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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**

*Richard Ayleward (1626-1669)*

*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.

Praise ye the Lord.  
The Lord's name be praised.

*All sing*

**THE OFFICE HYMN - 61**

*Sit*

**PSALM 135: 1-14**

1. O praise the Lord, laud ye the Name of the Lord :  
praise it, O ye servants of the Lord;
2. Ye that stand in the house of the Lord :  
in the courts of the house of our God.
3. O praise the Lord, for the Lord is gracious :  
O sing praises unto his Name, for it is lovely.
4. For why? the Lord hath chosen Jacob unto himself :  
and Israel for his own possession.
5. For I know that the Lord is great : and that our Lord is above all gods.
6. Whatsoever the Lord pleased, that did he in heaven, and in earth :  
and in the sea, and in all deep places.
7. He bringeth forth the clouds from the ends of the world :  
and sendeth forth lightnings with the rain, bringing the winds out of his treasures.
8. He smote the first-born of Egypt : both of man and beast.
9. He hath sent tokens and wonders into the midst of thee, O thou land of Egypt :  
upon Pharaoh, and all his servants.
10. He smote divers nations : and slew mighty kings;
11. Sehon king of the Amorites, and Og the king of Basan :  
and all the kingdoms of Canaan;
12. And gave their land to be an heritage : even an heritage unto Israel his people.
13. Thy Name, O Lord, endureth for ever :  
so doth thy memorial, O Lord, from one generation to another.
14. For the Lord will avenge his people : and be gracious unto his servants.

*Gloria*

**THE FIRST LESSON - Numbers 21: 4-9**

*Stand*

**Magnificat**

*George Dyson (1883 - 1964) in F*

*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 14: 27-33**

*Stand*

**Nunc Dimittis**

*George Dyson (1883 - 1964) in F*

*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**

*Richard Ayleward (1626-1669)*

*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 God, who seest that we have no power of ourselves to help ourselves; Keep us both outwardly in our bodies, and inwardly in our souls; that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul; 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.*

O Lord, the maker of all thing, we pray thee now in this evening us to defend through thy mercy from all deceit of our enemy.

Let neither us deluded be, good Lord, with dream or fantasy; Our hearts waking in thee thou keep that we in sin fall not on sleep.

O Father, through thy blessed Son, grant us this our petition, to whom, with the Holy Ghost always, in heaven and earth be laud and praise.

- *William Mundy (c. 1529- 1591)*

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

### **HYMN 379** *Stand*

### **CLOSING PRAYER** *and* **BLESSING**

### **ORGAN VOLUNTARY**

Aria - *Flor Peeters (1903 - 1986)*

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