



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.

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*All stand to sing the*  
**HYMN OF THE PROCESSION - 414**

**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 - 150

*Sit*

### PSALM 119: 17-32

17. O do well unto thy servant : that I may live and keep thy word.
18. Open thou mine eyes : that I may see the wondrous things of thy law.
19. I am a stranger upon earth : O hide not thy commandments from me.
20. My soul breaketh out for the very fervent desire :  
that it hath alway unto thy judgements.
21. Thou hast rebuked the proud :  
and cursed are they that do err from thy commandments.
22. O turn from me shame and rebuke : for I have kept thy testimonies.
23. Princes also did sit and speak against me : but thy servant is occupied in thy statutes.
24. For thy testimonies are my delight : and my counsellors.
25. My soul cleaveth to the dust : O quicken thou me, according to thy word.
26. I have acknowledged my ways, and thou heardest me : O teach me thy statutes.
27. Make me to understand the way of thy commandments :  
and so shall I talk of thy wondrous works.
28. My soul melteth away for very heaviness : comfort thou me according unto thy word.
29. Take from me the way of lying : and cause thou me to make much of thy law.
30. I have chosen the way of truth : and thy judgements have I laid before me.
31. I have stuck unto thy testimonies : O Lord, confound me not.
32. I will run the way of thy commandments :  
when thou hast set my heart at liberty. *Gloria*

*Stand*

**Magnificat**

*Charles Villers Stanford (1852 -1924) in B 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 - 2 Corinthians 8: 1-9**

*Stand*

**Nunc Dimittis**

*Charles Villers Stanford (1852 -1924) in B 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**

*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**

Grant to us, Lord, we beseech thee, the spirit to think and do always such things as be rightful; that we, who cannot do any thing that is good without thee, may by thee be enabled to live according to thy will; 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.

### **THE ANTHEM *Sit***

Blieb' bei uns, denn es will Abend warden; Und der Tag hat sich geneiget, sich geneiget,  
 O bleib' bei uns, denn es will Abend earden.

*Bide with us, for evening shadows darken, And the day will soon be over, soon be over,  
 O bide with us, for evening shadows darken.*

*Words: Luke 24: 29; Music: Josef Rheinberger (1839-1901)*

### **THE PRAYERS *Kneel***

### **HYMN 253**

### **CLOSING PRAYER and BLESSING**

**ORGAN VOLUNTARY** Adagio espressivo from Organ Sonata in A minor  
 – William Henry Harris (1883 - 1973)

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