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.
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
O Lord, who hast taught us that all our doings without charity are nothing worth; Send thy Holy Spirit, and pour into our hearts that most excellent gift of charity, the very bond of peace and of all virtues, without which whosoever liveth is counted dead before thee; Grant this for thine only Son Jesus Christ’s sake. 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
Lord, for thy tender mercy’s sake lay not our sins to our charge, but forgive that is past, and give us grace to forsake our sinful lives: to decline from sin and incline to virtue, that we may walk in a perfect heart before thee now and evermore. – Richard Farrant (1530 - 1580)

Kneel

Closing Prayer and Blessing

Stand

Organ Voluntary

Schmücke dich, o liebe Seele – Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)

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 Prayers

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

O Christ, who art the light and day,
thou drivest darksome night away!
We know thee as the Light of light,illuminating mortal sight.
All-holy Lord, we pray to thee,keep us to-night from danger free;grant us, dear Lord, in thee to rest,so be our sleep in quiet blest.

And while the eyes soft slumber take,still be the heart to thee awake;be thy right hand upheld above thy servants resting in thy love.
O strong defender, be thou nigh
to bid the powers of darkness fly;
keep us from sin, and guide for good
thy servants purchased by thy blood.

Remember us, dear Lord, we pray
while in this mortal flesh we stay:
'Tis thou who dost the soul defend -
be present with us to the end.

Blest Three in One and One in Three,
almighty God, we pray to thee
that thou wouldst now vouchsafe to bless
our fast with fruits of righteousness. Amen.

Sixth century Latin. Tr. William Copeland (1804-85)

Sit
Psalm 69: 1-14

1. Save me, O God: for the waters are come in, even unto my soul.
2. I stick fast in the deep mire, where no ground is:
   I am come into deep waters, so that the floods run over me.
3. I am weary of crying; my throat is dry:
   my sight faileth me for waiting so long upon my God.
4. They that hate me without a cause are more than the hairs of my head:
   they that are mine enemies, and would destroy me guiltless, are mighty,
5. I paid them the things that I never took:
   God, thou knowest my simpleness, and my faults are not hid from thee.
6. Let not them that trust in thee, O Lord God of hosts, be ashamed for my cause:
   let not those that seek thee be confounded through me, O Lord God of Israel.
7. And why? for thy sake have I suffered reproof:
   shame hath covered my face.
8. I am become a stranger unto my brethren:
   even an alien unto my mother's children.
9. For the zeal of thine house hath even eaten me:
   and the rebukes of them that rebuked thee are fallen upon me.
10. I wept, and chastened myself with fasting:
    and that was turned to my reproof.
11. I put on sackcloth also:
    and they jested upon me.
12. They that sit in the gate speak against me:
    and the drunkards make songs upon me.
13. But, Lord, I make my prayer unto thee:
    in an acceptable time.
14. Hear me, O God, in the multitude of thy mercy:
    even in the truth of thy salvation.

Gloria

THE FIRST LESSON - Exodus 6: 1-13

Stand
Magnificat
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 - Acts 7: 35-42

Stand
Nunc Dimittis
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
Herbert Sumsion (1899 - 1995)

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.