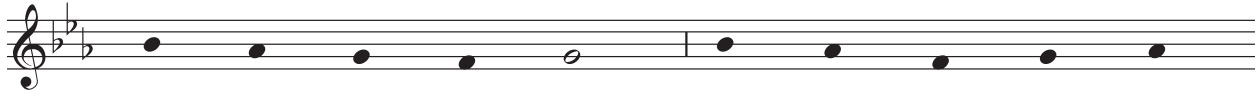
HYMN 26

O gracious Light, Lord Jesus Christ

Please stand as the procession enters and remain standing to sing the hymn.



1 O gra - cious Light, Lord Je - sus Christ, in you the
2 Now sun - set comes, but light shines forth, the lamps are
3 Wor - thy are you of end - less praise, O Son of



Fa - ther's glo - ry shone. Im - mor - tal, ho - ly,
lit to pierce the night. Praise Fa - ther, Son, and
God, Life - giv - ing Lord; where - fore you are through



blest is he, and blest are you, his ho - ly Son.
Spi - rit: God who dwells in the e - ter - nal light.
all the earth and in the high - est heaven a - dored.

Words: Greek, 3rd cent.; tr. F. Bland Tucker (1895-1984); para. of *O Gracious Light*. Copyright © The Church Pension Fund.
Music: *Conditor alme siderum*, plainsong, Mode 4; acc. Bruce Neswick (b. 1956).

WELCOME

The Rev. Robert W. Fisher

THE OPENING SENTENCES

Please remain standing.

I will bless the LORD who gives me counsel; my heart teaches me, night after night.
I have set the LORD always before me; because he is at my right hand, I shall not fall.

—*Psalms 16:7, 8*

Jesus said, “I am the light of the world; whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”

—*John 8:12*

THE PRECES AND RESPONSES

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.

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.

Officiant Praise ye the Lord.

Choir The Lord's Name be praised.

PSALM 119:73-96

Please be seated.

Edward John Hopkins (1818–1901)

Lord Mornington (1735–1781)

Thy hands have made me and fashioned me *
 O give me understanding, that I may learn thy commandments.
They that fear thee will be glad when they see me *
 because I have put my trust in thy word.
I know, O LORD, that thy judgements are right *
 and that thou of very faithfulness hast caused me to be troubled.
O let thy merciful kindness be my comfort *
 according to thy word unto thy servant.
O let thy loving mercies come unto me, that I may live *
 for thy law is my delight.
Let the proud be confounded, for they go wickedly about to destroy me *
 but I will be occupied in thy commandments.
Let such as fear thee, and have known thy testimonies *
 be turned unto me.
O let my heart be sound in thy statutes *
 that I be not ashamed.
My soul hath longed for thy salvation *
 and I have a good hope because of thy word.
Mine eyes long sore for thy word *
 saying, O when wilt thou comfort me?
For I am become like a bottle in the smoke *
 yet do I not forget thy statutes.
How many are the days of thy servant *
 when wilt thou be avenged of them that persecute me?
The proud have digged pits for me *
 which are not after thy law.
All thy commandments are true *
 they persecute me falsely; O be thou my help.
They had almost made an end of me upon earth *
 but I forsook not thy commandments.
O quicken me after thy loving-kindness *
 and so shall I keep the testimonies of thy mouth.
O LORD, thy word *
 endureth for ever in heaven.
Thy truth also remaineth from one generation to another *
 thou hast laid the foundation of the earth, and it abideth.
They continue this day according to thine ordinance *
 for all things serve thee.
If my delight had not been in thy law *
 I should have perished in my trouble.
I will never forget thy commandments *
 for with them thou hast quickened me.
I am thine, O save me *
 for I have sought thy commandments.

The ungodly laid wait for me to destroy me *

but I will consider thy testimonies.

I see that all things come to an end *

but thy commandment is exceeding broad.

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.

THE FIRST READING

Read by Jack Reiffer.

Romans 1:28–2:11

And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a debased mind and to things that should not be done. They were filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, covetousness, malice. Full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, craftiness, they are gossips, slanderers, God-haters, insolent, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil, rebellious toward parents, foolish, faithless, heartless, ruthless. They know God's decree, that those who practice such things deserve to die—yet they not only do them but even applaud others who practice them. Therefore you have no excuse, whoever you are, when you judge others; for in passing judgment on another you condemn yourself, because you, the judge, are doing the very same things. You say, "We know that God's judgment on those who do such things is in accordance with truth." Do you imagine, whoever you are, that when you judge those who do such things and yet do them yourself, you will escape the judgment of God? Or do you despise the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience? Do you not realize that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance? But by your hard and impenitent heart you are storing up wrath for yourself on the day of wrath, when God's righteous judgment will be revealed. For he will repay according to each one's deeds: to those who by patiently doing good seek for glory and honor and immortality, he will give eternal life; while for those who are self-seeking and who obey not the truth but wickedness, there will be wrath and fury. There will be anguish and distress for everyone who does evil, the Jew first and also the Greek, but glory and honor and peace for everyone who does good, the Jew first and also the Greek. For God shows no partiality.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

THE MAGNIFICAT

Sung by the choir.

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.

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.

—*Luke 1:46-55*

THE SECOND READING

Read by Sandra Hackworth.

John 5:1-18

After this there was a festival of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. Now in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate there is a pool, called in Hebrew Beth-zatha, which has five porticoes. In these lay many invalids—blind, lame, and paralyzed. One man was there who had been ill for thirty-eight years. When Jesus saw him lying there and knew that he had been there a long time, he said to him, “Do you want to be made well?” The sick man answered him, “Sir, I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up; and while I am making my way, someone else steps down ahead of me.” Jesus said to him, “Stand up, take your mat and walk.” At once the man was made well, and he took up his mat and began to walk. Now that day was a sabbath. So the Jews said to the man who had been cured, “It is the sabbath; it is not lawful for you to carry your mat.” But he answered them, “The man who made me well said to me, ‘Take up your mat and walk.’” They asked him, “Who is the man who said to you, ‘Take it up and walk?’” Now the man who had been healed did not know who it was, for Jesus had disappeared in the crowd that was there. Later Jesus found him in the temple and said to him, “See, you have been made well! Do not sin any more, so that nothing worse happens to you.” The man went away and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had made him well. Therefore the Jews started persecuting Jesus, because he was doing such things on the sabbath. But Jesus answered them, “My Father is still working, and I also am working.” For this reason the Jews were seeking all the more to kill him, because he was not only breaking the sabbath, but was also calling God his own Father, thereby making himself equal to God.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

THE NUNC DIMITTIS

Sung by the choir.

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.

—*Luke 2:29-32*

THE APOSTLES' CREED

Sung by all on a monotone, standing as you are able.

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.

Choir And with thy spirit.

Officiant Let us pray.

Choir Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Sung by all on a monotone.

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 SUFFRAGES

Officiant O Lord, show 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

Officiant O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy: Be gracious to all who have gone astray from your ways, and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of your Word, Jesus Christ your Son; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever.
Choir Amen.
Officiant Most holy God, the source of all good desires, all right judgments, and all just works: Give to us, your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, so that our minds may be fixed on the doing of your will, and that we, being delivered from the fear of all enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through the mercies of Christ Jesus our Savior.
Choir Amen.
Officiant Be our light in the darkness, O Lord, and in your great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night; for the love of your only Son, our Savior Jesus Christ.
Choir Amen.

REMARKS *Please be seated.*

The Rev. Robert W. Fisher

An offering to support the ministry of St. John's Church will be collected during the singing of the anthem. You may make an offering by placing your donation in the plate or using this QR code to pay electronically. A donation via this code can go only to offerings and not to pledges or any other specific funds.



THE ANTHEM

Like as the hart desireth the waterbrooks Herbert Howells (1892–1983)

Sung by the choir.

Like as the hart desireth the waterbrooks, so longeth my soul after thee, O God.
My soul is athirst for God: yea, even for the living God.
When shall I come to appear before the presence of God?
My tears have been my meat day and night, while they daily say unto me: Where is now thy God?

—*Psalm 42:1-3*

THE GENERAL THANKSGIVING

Said by all, standing as you are able.

Almighty God, Father of all mercies,
we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks
for all your goodness and loving-kindness to us and to all whom you have made.
We bless you for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life;
but above all for your immeasurable 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 pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies,
that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise,
not only with our lips, but in our lives, by giving up our selves to your service,
and by walking before you in holiness and righteousness all our days;
through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.

Officiant Let us bless the Lord.

Choir Thanks be to God.

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

People Amen.

HYMN 662 *Sung by all.*

Abide with me: fast falls the eventide

1 A - bide with me: fast falls the e - ven - tide;
2 I need thy pres - ence ev - ery pass - ing hour;
3 I fear no foe, with thee at hand to bless;
4 Hold thou thy cross be - fore my clos - ing eyes;

the dark - ness deep - ens; Lord, with me a - bide:
what but thy grace can foil the tempt - er's power?
ills have no weight, and tears no bit - ter - ness.
shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies;

when o - ther help - ers fail and com - forts flee,
 Who, like thy - self, my guide and stay can be?
 Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy vic - to - ry?
 heaven's morn - ing breaks, and earth's vain sha - dows flee;

help of the help - less, O a - bide with me.
 Through cloud and sun - shine, Lord, a - bide with me.
 I tri - umph still, if thou a - bide with me.
 in life, in death, O Lord, a - bide with me.

Words: Henry Frances Lyte (1793-1847). Music: *Eventide*, William Henry Monk (1823-1889).

VOLUNTARY

Prelude No. 2 in G minor

Johannes Brahms

All are invited to a reception in Togo West Parlor immediately following the service.

ASSISTING AT THIS SERVICE

The Rev. Robert W. Fisher, *Rector*

Wendy J. Fibison, *Crucifer*

St. John's Choir and Choristers

Brent Erstad, *Director of Music and Organist*

Lyn Loewi, *Associate Organist*

Please help us be good stewards of the environment.

**If you do not wish to take this bulletin home after the service,
you may leave it at the end of the pew as you depart or place it in a blue recycling bin.**

NEWS AND EVENTS AT ST. JOHN'S

LAFAYETTE FELLOWSHIP

Sunday, March 30, at 2 p.m.

On Sunday, March 30, we will enjoy parish lunch before caravanning to the National Gallery of Art for a 2 p.m. lecture, part of a series called “America’s Architecture of Freedom and Unfreedom,” about the interplay of race and the construction of national identity. You are welcome to join in for lunch, the lecture, or both; let us know to expect you at bit.ly/lafayette-fellowship-events. The Lafayette Fellowship offers activities for adults at St. John’s who seek to build community with one another, typically gathering on the second Tuesday of the month for an evening activity. Questions? Contact Hilary West via the Ministry Directory at stjohns-dc.org.

LATROBE YOUNG ADULT FELLOWSHIP

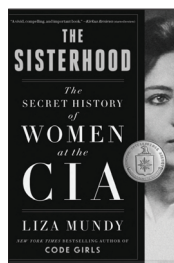
Wednesday, April 2, at 6:30 p.m.

The Latrobe Fellowship is an active and engaged group of adults, primarily in their 20s and 30s. We typically gather at St. John’s at 6:30 p.m. on the first Wednesday of the month for a short worship service followed by an activity. In April, join us for evening prayer followed by dinner and beverages in Togo West Parlor as we explore the use of prayer beads within the Anglican tradition and craft our own beads to take home. For more, contact the Rev. Dcn. Eric Bailey via the About: Leadership tab of our website.

ST. JOHN’S BOOK GROUP

Thursday, April 3, at 7 p.m.

Please join us via Zoom to discuss *The Sisterhood: The Secret History of Women at the CIA* by Liza Mundy. *The Sisterhood* tells the story of how women at the CIA ushered in the modern intelligence age, and how their silencing made the world more dangerous. The book group typically meets on the first Thursday of the month at 7 p.m. For information and the link, please contact leader Janet Edmond via the online directory at stjohns-dc.org/connect/directory.



THE 2025 SPRING ADULT INQUIRERS' CLASS

Saturdays, April 5 and 12

Would you like to be baptized, confirmed, or received into membership in the Episcopal Church? Are you curious to learn more about the Christian faith, the Episcopal tradition, and the ministry of St. John’s? Consider joining the Spring Adult Inquirers’ Class led by the Rev. Rob Fisher. The class will meet on Saturdays, April 5 and 12, from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., and all are welcome—newcomers and longtime parishioners alike. To register, contact Lisa Koehler via the About: Leadership tab on our website.



LIVESTREAM MINISTRY SEEKS VOLUNTEERS

St. John’s streams one Sunday service a week, the monthly choral evensong, Christmas and Holy Week services, and very occasional parish-wide events. The livestream offering has become particularly meaningful to parishioners unable to attend due to illness or travel, as well as to anyone anywhere seeking to learn more about St. John’s. If you are curious about this ministry or want to join our volunteers, visit the livestream desk any Sunday after services or contact Lisa Koehler via the About: Leadership tab of our website.

Visit our website for more news and the full calendar of upcoming events. You can find us at www.stjohns-dc.org.

Visit stjohns-dc.org/connect/newsletters to subscribe to our weekly e-newsletter (*The Word*) and other parish email lists.

WELCOME!

At St. John's Church, we believe Christ is calling us to be a renewed church in a changing world. Empowered by the Spirit of God, we respond to Jesus' call as we deepen our bond with Christ through worship, become a community where all are accepted, and work together as laity and clergy to do God's work in the world.

St. John's was organized in 1815 to serve as a parish church for Episcopalians residing in the neighborhoods in the west end of the District of Columbia. Its cornerstone was laid on September 14, 1815, and it was consecrated on December 27, 1816. Beginning with James Madison, every person who has held the office of President of the United States has attended a service at the church. Several Presidents have been communicants. Thus, St. John's is often referred to as the "Church of the Presidents." Pew 54 is the President's Pew. The architect of the church was Benjamin Henry Latrobe, who assisted in the rebuilding of the U.S. Capitol and the White House after the War of 1812. Twenty-five of the stained glass windows in St. John's were designed and executed by artisans of the noted Lorin firm of Chartres, France.

If you are visiting, please fill out the visitor information card found at the end of each pew to enable us to welcome you personally into the life of our parish.

St. John's website (www.stjohns-dc.org) has up-to-date information about the church including the Sunday service schedule, Speaker Series speakers and topics, and newsworthy events.

Vestry Leadership & Members

Nora Rigby, *Senior Warden*

Alfred Thesmar, *Junior Warden*

Tony Anikeeff, Brian Cordova-Brookey,
Kaye Edwards, Casey Evans, Debby Hailey,
Fruzsina Harsanyi, Julia Koster,
Elizabeth Cavert Morrison,
Ucheora Onwuamaegbu, Jack Reiffer,
Matthew Taylor, and Jess Unger, *Members*

Nora Haugh, *Treasurer*

Anya Kleymenova, *Assistant Treasurer*

Allie Raether, *Secretary*

Harker Rhodes, *Parish Counsel*

Head Usher—James H. Czerwonky

Head Greeters—Eleanor and Peter Odom

Heads of Flower Guild

Pat Dalby and Katherine Kyle

Worship & Program Staff

The Rev. Robert W. Fisher, *Rector*

The Rev. Sarah Akes-Cardwell, *Associate Rector*

The Rev. William Morris, *Assisting Priest*
for Engaging Local Communities

Brent Erstad, *Director of Music and Organist*

Lyn Loewi, *Associate Organist*

The Rev. Dcn. Eric Bailey, *Minister for Youth and*
Young Adults

Staff

Preston Cherouny, *Chief Operating Officer*

Charley Griffin, *Operations Manager*

Lisa Koehler, *Program Associate and*
Executive Assistant to the Rector

Javier Obregon, *Sexton*

GeeGee Bryant, David Gamboa, and John Queen,
Assistant Sextons

Anne Stone, *Publications*

ST. JOHN'S MISSION STATEMENT

St. John's shines as a beacon of God's love through faith, worship, care, and community, and offers a place of grace at our historic corner in the nation's capital.

Parish House

1525 H Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20005-1005