

The
Order
for
Solemn
Choral
Evensong

for

The Holy Name of our Lord Jesus Christ



January 1, 2023 at 5:00 pm

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 in 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 Choral Evensong

for

The Holy Name of our Lord Jesus Christ

January 1, 2023 at 5:00 PM

*¶ The choral setting of the Responses was composed
by Peter Aston (2008)*

¶ All stand as the Choir and Ministers enter

Organ Voluntary

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,
spare thou those who confess their faults,
restore thou those who are penitent,
according to thy promises declared unto mankind in Christ Jesus 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.

g All stand

The Invitatory and Psalter

g 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.

g All remain standing as the following hymn is sung by the Choir

Hymn 26

CONDITOR ALME SIDERUM

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

The Psalmody

Psalm 148 *Laudate Dominum*

Anglican Chant: Robert Lehman

O praise the Lord of heaven *
praise him in the height.

Praise him, all ye angels of his *
praise him, all his host.

Praise him, sun and moon *
praise him, all ye stars and light.

Praise him, all ye heavens *
and ye waters that are above the heavens.

Let them praise the Name of the Lord *
for he spake the word, and they were made; he commanded,
and they were created.

He hath made them fast for ever and ever *
he hath given them a law which shall not be broken.

Praise the Lord upon earth *
ye dragons, and all deeps;

Fire and hail, snow and vapours *
wind and storm, fulfilling his word;

Mountains and all hills *
fruitful trees and all cedars;

Beasts and all cattle *
worms and feathered fowls;

Kings of the earth and all people *
princes and all judges of the world;

Young men and maidens, old men and children,
praise the Name of the Lord *
for his Name only is excellent, and his praise above heaven and earth.

He shall exalt the horn of his people; all his saints shall praise him *
even the children of Israel, even the people that serveth him.

¶ 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

COLOSSIANS 2:6-12

AS THEREFORE YOU RECEIVED CHRIST JESUS THE LORD, so live in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving. See to it that no one makes a prey of you by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the universe, and not according to Christ. For in him the whole fulness of deity dwells bodily, and you have come to fulness of life in him, who is the head of all rule and authority. In him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of flesh in the circumcision of Christ; and you were buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the working of God, who raised him from the dead.

¶ Following the Lesson, all stand for the singing of the Office Hymn

Office Hymn 86

GONFALON ROYAL

¶ All remain standing for the singing of the Magnificat

Magnificat *in D*

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: A. Herbert Brewer (1865-1928)

¶ All are seated following the singing of the Magnificat

The Second Lesson

JOHN 16:23-30

IN THAT DAY YOU WILL ASK NOTHING OF ME. Truly, truly, I say to you, if you ask anything of the Father, he will give it to you in my name. Hitherto you have asked nothing in my name; ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full. “I have said this to you in figures; the hour is coming when I shall no longer speak to you in figures but tell you plainly of the Father. In that day you will ask in my name; and I do not say to you that I shall pray the Father for you; for the Father himself loves you, because you have loved me and have believed that I came from the Father. I came from

the Father and have come into the world; again, I am leaving the world and going to the Father.” His disciples said, “Ah, now you are speaking plainly, not in any figure! Now we know that you know all things, and need none to question you; by this we believe that you came from God.”

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

Nunc dimittis *in D*

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: A. 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.

Greeting

Anthems

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.

MOST MERCIFUL GOD, for whose chosen handmaid and her Holy Babe there was no room at the inn at Bethlehem: Help us all by thy Spirit to make room for the Christ in our common days, that his peace and joy may fill our hearts, and his love flow through our lives to the blessing of others; for His name's sake. *¶ People Amen.*

ALMIGHTY GOD, who hast so loved the world as to give thine only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life: Vouchsafe unto us, we humbly pray thee, the precious gift of faith, whereby we may know that the Son of God is come; and, being rooted and grounded in the mystery of the Word made flesh, may have power to overcome the world, and gain the blessed immortality of heaven; through the merits of the same incarnate Christ. *¶ People Amen.*

GOD OF ALL GRACE, who didst in the fullness of time send Jesus Christ thy Son to be born of a woman, that he might redeem the children born of this world and make them children of God: Accept our endless praise for this thy mercy; and grant that the Spirit of thy Son may so dwell in our hearts that we may evermore serve and worship thee with the freedom of thy children; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. *¶ People Amen.*

O GOD OUR FATHER, who by the glorious birth of thy Son didst enlighten the darkness of the world: We pray that the light of His presence may shine more and more in the lives of His people; that being filled with his spirit of goodwill, the nations may inherit that gift of peace which He came to bring. We ask this in the Name of Jesus Christ, our Lord. *¶ People Amen.*

The Blessing †

MAY HE WHO BY HIS INCARNATION gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, fill you with the sweetness of inward grace and goodwill; And the blessing † of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be amongst you and abide with you for ever. *¶ People Amen.*

¶ Then all stand for the singing of the final Hymn

Hymn 450

CORONATION

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

The next service of Choral Evensong will be sung on Sunday, February 5 at 5:00 pm



THE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL & ST. GEORGE

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