

CHORAL EVENSONG

The service begins as the congregation in chapel stands for the entry of the choir and clergy from the antechapel.

The priest reads an opening sentence from the scriptures.

On weekdays the service continues with the versicles after the Lord's Prayer. On Sundays a hymn is sung, after which is said:

Priest: 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:

All kneel

Priest: Almighty and most merciful Father,
All: **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.**

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.

All: **Amen.**

Priest: Our Father,
All: **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 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.**

Priest: O Lord, open thou our lips/
Choir: And our mouth shall shew forth thy praise

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

All 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.

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

The Psalms for the evening are sung by the choir, and may be found towards the back of the Book of Common Prayer.

The congregation sits.

The First Lesson is read from the Old Testament or the Apocrypha.

All stand for the Magnificat, sung by 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 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.

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.

The Second Lesson is read from the New Testament.

All stand for 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.

All remain standing and face East for the Creed.

Priest: I believe in God,
All: **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.**

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

All kneel.

Priest: Let us pray.
Choir: 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 them that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

Priest: O Lord, shew 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 they 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 of the day is sung by the priest, followed by:

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.

Choir: Amen.

Priest: 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 lovely of thy only Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Choir: Amen.

The congregation sits for the Anthem.

On Sundays a Sermon may follow the Anthem.

All kneel for the intercessory prayers, which end with the Grace.

*On Sundays there is a closing hymn, during which a collection is taken.
The service ends with a Blessing.*

The services ends after the choir and clergy have left the Chapel.