



LICHFIELD
CATHEDRAL

**The Order for
Evening Prayer
(Choral Evensong)**

Inserui Deo et laetare
Serve God and be joyful!

Please do not take this booklet away with you

Welcome to Lichfield Cathedral

Christians have worshipped here since the seventh century, and we are delighted that you have come to share in this tradition.

The heart of Evensong is the singing of psalms and the proclamation of the Word of God in Scripture. We respond to this in praise and make it the basis of our intercessions for the Church and the world.

Choral Evensong is a service in which all may actively participate by allowing the words of the Bible and the prayers, together with the beauty of the music offered on our behalf, to give us space for reflection and a sense of mystery and awe which may draw us closer to God.

Like the Cathedral itself, the words and music of this service are intended to create a space in which a person may sense the presence and love of God, and be inspired to love God in return.

So, welcome to Lichfield Cathedral! Whether you are here for the first or for the thousandth time, you are equally welcome to share in the worship of Almighty God.

PLEASE KEEP SILENCE in Quire before the Service begins so that the prayers of others around you are not disturbed.

LAVATORIES can be found in the **Old Stables**. Please ask a Steward or Verger for directions.

COLLECTION/DONATIONS

If you are a UK taxpayer, please use a Gift Aid envelope when making your donation.

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Order of Service

Please join in with whatever is printed in bold type. Large-print versions of this booklet are available: please ask a steward. The order of service indicates which is the appropriate posture (standing, kneeling or sitting) but please feel free to stand, kneel or sit as you are able.

*On Fridays, Sundays and Festivals the Choir may sing an **INTROIT**.*

Stand as the Choir and Clergy enter.

*The Cantor and Choir sing the **OPENING RESPONSES**.*

Cantor O Lord, open thou our lips.

Choir And our mouth shall shew forth thy praise.

Cantor O God, make speed to save us.

Choir 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.

Cantor Praise ye the Lord.

Choir The Lord's name be praised.

*After the words of welcome, **sit** for the **PSALMODY**.*

The Psalms are Hebrew poetry, songs and expressions of worship, the products of many minds over many centuries before the time of Christ. As a collection they bring before God every human thought and emotion, binding us together in common experience with people around the world and throughout time.

The words of the Psalm may be found towards the back of the green Book of Common Prayer.

Stand at the end of the final psalm for the words: Glory be to the Father.

*Sit for the **FIRST LESSON** from the Hebrew Scriptures (Old Testament).*

*On a saint's day or feast day, **stand** to sing the **OFFICE HYMN** from the blue hymn book.*

***Remain standing** for the **MAGNIFICAT** (The Song of Mary).*

On Festivals, the High Altar is censed, a rich symbol of the offering of our prayers and worship.

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.

*Sit for the **SECOND LESSON** from the New Testament.*

Stand for the NUNC DIMITTIS (The Song of Simeon).

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.

***Remain standing and turn to face East (towards the High Altar) to say
the APOSTLES' CREED, a statement of Christian faith developed between
the 2nd and 5th centuries.***

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 Catholick Church;
the Communion of Saints;
the Forgiveness of sins;
the Resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Turn to face inwards and remain standing.

Cantor The Lord be with you.

Choir And with thy spirit.

Cantor Let us pray.

Kneel or sit.

Choir Lord, have mercy upon us.
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.

Cantor O Lord, shew thy mercy upon us.

Choir And grant us thy salvation.

Cantor O Lord, save the King.

Choir And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.

Cantor Endue thy ministers with righteousness.

Choir And make thy chosen people joyful.

Cantor O Lord, save thy people.

Choir And bless thine inheritance.

Cantor Give peace in our time, O Lord.

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

Cantor O God, make clean our hearts within us.

Choir And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.

COLLECT FOR THE DAY

The Collect is a prayer which collects or 'gathers up' the theme for the day or the week.

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.

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.

Sit for THE ANTHEM.

On Weekdays and Saturdays THE PRAYERS follow.

Kneel or sit.

The prayers conclude:

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

On Weekdays the rite concludes at this point.

Stand as the Choir and Clergy depart.

*On **Saturdays** remain kneeling or sitting as the following is said as a form of preparation for receiving Holy Communion on Sunday.*

*A moment of silence is kept after **THE GRACE**.*

We will lay us down in peace and take our rest.
For it is thou Lord only that makest us dwell in safety.

Abide with us, O Lord,
for it is toward evening and the day is far spent.

As the night watch looks for the morning,
so do we look for thee, O Christ.

Come with the dawning of the day
and make thyself known in the breaking of bread.

The Lord bless us, and keep us;
the Lord lift up the light of his countenance upon us
and give us peace, now and for evermore. **Amen.**

*On **Saturdays** the rite concludes at this point.*

***Stand** as the Choir and Clergy depart.*

*On **Sundays** the Dean or Canon in Residence invites the congregation, if they are able, to stand, as s/he introduces the Litany of the Resurrection.*

***Stand to say* THE LITANY OF THE RESURRECTION**

On this day that the Lord has made,
let us pray for the people he has redeemed.

That we may live as those who believe in the triumph of the cross:
Glorious God, hear our prayer.

That all people may receive the good news of his victory:
Glorious God, hear our prayer.

That those born to new life in the waters of baptism
may know the power of his resurrection:
Glorious God, hear our prayer.

That those who suffer pain and anguish
may find healing and peace in the wounds of Christ:
Glorious God, hear our prayer.

That in the undying love of Christ
we may be united with all who have died in the faith of Christ:
Glorious God, hear our prayer.

Let us commend the world,
in which Christ rose from the dead,
to the mercy and protection of God, as we say together.

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

Remain standing to sing a HYMN during which a COLLECTION is taken to support the mission and ministry of the Cathedral.

Please give as generously as you are able.

Remain standing as THE BLESSING OF GOD is pronounced.

The Choir sings Amen.

Remain standing as the Choir and Clergy depart.

An **ORGAN VOLUNTARY** may be played to conclude the worship.

You are invited to listen to the whole piece that the organist has prepared. If you need to leave, please do so quietly and without embarrassment.

A **RETIRING COLLECTION** may be taken on weekdays and Saturdays. Please give as generously as you are able.

GENERAL THANKSGIVING

Almighty God, Father of all mercies,
we thine unworthy servants
do give thee most humble and hearty thanks
for all thy goodness and loving-kindness to us, and to all men;
we bless thee for our creation,
preservation, and all the blessings of this life;
but above all, for thine inestimable love in the redemption
of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ;
for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.
And, we beseech thee,
give us that due sense of all thy mercies,
that our hearts may be unfeignedly thankful,
and that we shew forth thy praise,
not only with our lips, but in our lives;
by giving up ourselves to thy service,
and by walking before thee in holiness
and righteousness all our days;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
to whom with thee and the Holy Ghost
be all honour and glory, world without end. Amen.

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