

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

Almighty God, by whose providence thy servant John Baptist was wonderfully born, and sent to prepare the way of thy Son our Saviour, by preaching of repentance; Make us so to follow his doctrine and holy life, that we may truly repent according to his preaching; and after his example constantly speak the truth, boldly rebuke vice, and patiently suffer for the truth's sake; 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

Fuit homo missus a Deo, cui nomen erat Joannes. Hic venit in testimonium, ut testimonium perhiberet de lumine, et pareret Domino plebem perfectam. Alleluia.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. This man came as a witness, to give testimony about the light, and to prepare for the Lord a perfect people. - Giovanni Bassano (c. 1558 - 1617)

Kneel

CLOSING PRAYER AND BLESSING

Stand

ORGAN VOLUNTARY 'Allegro' from Trio Sonata no.5 - J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

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



Friday 24th June 2022
The Birth of Saint John the Baptist
Choral Evensong - 6.15pm
sung by the Lay Vicars Choral
and the Junior Lay Vicars Choral

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 PRECES

Thomas Tompkins (1572-1656)

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

Creator of the earth and sky,
ruling the firmament on high,
clothing the day with robes of light,
blessing with gracious sleep the night.

That rest may comfort weary men,
and brace to useful toil again,
and soothe awhile the harassed mind,
and sorrow's heavy load unbind.

Day sinks; we thank thee for thy gift;
night comes; and once again we lift
our prayer and vows and hymns that we
against all ills may shielded be.

That when black darkness closes day,
and shadows thicken round our way,
faith may no darkness know, and night
from faith's clear beam may borrow light.

Pray we the Father and the Son,
and Holy Ghost: O Three in One,
blest Trinity, whom all obey,
guard thou thy sheep by night and day. Amen.

St. Ambrose of Milan, (340-397); Tr. Charles Bigg (1840-1908)

Sit
Psalm 80

1. Hear, O thou Shepherd of Israel, thou that leadest Joseph like a flock :
shew thyself also, thou that sittest upon the cherubim.
2. Before Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasses : stir up thy strength, and come, and help us.
3. Turn us again, O God : shew the light of thy countenance, and we shall be whole.
4. O Lord God of hosts : how long wilt thou be angry with thy people that prayeth?
5. Thou feedest them with the bread of tears :
and givest them plenteousness of tears to drink.
6. Thou hast made us a very strife unto our neighbours : and our enemies laugh us to scorn.
7. Turn us again, thou God of hosts :
shew the light of thy countenance, and we shall be whole.
8. Thou hast brought a vine out of Egypt :
thou hast cast out the heathen, and planted it.
9. Thou madest room for it : and when it had taken root it filled the land.
10. The hills were covered with the shadow of it :
and the boughs thereof were like the goodly cedar- trees.
11. She stretched out her branches unto the sea : and her boughs unto the river.
12. Why hast thou then broken down her hedge :
that all they that go by pluck off her grapes?
13. The wild boar out of the wood doth root it up :
and the wild beasts of the field devour it.
14. Turn thee again, thou God of hosts, look down from heaven :
behold, and visit this vine;
15. And the place of the vineyard that thy right hand hath planted :
and the branch that thou madest so strong for thyself.
16. It is burnt with fire, and cut down : and they perish at the rebuke of thy countenance.
17. Let thy hand be upon the man of thy right hand :
and upon the son of man, whom thou madest so strong for thine own self.

18. And so will not we go back from thee : O let us live, and we shall call upon thy Name.
19. Turn us again, O Lord God of hosts : shew the light of thy countenance, and we shall be whole.

Gloria

THE FIRST LESSON - Malachi 4

Stand

Magnificat

The Gloucester Service - Herbert Howells (1892 - 1983)

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 - Matthew 11: 2-19

Stand

Nunc Dimittis

The Song of Simeon

The Gloucester Service - Herbert Howells (1892 - 1983)

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 Tompkins (1572-1656)

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.