

# Choral Evensong

*Please stand as the choir and ministers enter.  
An introit may be sung.*

Welcome

Hymn

*The priest begins with a sentence from the Bible and the introduction.*

I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before thee, and am no more worthy to be called thy son.'  
*St Luke 15. 18, 19*

Enter not into judgement with thy servant, O Lord; for in thy sight shall no one living be justified.  
*Psalm 143. 2*

If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us: but if we confess our sins, God is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.  
*1 John 1. 8, 9*

The sacrifice of God is a broken spirit: a broken and contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.  
*Psalm 51.17*

Rend your heart, and not your garments, and turn unto the Lord your God: for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repenteth him of the evil.  
*Joel 2. 13*

Dearly beloved, the Scripture moveth us in sundry places to acknowledge and confess our manifold sins and wickedness; and that we should not dissemble nor cloak them before the face of Almighty God our heavenly Father; but confess them with an humble, lowly, penitent, and obedient heart; to the end that we may obtain forgiveness of the same, by his infinite goodness and mercy. Wherefore I pray and beseech you, as many as are here present, to accompany me with a pure heart and humble voice unto the throne of the heavenly grace, saying after me:

*All kneel.*

Confession

**All**        **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 Jesu 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.**

## Absolution

Priest            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

**All            Our Father  
                 which 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 them that 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.**

*All stand.*

*The responses are sung.*

Priest            O Lord, open thou our lips  
Choir            And our mouth shall show forth thy praise.

Priest            O God, make speed to save us.  
Choir            O Lord, make haste to help us.

Priest            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.

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

## The Psalm

*A psalm, or a portion of a psalm, is appointed to be sung each evening. This can be found on a separate sheet. The congregation joins with the choir in singing the psalm.*

*All sit.*

## Old Testament Reading

### The Magnificat

*All stand as the choir sings*

My soul doth magnify the Lord,  
and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.  
For he hath regarded the lowliness of his handmaiden.  
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 showed 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.  
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.

*All sit.*

## New Testament Reading

### The Nunc Dimittis

*All stand as the choir sings*

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.

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.

*All face east to say*

## The Apostles' Creed

**All**            **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 Ghost,  
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 Ghost;  
the holy Catholic Church;  
the communion of Saints; the forgiveness of sins;  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

*The responses are sung.*

Priest            The Lord be with you.  
Choir            And with thy spirit.

*All kneel.*

Priest            Let us pray.

Priest            Lord, have mercy upon us.  
Choir            Christ, have mercy upon us.  
Priest            Lord, have mercy upon us.

Choir            Our Father  
                  which 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 them that trespass against us;  
                  and lead us not into temptation,  
                  but deliver us from evil. Amen.

Priest            O Lord, show thy mercy upon us.  
Choir            And grant us thy salvation.

Priest            O Lord, save the Queen.  
Choir            And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.

Priest            Endue thy ministers with righteousness.  
Choir            And make thy chosen people joyful.

Priest            O Lord, save thy people.  
Choir            And bless thine inheritance.

Priest            Give peace in our time, O Lord.  
Choir            Because there is none other that fighteth for us,  
                     but only thou, O God.

Priest            O God, make clean our hearts within us.  
Choir            And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.

## The Collect for the Day

### The Collect 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.**

### The Evening Collect

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.**

*All sit.*

### The Anthem

### The Sermon

### Hymn

### Prayers

*The prayers usually conclude with*

**All      The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the  
love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,  
be with us all, evermore. Amen.**

Hymn

The Blessing

*The priest uses a seasonal blessing or this prayer.*

The peace of God, which passes all understanding,  
keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love  
of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the  
blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the  
Holy Spirit be amongst you and remain with you  
always.

**All              Amen.**

*The ministers and choir depart. The congregation is invited to remain seated until the end of  
the organ voluntary.*