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 - 76**

**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
ture 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**

*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**

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 - 61**

**Sit**

**Psalm 32**

1. Blessed is he whose unrighteousness is forgiven: and whose sin is covered.

2. Blessed is the man unto whom the Lord imputeth no sin: and in whose spirit there is no guile.

3. For while I held my tongue: my bones consumed away through my daily complaining.

4. For thy hand is heavy upon me day and night: and my moisture is like the drought in summer.

5. I will acknowledge my sin unto thee: and mine unrighteousness have I not hid.

6. I said, I will confess my sins unto the Lord: and so thou forgavest the wickedness of my sin.

7. For this shall every one that is godly make his prayer unto thee, in a time when thou mayest be found: surely the great water-floods shall not come nigh him.

8. Thou art a place to hide me in, thou shalt preserve me from trouble: thou shalt compass me about with songs of deliverance.

9. I will inform thee, and teach thee in the way wherein thou shalt go: and I will guide thee with mine eye.

10. Be ye not like to horse and mule, which have no understanding: whose mouths must be held with bit and bridle, else they will not obey thee.

11. Great plagues remain for the ungodly: but whoso putteth his trust in the Lord, mercy embraceth him on every side.

12. Be glad, O ye righteous, and rejoice in the Lord: and be joyful, all ye that are true of heart. 

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Gloria
THE FIRST LESSON - Isaiah 40: 27 - 41:13

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 - 2 Timothy 4: 1-18

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  
John Reading (c. 1645-1692)
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 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
Grant, we beseech thee, Almighty God, that we, who for our evil deeds do worthily deserve to be punished, by the comfort of thy grace may mercifully be relieved; through our Lord and Saviour 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
Behold the Lamb of God, that taketh away the sin of the world.
Words: John 1:29;  Music:  From ‘Messiah’ - G. F. Handel (1685 - 1759)

THE PRAYERS  Kneel

HYMN 83  Stand

CLOSING PRAYER AND BLESSING

ORGAN VOLUNTARY  Cantabile – César Franck (1822-1890)

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