Cantor: O Lord, guide and defend our rulers
Choir: and mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.
Cantor: Endue thy ministers with righteousness
Choir: and make thy chosen people joyful.
Cantor: O Lord, save thy people
Choir: and bless thine inheritance.
Cantor: Give peace in our time, O Lord,
Choir: because there is none other that fighteth for us but only thou, O God.
Cantor: O God, make clean our hearts within us
Choir: and take not thy Holy Spirit from us.

The Collect of the Day
We beseech thee, Almighty God, mercifully to look upon thy people; that by thy great goodness they may be governed and preserved evermore, both in body and soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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 both, our hearts may be set to obey thy commandments, and also that by thee we being defended from the fear of our enemies may pass our time in rest and quietness; through the merits of Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.

For Aid Against All Perils
Lighten our darkness, we beseech thee, O Lord: and by thy great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night; for the love of thy only Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

Sit for
The Anthem
Ave Maria, gratia plena; Dominus tecum: benedicta tu in mulieribus, et benedictus fructus ventris tui, Jesus. Sancta Maria, Mater Dei, ora pro nobis peccatoribus, nunc et in hora mortis nostrae. Ora pro nobis. Amen.
– Robert Parsons (c.1530 - 1572)

Kneel
Closing Prayer and Blessing

Stand
Organ Voluntary
Ave Maris Stella - Marcel Dupré (1886 - 1971)

Once the choir and clergy have left the Cathedral, please sit until the Organ Voluntary ends.

Choral Evensong is essentially a service of reflection, of leaving ourselves open so that God may speak to us through the psalms, readings and canticles, which are the core of the service. Cathedrals which have a great choral tradition, in our case for at least 700 years, draw upon a rich inheritance of music, much of it sung by the choir alone. In the Anglican tradition this music finds its natural setting in the office of Evensong, a combination of the ancient monastic offices of Vespers and Compline. The combination of the beautiful 16th century English from the Book of Common Prayer, the musical settings, and sometimes of the Latin texts of the canticles and anthems, serves to draw the worshipper into a deeper sense of peace and reflection in the presence of God.

There are no announcements during the service. Please join in all spoken parts (in bold print) and in the singing of the Office Hymn and follow the rubrics (in red print) which direct you when to sit and stand.

All stand as the choir and clergy enter.

The Precies

Cantor: O Lord, open thou our lips
Choir: and our mouth shall show forth thy praise.
Cantor: 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 Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Cantor: Praise ye the Lord.
Choir: The Lord's name be praised.

All sing
The Office Hymn
The Lord whom earth and sea and sky adore and praise and magnify, who o'er their threefold fabric reigns, the Virgin's spotless womb contains.

And he whose will is ever done by moon and seas, by stars and sun, is borne upon a maiden's breast, whom God's foreseeing grace possessed.
How blest that Mother, in whose shrine 
the very Word of God divine, 
the maker of the earth and sky, 
was pleased in fleshly form to lie.

Blest in the message Gabriel brought, 
blest in the work the Spirit wrought, 
blest evermore, who brought to birth 
the long-Desired of all the earth.

O Jesu, Virgin-born, to thee 
eternal praise and glory be, 
whom with the Father we adore 

**Latin, Venantius Fortunatus 530-609**

**Tr J.M. Neale (1818 - 1866)**

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**Sit**

Psalm 146

*Domine, non est.*

1. Praise the Lord, O my soul; while I live will I praise the Lord: yea, as long as I have any being, I will sing praises unto my God.

2. O put not your trust in princes, nor in any child of man: for there is no help in them.

3. For when the breath of man goeth forth he shall turn again to his earth: and then all his thoughts perish.

4. Blessed is he that hath the God of Jacob for his help: and whose hope is in the Lord his God;

5. Who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that therein is: who keepeth his promise for ever;

6. Who helpeth them to right that suffer wrong: who feedeth the hungry.

7. The Lord looseth men out of prison: the Lord giveth sight to the blind.

8. The Lord helpeth them that are fallen: the Lord careth for the righteous.

9. The Lord careth for the strangers, he defendeth the fatherless and widow: as for the way of the ungodly he turneth it upside down.

10. The Lord thy God, O Zion, shall be King for evermore: and throughout all generations.

*Gloria*

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**THE FIRST LESSON** - Isaiah 52: 1-12

**Stand**

**Magnificat**

*Michael Wise (1648 - 1687) in E flat*

*The Song of the Blessed Virgin Mary*

My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour. For he hath regarded the lowliness of his hand-maiden. 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 shewed 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. *Gloria.*

**Sit**

**THE SECOND LESSON** - Hebrews 2: 5-18

**Stand**

**Nunc Dimittis**

*Michael Wise (1648 - 1687) in E flat*

*The Song of Simeon*

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. *Gloria.*

All say

**THE APOSTLES’ CREED**

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 Spirit, 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 Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

**THE LESSER LITANY**

*Cantor:* The Lord be with you

*Choir:* and with thy Spirit.

*Kneel*

*Cantor:* Let us pray.

*Cantor:* Lord, have mercy upon us

*Choir:* Christ, have mercy upon us.

*Cantor:* Lord, have mercy upon us.

The Choir sings the LORD’S PRAYER and the VERSICLES AND RESPONSES

*Cantor:* O Lord, show thy mercy upon us

*Choir:* and grant us thy salvation.