



Choral Evensong is essentially a service of reflection, leaving ourselves open so that God may speak to us through the psalms, readings and canticles, which are the core of the service. In the Anglican tradition the music finds its natural setting in the office of Evensong, a combination of the ancient monastic offices of Vespers and Compline.

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

All stand and sing the
HYMN OF THE PROCESSION - 347

GREETING

The Lord be with you.

And with thy spirit.

PENITENCE

The Invitation to Penitence is read, after which all kneel and say

Almighty and most merciful Father;

We have erred and strayed from thy ways like lost sheep. We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts. We have offended against thy holy laws. We have left undone those things which we ought to have done; and we have done those things which we ought not to have done; and there is no health in us. But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us, miserable offenders. Spare thou them, O God, which confess their faults. Restore thou them that are penitent; according to thy promises declared unto mankind in Christ Jesus our Lord. And grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake; that we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life, to the glory of thy holy Name. Amen.

THE ABSOLUTION

Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who desireth not the death of a sinner, but rather that he may turn from his wickedness, and live; and hath given power, and commandment, to his Ministers, to declare and pronounce to his people, being penitent, the Absolution and Remission of their sins: He pardoneth and absolveth all them that truly repent, and unfeignedly believe his holy Gospel. Wherefore let us beseech him to grant us true repentance, and his Holy Spirit, that those things may please him which we do at this present; and that the rest of our life hereafter may be pure and holy; so that at the last we may come to his eternal joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

THE PRECES

Thomas Morley (1558 -1602)

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.

Stand

Choir: 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.
Praise ye the Lord.

All sing

THE OFFICE HYMN - 136

Sit

PSALM 67

1. God be merciful unto us and bless us :
and shew us the light of his countenance,
and be merciful unto us.
2. That thy way may be known upon earth :
thy saving health among all nations.
3. Let the peoples praise thee, O Lord :
yea, let all the peoples praise thee.
4. O let the nations rejoice and be glad :
for thou shalt judge the folk righteously,
and govern the nations upon earth.
5. Let the peoples praise thee, O Lord :
yea, let all the peoples praise thee.
6. Then shall the earth bring forth her increase :
and God, even our own God, shall give us his blessing.
7. God shall bless us :
and all the ends of the earth shall fear him.

Gloria

THE FIRST LESSON - Acts 2: 14-21

Stand

Magnificat

Basil Harwood (1859 - 1949) in A 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 - Luke 24: 44-53

Stand

Nunc Dimittis

Basil Harwood (1859 - 1949) in A 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

Thomas Morley (1558 -1602)

Cantor: The Lord be with you

Choir: and with thy Spirit. *Kneel*

Cantor: Let us pray.

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

The Choir sings the LORD'S PRAYER followed by 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, from whom all good things do come; Grant to us thy humble servants, that by thy holy inspiration we may think those things that be good, and by thy merciful guiding may perform the same; through our Lord Jesus Christ. 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.

THE ANTHEM *Sit*

Listen sweet dove unto my song, and spread thy golden wings in me. Hatching my tender heart so long, till it get wing and flie away with thee. Such glorious gifts thou didst bestow that the earth did like a heav'n appeare, the starres were coming down to know if they might mend their wages and serve here. The sunne which once did shine alone, hung down his head and wisht for night, when he beheld twelve sunnes for one going about the world and giving light. Lord though we change thou art the same, the same sweet God of love and light: Restore this day for thy great name, unto his ancient and miraculous right.
– *Grayston Ives (b. 1948)*

THE PRAYERS *Kneel*

HYMN 140 *Stand*

CLOSING PRAYER AND BLESSING

ORGAN VOLUNTARY Folk Tune - *Percy Whitlock (1903 - 1946)*

Please remain seated in silence until the Organ Voluntary has ended.