

ST STEPHEN'S CHURCH, CANTERBURY

Choral Evensong from The Book of Common Prayer



Introduction

The congregation STANDS as the ministers and choir enter

The minister may use a seasonal sentence before using one or more of the penitential sentences

The minister says words of welcome and introduces the service after which we SIT or KNEEL and say together

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 declares, or other ministers request God's forgiveness and we respond

All **Amen.**

We say together

All **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.**

¶ *Evening Prayer*

We all STAND

Choir O Lord, open thou our lips
and our mouth shall shew forth thy praise.

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

Choir 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.**

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

Psalmody

The congregation SITS and the choir sings the appointed psalms for the day

At the end of each psalm the Gloria is sung; the final time we 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.

Old Testament Reading

We SIT for the reading, after which we STAND to sing the Office hymn

Office hymn

At the end of the hymn we remain STANDING as the choir sing the Magnificat

Magnificat

- 1 My soul doth magnify the Lord :
and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.
- 2 For he hath regarded :
the lowliness of his handmaiden.
- 3 For behold, from henceforth :
all generations shall call me blessed.
- 4 For he that is mighty hath magnified me :
and holy is his Name.
- 5 And his mercy is on them that fear him :
throughout all generations.
- 6 He hath shewed strength with his arm :
he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.
- 7 He hath put down the mighty from their seat :
and hath exalted the humble and meek.
- 8 He hath filled the hungry with good things :
and the rich he hath sent empty away.
- 9 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 Reading

*We SIT for the New Testament reading, after which we STAND as the choir sing
the Nunc Dimittis*

Nunc dimittis

- 1 Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace :
according to thy word.
- 2 For mine eyes have seen :
thy salvation;
- 3 Which thou hast prepared :
before the face of all people;
- 4 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.

We TURN EAST to say the Apostles' Creed together

The Apostles' Creed

All

**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.**

Prayers

The Lord be with you.

Choir

And with thy spirit.

Let us pray.

We SIT or KNEEL

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Choir

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Choir

**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.

Choir

And grant us thy salvation.

O Lord, save the King.

Choir

And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.

Endue thy ministers with righteousness.

Choir

And make thy chosen people joyful.

O Lord, save thy people.

Choir

And bless thine inheritance.

Give peace in our time, O Lord.

Choir

**Because there is none other that fighteth for us,
but only thou, O God.**

O God, make clean our hearts within us.

Choir

And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.

Three Collects are sung:

The Collect of the Day

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.

All

Amen.

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.

All

Amen.

The Anthem

We SIT and the choir sings the anthem which is usually chosen for its connection to themes in the readings, or to the church season.

The Prayers

We SIT or KNEEL

This prayer may be used at the end

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

All **Amen.**

Concluding hymn

We STAND to sing the concluding hymn together

The Blessing

After the hymn we remain STANDING for the Blessing.

The following concluding sentences may be sung by the choir

Choir The Lord be with you
and with thy Spirit.

Choir Let us bless the Lord
Thanks be to God.

The choir and ministers depart during the organ voluntary.