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 for our sake didst fast forty days and forty nights; Give us grace to use such abstinence, that, our flesh being subdued to the Spirit, we may ever obey thy godly motions in righteousness, and true holiness, to thy honour and glory, who livest and reignest with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. 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
Call to remembrance, O Lord, thy tender mercies and thy loving kindness, which have been ever of old. O remember not the sins and offences of my youth: but according to thy mercy think thou on me, O Lord, for thy goodness. — Richard Farrant (c. 1525-1580)

Kneel
Closing Prayer and Blessing

Stand
Organ Voluntary Christe, du Lamm Gottes, BWV 619 – J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

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
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 27

1. The Lord is my light, and my salvation; whom then shall I fear:
   the Lord is the strength of my life; of whom then shall I be afraid?
2. When the wicked, even mine enemies, and my foes, came upon me to eat up my flesh:
   they stumbled and fell.
3. Though an host of men were laid against me, yet shall not my heart be afraid:
   and though there rose up war against me, yet will I put my trust in him.
4. One thing have I desired of the Lord, which I will require:
   even that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life,
   to behold the fair beauty of the Lord, and to visit his temple.
5. For in the time of trouble he shall hide me in his tabernacle:
   yea, in the secret place of his dwelling shall he hide me,
   and set me up upon a rock of stone.
6. And now shall he lift up mine head: above mine enemies round about me.
7. Therefore will I offer in his dwelling an oblation with great gladness:
   I will sing, and speak praises unto the Lord.
8. Hearken unto my voice, O Lord, when I cry unto thee:
   have mercy upon me, and hear me.
9. My heart hath talked with thee: Seek ye my face; Thy face, Lord, will I seek.
10. O hide not thou thy face from me: nor cast thy servant away in displeasure.
11. Thou hast been my succour: leave me not, neither forsake me, O God of my salvation.
12. When my father and my mother forsake me: the Lord taketh me up.
13. Teach me thy way, O Lord: and lead me in the right way, because of mine enemies.
14. Deliver me not over into the will of mine adversaries:
   for there are false witnesses risen up against me, and such as speak wrong.
15. I should utterly have fainted:
   but that I believe verily to see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living.
16. O tarry thou the Lord’s leisure:
   be strong, and he shall comfort thine heart; and put thou thy trust in the Lord.

Gloria

THE FIRST LESSON - Genesis 14: 17-24

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;
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 - Philippians 3: 17-20

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

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.