



THE OFFICE OF EVENSONG is sung at the close of each day in cathedrals, collegiate chapels, monastic communities, and parish churches throughout the Anglican Communion. Derived from the ancient offices of Vespers and Compline, it is a service of rare beauty offered through the singing of psalms and canticles, the reading of scripture, and prayer. This liturgy of sung prayer has been offered daily throughout the Christian era and it enables us to join with all those who have gone before, those today who offer their evening prayers, and those who will continue their sung praise, petitions, and thanksgivings in times to come.

The worshipper offers praise through association with the choir and sits awash in sung prayer as it resonates throughout this sacred space. Natural time is suspended as word and music combine to capture the holy rhythms of the spheres and the worshipper is transported beyond chronological time to a place where creation and eternity coalesce into one.



## The Use of Incense

THE USE OF INCENSE in the liturgical rites of the Church has its origins in antiquity. Deeply imbued with mystic symbolism, the practice of offering incense dates from the Old Testament before the time of the Second Temple. It is symbolic of the prayers of the faithful rising to heaven: “Let my prayer be set forth in thy sight as the incense, and let the lifting up of my hands be an evening sacrifice” (Psalm 141:2). During this season of Christmas, we look also to the Gospel of Matthew (2:11) and the precious offerings of the Wise Men: “...And going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshipped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh.” Christian worship is fully sensory and, through the offering of incense at this Solemn Office of Evensong, we offer an additional dimension to our worship with our entire being.

# The Order for Solemn Evensong

for

The Second Sunday after Christmas Day

January 2, 2022 at 5:00 PM

¶ *The choral setting of the Responses was composed  
for Durham Cathedral by Herbert Sumsion (1899-1995)*

¶ *All stand as the Choir and Ministers enter*

## Organ Voluntary

Prelude on *Quelle est cette odeur agréable*

Harrison Oxley  
(1933-2009)

## Introit

Once for a shining hour,  
heaven touched earth,  
Hope was born a new,  
and peace reigned in the world.

*Words: Anon.*

*Music: Roland Martin (b.1955)*

## Opening Sentences

## Confession of Sin

*Officiant* Let us humbly confess our sins unto Almighty God.

¶ *Officiant and People, all kneeling*

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 those who 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 Officiant alone stands and says*

The Almighty and merciful Lord grant you absolution ✠ and remission of all your sins,  
true repentance, amendment of life, and the grace and consolation of his Holy Spirit.  
*¶ People Amen.*

*¶ All stand*

## The Invitatory and Psalter

*¶ All remain standing as the Officiant and Choir sing*

℣. 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.

*¶ All remain standing as the following Hymn is sung by all*

## Hymn 26

CONDITOR ALME SIDERUM

*¶ All are then seated as the Choir sings the Psalms appointed for the day*

## The Psalmody

### Psalm 12

*Anglican Chants:* George J. Bennett, Derrick Cantrell

*Salvum me fac.*

Help me, Lord, for there is not one godly man left;  
for the faithful are minished from a mong the children of men.

They talk of vanity every one with his neighbour;  
they do but flatter with their lips, and dissemble in their double heart.

The Lord shall root out all deceitful lips,  
and the tongue that speaketh proud things;

Which have said, With our tongue will we prevail;  
we are they that ought to speak; who is lord over us?

Now, for the comfortless troubles' sake of the needy,  
and because of the deep sighing of the poor,

I will up, saith the Lord;  
and will help everyone from him that swelleth against him,  
and will set him at rest.

The words of the Lord are pure words;  
even as the silver which from the earth is tried,  
and purified seven times in the fire.

Thou shalt keep them, O Lord;  
thou shalt preseve them from this generation forever.

The ungodly walk on every side:  
when they are exalted, the children of men are put to rebuke.

¶ *Then the Gloria Patri is sung*

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.



How long wilt thou forget me, O Lord; forever?  
how long wilt thou hide thy face from me?

How long shall I seek counsel in my soul, and be so vexed in my heart?  
how long shall mine enemy triumph over me?

Consider, and hear me, O Lord my God;  
lighten mine eyes, that I sleep not in death;

Lest mine enemy say, I have prevailed against him:  
for if I be cast down, they that trouble me will rejoice at it.

But my trust is in thy mercy,  
and my heart is joyful in thy salvation.

I will sing of the Lord, because he hath dealt so lovingly with me;  
yea, I will praise the Name of the Lord Most Highest.

¶ *Then the Gloria Patri is sung*

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 Lessons

### The First Lesson

WISDOM 7:3–14

**A**ND WHEN I WAS BORN, I began to breathe the common air, and fell upon the kindred earth, and my first sound was a cry, like that of all. I was nursed with care in swaddling cloths. For no king has had a different beginning of existence; there is for all mankind one entrance into life, and a common departure. Therefore I prayed, and understanding was given me; I called upon God, and the spirit of wisdom came to me. I preferred her to scepters and thrones, and I accounted wealth as nothing in comparison with her. Neither did I liken to her any priceless gem, because all gold is but a little sand in her sight, and silver will be accounted as clay before her. I loved her more than health and beauty, and I chose to have her rather than light, because her radiance never ceases. All good things came to me along with her, and in her hands uncounted wealth. I rejoiced in them all, because wisdom leads them; but I did not know that she was their mother. I learned without guile and I impart without grudging; I do not hide her wealth, for it is an unfailing treasure for men; those who get it obtain friendship with God, commended for the gifts that come from instruction.

*g Following the Lesson, all stand for the singing of the Office Hymn*

## Office Hymn      86

GONFALON ROYAL

*g All remain standing for the singing of the Magnificat*

### Magnificat    D Major

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.

*Words: Luke 1:46–55 with Gloria Patri*

*Music: Herbert Brewer (1865–1928)*

*g All are seated following the singing of the Magnificat*

## The Second Lesson

JOHN 6:41-47

**T**HE JEWS THEN MURMURED AT HIM, because he said, “I am the bread which came down from heaven.” They said, “Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How does he now say, ‘I have come down from heaven?’” Jesus answered them, “Do not murmur among yourselves. No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day. It is written in the prophets, ‘And they shall all be taught by God.’ Every one who has heard and learned from the Father comes to me. Not that any one has seen the Father except him who is from God; he has seen the Father. Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes has eternal life.”

*Following the Lesson, all stand for the singing of the Nunc dimittis*

### Nunc dimittis D Major

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.

*Words: Luke 2:29-32 with Gloria Patri*

*Music: Herbert Brewer*

## The Apostles' Creed

*Sung on a monotone by the Officiant and People together, all standing*

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 Prayers

¶ *The Officiant and Choir sing the following*

℣. The Lord be with you.  
℟. And with thy spirit.  
℣. Let us pray.

¶ *The People kneel*

℟. Lord have mercy upon us.  
Christ have mercy upon us.  
Lord have mercy upon us.

¶ *Then the short form of the Lord's Prayer is sung by all, kneeling*

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.  
Amen.

¶ *Then follow these Suffrages, sung by the Officiant and Choir*

℣. O Lord, show thy mercy upon us.  
℟. And grant us thy salvation.  
  
℣. O Lord, save the State.  
℟. 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 following Collects are sung; the Choir sings “Amen.”*

### *The Collect of the Day*

**O** GOD, WHO DIDST WONDERFULLY CREATE, and yet more wonderfully restore, the dignity of human nature: Grant that we may share the divine life of him who humbled himself to share our humanity, thy Son Jesus Christ; who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

### *A 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 our hearts may be set to obey thy commandments, and also that by thee, we, being defended from the fear of all enemies, may pass our time in rest and quietness; through the merits of Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

### *A Collect for Aid against Perils*

**L**IGHTEN 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 Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

## **Benedicamus Domino**

℣ <i>Officiant</i>	℣ <i>People</i>
Let us bless the Lord.	Thanks be to God.

## The Grace

¶ *Officiant*

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

¶ *Then the Congregation is seated*

## Greeting

## Anthem

*Lully, lulla, By, by. lully, lullay.*

O sisters too how may we do  
for to preserve this day?  
This poor youngling for whom we sing  
By, by, lully, lullay.

Herod, the king, in his raging,  
charged he hath this day.  
His men of might in his own sight  
All young children to slay.

That woe is me,  
poor Child for Thee,  
and ever morn and day.  
For Thy parting neither say nor sing,

*Words: Traditional Carol*

*Music: Philip Stopford (2011)*

## Closing Prayers

¶ *All kneel*

℣. The Lord be with you.  
℟. And with thy spirit.

*¶ The Officiant may then offer prayers for mission and for the world*

## **The Blessing** ✠

*¶ Then all stand for the singing of the final Hymn*

## **Hymn 109**

THE FIRST NOEL

*¶ At the conclusion of the Hymn the Choir and Ministers depart; the Congregation remains standing as the procession retires*



*The Church of St. Michael & St. George is grateful for the generosity of all visitors and parishioners who donate as part of the weekly offertory. If you wish, please place your donation in the collection plate or use the QR code below to give online. These gifts are used to support our parish in addition to our annual commitments from our parishioners.*





# THE CHURCH

OF ST. MICHAEL & ST. GEORGE

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## 2021-2022 SEASON

Sundays at 5:00 pm

- February 6** Evensong  
*Sung by the combined choirs of CSMSG and St.  
Peter's Episcopal Church, Ladue*
- March 6** Evensong  
*sung by the CSMSG Choir at the Abbey of St. Mary  
and St. Louis*
- April 3** Evensong
- 10** Passion Vespers
- May 1** Eastertide Vespers  
*Sung by the monks of the Abbey of St. Mary  
and St. Louis*

# Solemn Evensong

January 2, 2022

5:00 PM

“The Adoration of the Magi”

Master of the Llangattock Epiphany

(Flemish, active about 1450-1460)

Getty Open Content Program



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The Rev. Peter James Speropulos

The Rev. Thomas Roy Albinson

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*Assistant Rector*

*Priest Associate*

*Priest Associate*

*Acting Organist and Choirmaster,  
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*Assistant Choirmaster*

Kathleen Guilfoxy Beyers

