



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 - 410

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

William Byrd (1543 - 1623)

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 Ghost;
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 - 144 (TUNE 210)

Sit

PSALM 93

1. The Lord is King, and hath put on glorious apparel :
the Lord hath put on his apparel, and girded himself with strength.
2. He hath made the round world so sure :
that it cannot be moved.
3. Ever since the world began hath thy seat been prepared :
thou art from everlasting:
4. The floods are risen, O Lord, the floods have lift up their voice :
the floods lift up their waves.
5. The waves of the sea are mighty, and rage horribly :
but yet the Lord, who dwelleth on high, is mightier.
6. Thy testimonies, O Lord, are very sure :
holiness becometh thine house for ever.

Gloria

THE FIRST LESSON - Isaiah 6: 1-8

Stand

Magnificat

The Gloucester Service - Herbert Howells (1892 - 1983)

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 - John 16: 5-15

Stand

Nunc Dimittis

The Gloucester Service - Herbert Howells (1892 - 1983)

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

William Byrd (1543 - 1623)

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 hast given unto us thy servants grace by the confession of a true faith to acknowledge the glory of the eternal Trinity, and in the power of the Divine Majesty to worship the Unity; We beseech thee, that thou wouldest keep us steadfast in this faith, and evermore defend us from all adversities, who livest and reignest, 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.*

Te invocamus, Te laudamus, Te adoramus, O beata Trinitas, Pater et Filius et Spiritus Sanctus, una substantia est. O beata Trinitas.

tibi laus, tibi gloria, tibi gratiarum actio in saecula sempiterna, O beata Trinitas. Et benedictum nomen gloriae tuae sanctum: et laudabile et super exaltatum in saecula.

We pray to you, we praise you, we adore you, O holy Trinity, Father and Son and Holy Spirit, who is of one substance. O holy Trinity. To you be praise, to you be glory, to you be thanksgiving, O holy Trinity. And blessed is the Holy Name of your glory, praiseworthy and exalted above all forever.

Giovanni Francesco Anerio (1567-1630)

THE PRAYERS *Kneel*

HYMN 246 *Stand*

CLOSING PRAYER *and* **BLESSING**

ORGAN VOLUNTARY Gloria tibi Trinitas - *Thomas Tallis (1505-1585)*

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