



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.

Cover Art

“The Last Supper”

C. 1304-1306

Giotto di Bondone

Scrovegni (Arena) Chapel, Padua, Italy

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Choral Evensong and Sermon

for

Wednesday in Holy Week

April 16, 2025 at 5:30 pm

¶ *The choral setting of the Responses was composed by Maxine Thévenot (b. 1969)*

¶ *All stand as the Choir and Ministers enter*

Opening Sentences

Is it nothing to you, all ye that pass by? Behold and see if there be any sorrow like unto my sorrow which is done unto me, wherewith the Lord hath afflicted me.

Lamentations 1:12

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.

¶ 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.

¶ All are then seated

The Psalmody

Psalm 74

Ut quid, Deus?

Tone II.1

¶ *The Antiphon is sung first by the Precentor, then repeated by all; it is then sung by all again at the conclusion of the Psalm*



A - rise, O God, main-tain— thy cause.

¶ *The first half of each Psalm verse is sung by the Precentor; the second half is sung by all*



O God, wherefore art thou absent from us so long? *
why is thy wrath so hot against the sheep of **thy pasture?**

O think upon thy congre-gation, *
whom thou hast purchased, and **redeemed of old.**

Think upon the tribe of thine in-heritance, *
and Mount Sion, where-**in thou hast dwelt.**

Lift up thy feet, that thou mayest utterly destroy every enemy, *
which hath done evil in thy sanc-tuary.

Thine adversaries roar in the midst of thy congre-gations, *
and set up their banners **for tokens.**

He that hewed timber afore out of the thick trees, *
was known to bring it to an **excellent work.**

But now they break down all the carved work there-of*
with axes **and hammers.**

They have set fire upon thy holy places, *
and have defiled the dwelling-place of thy Name, even **unto the ground.**



Yea, they said in their hearts, Let us make havoc of them *alto-gether*: *
thus have they burnt up all the houses of ***God in the land.***

We see not our tokens; there is not one prophet *more*; *
no, not one is there among us, that understand-***eth any more.***

O God, how long shall the adversary do this dis-*honour*? *
shall the enemy blaspheme thy Name ***for ever?***

Why withdrawest thou thy *hand*? *
why pluckest thou not thy right hand out of thy bosom
to consume ***the enemy?***

For God is my King of *old*; *
the help that is done upon earth, he do-***eth it himself.***

Thou didst divide the sea through thy *power*; *
thou brakest the heads of the dragons in ***the waters.***

Thou smotest the heads of leviathan in *pieces*, *
and gavest him to be meat for the people of ***the wilderness.***

Thou broughtest out fountains and waters out of the hard *rocks*; *
thou driedst up might-***y waters.***

The day is thine, and the *night is thine*; *
thou hast prepared the ***light and the sun.***

Thou hast set all the borders of the *earth*; *
thou hast made summer ***and winter.***

Remember this, O Lord, how the enemy hath re-*buked*; *
and how the foolish people hath ***blasphemed thy Name.***



O deliver not the soul of thy turtle-dove unto the multitude of the *enemies*; *
and forget not the congregation of the poor **for ever**.

Look upon the *covenant*; *
for all the earth is full of darkness and cruel hab-**itations**.

O let not the simple go away a-*shamed*; *
but let the poor and needy give praise **unto thy Name**.

Arise, O God, maintain thine own *cause*; *
remember how the foolish man blasphemeth **thee daily**.

Forget not the voice of thine *enemies*: *
the presumption of them that hate thee
increaseth ev-**er more and more**.

¶ *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 with-**out end. Amen**.

℞ *Antiphon*



A - rise, O God, main - tain— thy cause.

The Lessons

The First Lesson

Philippians 4:1-13

Therefore, my brethren, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm thus in the Lord, my beloved. I entreat Eu-o'dia and I entreat Syn'tyche to agree in the Lord. And I ask you also, true yokefellow, help these women, for they have labored side by side with me in the gospel together with Clement and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the book of life. Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let all men know your forbearance. The Lord is at hand. Have no anxiety about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which passes all understanding, will keep your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, do; and the God of peace will be with you. I rejoice in the Lord greatly that now at length you have revived your concern for me; you were indeed concerned for me, but you had no opportunity. Not that I complain of want; for I have learned, in whatever state I am, to be content. I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound; in any and all circumstances I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and want. I can do all things in him who strengthens me.

Following the Lesson, all stand for the singing of the Office Hymn and Magnificat

Hymn



1 When Je - sus left his Fa - ther's throne, he chose an hum - ble birth;
2 Sweet were his words and kind his look, when mo - thers round him pressed;
3 When Je - sus in - to Zi - on rode, the chil - dren sang a - round;



like us, un - hon - ored and un - known, he came to dwell on earth.
their in - fants in his arms he took, and on his bos - om blessed.
for joy they plucked the palms and strowed their gar - ments on the ground.



Like him may we be found be - low, in wis - dom's path of peace;
Safe from the world's al - lur - ing harms, be - neath his watch - ful eye,
Ho - san - na our glad voic - es raise, ho - san - na to our King!



like him in grace and know - ledge grow as years and strength in - crease.
thus in the cir - cle of his arms may we for ev - er lie.
Should we for - get our Sa - vior's praise, the stones them - selves would sing.

Magnificat Canticles in B minor

T. Tertius Noble (1867-1953)

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

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

The Second Lesson

John 12:27-36

Now is my soul troubled. And what shall I say? ‘Father, save me from this hour?’ No, for this purpose I have come to this hour. Father, glorify thy name.” Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.” The crowd standing by heard it and said that it had thundered. Others said, “An angel has spoken to him.” Jesus answered, “This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. Now is the judgment of this world, now shall the ruler of this world be cast out; and I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to myself.” He said this to show by what death he was to die. The crowd answered him, “We have heard from the law that the

Christ remains for ever. How can you say that the Son of man must be lifted up? Who is this Son of man?” Jesus said to them, “The light is with you for a little longer. Walk while you have the light, lest the darkness overtake you; he who walks in the darkness does not know where he goes. While you have the light, believe in the light, that you may become sons of light.” When Jesus had said this, he departed and hid himself from them.

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

Nunc dimittis

Canticles in B minor

T. Tertius Noble (1867-1953)

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

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. — 12 —

∞ 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 Lord God, whose blessed Son our Savior gave his back to the smiters and hid not his face from shame: Grant us grace to take joyfully the sufferings of the present time, in full assurance of the glory that shall be revealed; through the same thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

A Collect for Protection

O God, who art the life of all who live, the light of the faithful, the strength of those who labor, and the repose of the dead: We thank thee for the timely blessings of the day, and humbly beseech thy merciful protection all the night. Bring us, we pray thee, in safety to the morning hours; through him who died for us and rose again, thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

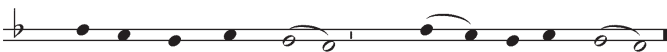
A Prayer for Mission

Keepest watch, dear Lord, with those who work, or watch, or weep this night, and give thine angels charge over those who sleep. Tend the sick, Lord Christ; give rest to the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering, pity the afflicted, shield the joyous; and all for thy love's sake. Amen.

Benedicamus Domino

¶ *Officiant*

¶ *People*



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.

Sermon

The Rev. Canon Victoria R. Sirota

¶ *Then all stand to sing the following Hymn*

Hymn

1 Go to dark Geth - se - ma - ne, ye that feel the tempt-er's power;
2 Fol - low to the judg - ment hall; view the Lord of life ar-raigned;
3 Cal-vary's mourn - ful moun - tain climb; there, a - dor - ing at his feet,

your Re-deem - er's con - flict see, watch with him one bit - ter hour;
O the worm-wood and the gall! O the pangs his soul sus - tained!
mark the mir - a - cle of time, God's own sac - ri - fice com - plete;

turn not from his griefs a - way, learn of Je - sus Christ to pray.
Shun not suf - fering, shame, or loss; learn of him to bear the cross.
"It is fi - nished!" hear him cry; learn of Je - sus Christ to die.

Closing Prayers

¶ *All kneel*

℣. The Lord be with you.

℟. And with thy spirit.

¶ *The Officiant offers prayers for mission and for the world*

¶ *Then all stand*

The Blessing

Almighty God, we pray thee graciously to behold this thy family, for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed, and given into the hands of sinners, and to suffer death upon the cross; who liveth and reigneth for ever and ever. And the blessing ✠ of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. ¶ *People Amen.*

¶ *The Choir and Ministers depart; the Congregation remains standing as the procession retires*

Holy Week 2025

Maundy Thursday, April 17

- 5:30 PM A Family Service with Footwashing and Holy Eucharist
(St. George's Chapel) Simple Supper will follow.
- 7:00 PM The Mandatum, Holy Eucharist, and Stripping of the Altar
- 9:00 PM Vigil at the Altar of Repose starts

Good Friday, April 18

- 7:00 AM Stations of the Cross
- Noon Vigil at the Altar of Repose ends
- Noon The Good Friday Liturgy

Holy Saturday: The Eve of Easter, April 19

- 7:00 PM The Great Vigil of Easter Incense will be used.
A reception with dessert will follow.

The Sunday of the Resurrection: Easter Day, April 20

- 7:30 AM Holy Eucharist
- 8:45 AM Festival Music for Organ and Brass
- 9:00 AM Choral Eucharist
The nursery (0 - 3 yrs.) will be available, register online
- 10:45 AM Festival Music for Organ and Brass
- 11:00 AM Choral Eucharist
- 5:00 PM Holy Eucharist (St. George's Chapel)

Holy Week 2025

Holy Week Preacher



The Rev. Canon Victoria R. Sirota, Episcopal priest, organist and author, has degrees from Oberlin, Boston University and Harvard Divinity School, and has taught at Yale Divinity School and Institute of Sacred Music, Boston University and The Ecumenical Institute of Theology at St. Mary's Seminary and University. Former National Chaplain for the American Guild of Organists and Association of Anglican Musicians, Rev. Dr. Sirota was Canon Pastor and Vicar at The Cathedral Church of Saint John the Divine in New York from 2007-2016, as well as having served churches in Baltimore MD, and Yonkers NY. Her book *Preaching to the Choir: Claiming the Role of Sacred Musician* is available from Church Publishing.

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Wednesday in Holy Week

April 16, 2025 at 5:30 pm



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