



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.

---

*Stand to sing the*

**HYMN OF THE PROCESSION - 349**

**GREETING**

Christ is risen.

**The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

**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

*Kenneth Leighton (1929 - 1988)*

*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 - 128

*Sit*

### PSALM 8

1. O Lord our Governor :  
how excellent is thy Name in all the world!
2. Thou that hast set thy glory above the heavens :  
out of the mouth of very babes and sucklings hast thou ordained strength,
3. Because of thine enemies :  
that thou mightest still the enemy and the avenger.
4. When I consider thy heavens, even the works of thy fingers :  
the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained;
5. What is man, that thou art mindful of him :  
and the son of man, that thou visitest him?
6. Thou madest him lower than the angels :  
to crown him with glory and worship.
7. Thou makest him to have dominion of the works of thy hands :  
and thou hast put all things in subjection under his feet;
8. All sheep and oxen :  
yea, and the beasts of the field;
9. The fowls of the air, and the fishes of the sea :  
and whatsoever walketh through the paths of the seas.
10. O Lord our Governor :  
how excellent is thy Name in all the world!

*Gloria*

**THE FIRST LESSON - 2 Samuel 23: 1-5**

*Stand*

**Magnificat**

*Magnificat primi toni – David Bevan (1951-2021)*

*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 - Ephesians 1: 15-23**

*Stand*

**Nunc Dimittis**

*Gustav Holst (1874-1934)*

*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**

*Kenneth Leighton (1929 - 1988)*

*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**

O God the King of glory, who hast exalted thine only Son Jesus Christ with great triumph unto thy kingdom in heaven; We beseech thee, leave us not comfortless; but send to us thine Holy Spirit to comfort us, and exalt us unto the same place whither our Saviour Christ is gone before, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. 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.*

God is gone up with a triumphant shout, the Lord sounding trumpets' melodies: Sing praise; sing praises out, unto our King sing praise seraphic-wise! Lift up your heads, ye lasting doors, they sing, and let the King of Glory enter in. Methinks I see heaven's sparkling courtiers fly, in flakes of glory down him to attend, and hear heart-cramping notes of melody surround his chariot as it did ascent. Mixing their music, making every string more to en-ravish as they this tune sing. – *Gerald Finzi (1901-1956)*

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

### **HYMN 443** *Stand*

### **CLOSING PRAYER and BLESSING**

**ORGAN VOLUNTARY** Sketch, opus 58 no. 2 - *Robert Schumann (1810 - 1856)*

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