



### **What is Choral Evensong?**

“Evensong ... is a very tiny fragment of something else: it is a fragment of the worship which is offered to God by Christian people every hour in every part of the world. When you come to Evensong here it is as if you were dropping in on a conversation already in progress — a conversation between God and people which began long before you were born and will go on long after you are dead.”.

### **Why celebrate Evensong?**

Evensong offers to us the opportunity to gather and spend time in prayer while listening and participating in music that is especially selected to bring us into deeper understanding of the mysteries of our faith.

### **How long does Choral Evensong last?**

Approximately 35-45 minutes.

### **What should I expect at Evensong?**

Hymns, readings, Anglican chant and anthems sung by the choir.

### **Will there be a sermon?**

Not normally, no.

### **Why does the choir sing so much at Choral Evensong?**

In Choral Evensong the choir sings on “behalf of” the congregation. The settings of the Canticles of Mary (Magnificat) and Simeon (Nunc Dimittis) are always sung by the choir alone. The Suffrages (prayers) and the Responses between the Officiant and People are also sung between the Officiant and Choir on behalf of the people. This allows the congregation time to meditate and enter into deeper prayer through words and music.

### **What does the congregation do in Evensong?**

The congregation joins in the singing of the hymns, the Apostle’s Creed and the Lord’s Prayer. The congregation joins in silent meditation through the prayers and canticles.

### **How will I know what I should do during the service?**

This order of service should give guidance – but just follow everyone else!

### **What is a canticle?**

A canticle (from the Latin canticulum, a diminutive of canticum, song) is a hymn (strictly excluding the Psalms) taken from the Bible.

## Opening Sentences or Introit



*The choir may sing an introit, or the  
Officiant may read an Opening Sentence*

### Hymn

### Confession of Sin and Absolution

Dearly beloved brethren, the Scripture moveth us in sundry places to acknowledge and confess our manifold sins and wickedness; and that we should not dissemble nor cloke 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. And although we ought at all times humbly to acknowledge our sins before God; yet ought we most chiefly so to do, when we assemble and meet together to render thanks for the great benefits that we have received at his hands, to set forth his most worthy praise, to hear his most holy Word, and to ask those things which are requisite and necessary, as well for the body as the soul. 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:



**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.**

*The Absolution or Remission of sins to be  
pronounced by the Priest alone, standing: the  
people still kneeling.*

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.**

### Precis and Gloria Patri

*(sung by the Cantor and Choir)*

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

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

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.

### Office Hymn



### Psalter

*(sung by the choir)*



*The Psalm set for that evening shall be  
sung by the choir. The words can usually  
be found in the Red Book of Common  
Prayer books.*

## The First Lesson

### The Magnificat

*(sung by the choir)*



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 forever. 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.

## The Second Lesson



### The Nunc Dimittis

*(Sung by the Choir)*



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.**

## 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 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 Catholick Church; The Communion of Saints: The Forgiveness of sins: The Resurrection of the body, And the Life everlasting. Amen.**

### The Responses

*(sung by the Cantor and Choir)*

The Lord be with you.

**And with thy spirit.**

Let us pray.



**Lord, have mercy upon us.**

**Christ, have mercy upon us.**

**Lord, have mercy upon us.**

**OUR Father, which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in 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. Amen.**

*Prayers are now offered for the Queen, for peace and for the gift of the Holy Spirit to be poured into our lives*

O Lord, shew thy mercy upon us.

And grant us thy salvation.

O Lord, save the Queen.

And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.

Endue thy Ministers with righteousness.

And make thy chosen people joyful.

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

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

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

*The Collect of the Day*

*The Collect of the Day shall be sung. This can  
usually be found in the Red Book of Common  
Prayer books.*

*The Second Collect at Evening Prayer.*

**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 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 Third Collect, 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.*

### **Anthem**

*(sung by the choir)*

### **A prayer for the Clergy and People**

Almighty and everlasting God, who alone workest  
great marvels: Send down upon our Bishops, and  
Curates, and all Congregations committed to their  
charge, the healthful Spirit of thy grace; and that  
they may truly please thee, pour upon them the  
continual dew of thy blessing. Grant this, O Lord,  
for the honour of our Advocate and Mediator, Jesus  
Christ.

**Amen.**

### **A prayer of Saint Chrysostom**

Almighty God, who hast given us grace at this time  
with one accord to make our common  
supplications unto thee; and dost promise that  
when two or three are gathered together in thy  
Name thou wilt grant their requests: Fulfil now, O  
Lord, the desires and petitions of thy servants, as  
may be most expedient for them; granting us in this  
world knowledge of thy truth, and in the world to  
come life everlasting. **Amen.**

### **The Grace**

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

**Amen.**

### **Recessional Hymn**

