



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 to sing the

HYMN OF THE PROCESSION - 86

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

Philip Radcliffe (1905-1986)

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

Cantor: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
Choir: 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 - 78

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 - Isaiah 5: 1-7

Stand

Magnificat

Herbert Sumsion (1899-1995) in A

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 20: 9-19

Stand

Nunc Dimittis

Herbert Sumsion (1899-1995) in A

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

Philip Radcliffe (1905-1986)

Cantor: The Lord be with you

Choir: and with thy Spirit.

Cantor: Let us pray. *Kneel*

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

Almighty and everlasting God, who, of thy tender love towards mankind, hast sent thy Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ, to take upon him our flesh, and to suffer death upon the cross, that all mankind should follow the example of his great humility; Mercifully grant, that we may both follow the example of his patience, and also be made partakers of his resurrection; through the same 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.

THE ANTHEM *Sit*

O Lord, rebuke me not in thine indignation, neither chasten me in thy displeasure. Have mercy upon me, O Lord, for I am weak. O Lord, heal me, for my bones are vexed. Turn thee, O Lord, and deliver my soul: O save me, for thy Name's sake. Amen.

- *William Byrd (1543 - 1623)*

THE PRAYERS *Kneel*

HYMN 92

CLOSING PRAYER *and* **BLESSING**

ORGAN VOLUNTARY O Welt, ich muss dich lassen – *Johannes Brahms (1833 - 1897)*

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