



The Satanic Temple of Washington to Give Invocation at the State Capitol

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE—OLYMPIA WA Feb 18, 2020—A congregation of Washington state Satanists has received official approval to perform a ritual on the Capitol Building grounds next month.

The Department of Enterprise Services granted The Satanic Temple of Washington a permit to perform an invocation during the current legislative session, from noon to 1 p.m. March 6, on the north steps of the Legislative Building.

Satanic Temple representative Tarkus Claypool said members of TST Washington and their allies had contacted their state legislators in hopes of getting an invitation to give the opening invocation on any of the forty legislative calendar sessions, without success. "Unfortunately, no legislator invited us to give the opening invocation in the chamber, so we give our invocation outside on the North Steps. We may not get a place inside, but we will be heard nonetheless."

Claypool said nearly all the invocations given [are Christian](#). "Legislators hand-picking Christian clergy is uncontroversial and politically safe, but it ensures that lesser-known religions—or even infamous ones such as ours— will struggle to have a voice in these chambers. The First Amendment provides full protection of our religious message, regardless of our beliefs, and Satanists can provide an uplifting and meaningful message to our state legislators just as well as any other." Claypool said.

In 2015, the Washington chapter of The Satanic Temple [made local news](#) by offering to perform a satanic ritual at Bremerton High School's football game in response to Coach Joe Kennedy praying at the 50 yard line with his team.

"We really don't think it's right for the state to be promoting one religion over the other," chapter founder Lilith Starr said at the time. "We really want to make the point that this is not just a Christian forum. If it's going to be open, it's going to be open to everyone, including us."

The Satanic Temple is a nontheistic religion, meaning its congregation does not believe in or worship literal, supernatural deities such as gods or the devil. Rather than a holy book, they have [Seven Fundamental Tenets](#).

WHO: The Satanic Temple - Washington State Chapter

WHAT: Satanic Invocation

WHEN: Noon to 1 p.m. Friday, March 6, 2020

WHERE: Legislative Building, North Steps, 416 Sid Snyder Avenue SW, Olympia, WA 98504

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