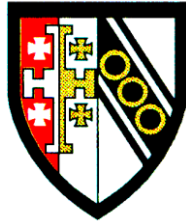


Selwyn College Cambridge



THE ORDER FOR CHORAL EVENSONG

Please do not remove this service sheet from the Chapel.

A brief introduction to Choral Evensong

Choral Evensong is a service (or ‘Office’) with its roots in the Christian monastic movement and in the sixteenth century Reformation of the English Church. Today, this service, taken from the seventeenth-century *Book of Common Prayer* is commonly celebrated in parish churches and cathedrals in the English tradition, and in the college chapels of the universities of Oxford and Cambridge.

College chapels with a choral tradition draw upon a rich inheritance of music, much of it sung by the choir alone. In the Anglican tradition this music finds its natural setting in the Evening Office. For this reason, the service of Choral Evensong offers us a time of reflection – a time when we can allow the beauty of the language and the music to quieten us, that we might hear God speaking to us in the psalms and readings and canticles taken from Scripture.

Within this hallowed space may we forget the ceaseless activity of daily life, and be still.

Evensong is a combination of the medieval Offices of Vespers (Evening Prayer) and Compline (Night Prayer). At Evensong:

- We prepare for worship by confessing our sins to Almighty God and receiving anew the forgiveness which was given to us in Baptism, a forgiveness which flows from the Cross of Christ.
- We pray that God will help us to worship him.
- We sing the Psalms.
- We listen to readings from the Old and New Testaments.
- We hear the *Magnificat* and the *Nunc Dimittis* – two songs, taken from St Luke’s Gospel, which are traditionally associated with Christian prayer in the later part of the day.
- We affirm our Christian faith, in the words of the ancient Baptismal Creed.
- At the end of the service, we may listen to a reflection of the scriptural readings we have heard, we pray for the needs of the Church and the world, and we ask God’s Blessing on the week to come.

*‘Common Worship: Services and Prayers for the Church of England’,
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*On Sundays, the service begins here.
Please stand at the entry of the procession.*

Introit (sung by the Choir; words are given in the Chapel Notice Sheet)

Sentence from Scripture

Officiant Let us humbly confess our sins to Almighty God.

The Confession [KNEEL]

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.**

A Priest (or Bishop, if present) pronounces 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.

The Lord's Prayer

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. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

*On weekdays, the service begins here.
Please stand at the entry of the procession.*

The Preces (sung by the Officiant and Choir) [STAND]

O Lord, open thou our lips :
and our mouth shall shew 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.

The Psalm(s)

The words (and chant) can be found in the Chapel Notice Sheet.

Old Testament Lesson [SIT]

The Office Hymn (sung on Sundays) [STAND]

The Magnificat (sung by the Choir) [REMAIN STANDING]

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.

Luke 1: 46-55

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.

New Testament Lesson [SIT]

Nunc Dimittis (sung by the Choir)[STAND]

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.

Luke 2: 29-32

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 [FACE EAST]

Officiant 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.

Lesser Litany and Responses (sung by the Officiant and Choir)

The Lord be with you :
And with thy spirit.
Let us pray. [*KNEEL*]

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.

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 Collects

(1) The Collect(s) of the Day

(2) 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.

(3) The 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.

Notices [SIT]

Anthem (sung by the Choir; words are given in the Chapel Notice Sheet)

Sermon

A Sermon is preached on Sundays.

On weekdays a shorter Homily may be given.

Prayers of Intercession [SIT OR KNEEL]

At the conclusion of the Prayers of Intercession, all say the Grace together:

**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 (sometimes omitted)[STAND]

The Blessing

On Sundays, a Priest (or Bishop, if present) gives the Blessing.

The Dismissal (sung by the Officiant and Choir)

The Lord be with you:
And with thy spirit.

Let us bless the Lord. *OR*
Thanks be to God.

The Lord give us his peace.
And life eternal. Amen.

Please remain standing for the recession.

*Each term we collect for a charity:
there is an opportunity to give as you leave the ante-chapel.*

*You are welcome to linger as long as you would like in Chapel after the service.
When you leave Chapel, please go quietly, so as not to disturb others
who wish to remain for prayer, or to listen to the Voluntary.*

A College Prayer

O Lord, the Resurrection
and the Life of them that believe,
who didst enrich thy servant
GEORGE AUGUSTUS SELWYN
with thy manifold gifts of grace,
grant that all who serve thee here
may be taught by his example
to serve in their several callings
to the honour of thy Name,
who livest and reignest
with the Father and the Holy Ghost,
one God world without end. Amen.

