



LICHFIELD
CATHEDRAL
RE▶SOURCE
Recovering together

Choral Evensong in the Season of Lent

Inservi Deo et laetare
Serve God and be joyful!

Please do not take this booklet away with you

WELCOME



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 intercession 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 near the **Old Stables**. Please ask a steward or verger for directions.

PHOTOGRAPHY, RECORDINGS AND MOBILE 'PHONES

Occasionally the Cathedral Photographers take photographs (without flash) during services, for use on the Cathedral website or on social media. They make every effort to do so as discreetly and quietly as possible. If you, or any one in your party, prefer not to be in any photograph, please speak to the photographer directly. You are kindly requested not to take photographs during the service or to make sound or video recordings in the Cathedral. **Please ensure that mobile 'phones are switched off.**

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

On Sundays the Choir may sing an INTROIT

Stand as the Choir and Clergy enter

*On **Sundays** the following rite of penitence is said*

The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit:
a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.

Psalm 51.17

Dearly beloved brethren, the Scripture moveth us in sundry places to acknowledge and confess our manifold sins and wickedness; and that we should not dissemble nor cloke them before the face of Almighty God our heavenly Father; but confess them with an humble, lowly, penitent, and obedient heart; to the end that we may obtain forgiveness of the same, by his infinite goodness and mercy.

Wherefore I pray and beseech you, as many as are here present, to accompany me with a pure heart and humble voice unto the throne of the heavenly grace, saying with me:

Kneel or sit

A moment of silence is kept for reflection on sins and failings

**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.**

After a moment of silence, a priest pronounces God's forgiveness

Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
who of his great mercy hath promised forgiveness of sins
to all those who with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto him;
Have mercy upon you; pardon and deliver you from all your sins;
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness;
and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Stand

On weekdays the Office begins here

*The Canon in Residence welcomes the congregation
and then 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.

*Please **SIT** as the Canon in Residence announces the appointed **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. At times the Psalms might seem to be uncompromising in the expression of the emotions they represent. As well as expressing praise, thanksgiving and elation, they also give voice to the deepest desires and feelings of anger and despair. Sometimes this emotion is also projected onto God; such is the honesty with which they speak. There are points where we must acknowledge our discomfort with what we see on the page and hear sung.

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 *Old Testament*

Stand 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 to say the APOSTLES' CREED

**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 Queen.

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

A prayer which collects or 'gathers up' the theme for the day or the week.

COLLECT FOR ASH WEDNESDAY

Almighty and everlasting God,
who hatest nothing that thou hast made,
and dost forgive the sins of all them that are penitent:
Create and make in us new and contrite hearts,
that we worthily lamenting our sins,
and acknowledging our wretchedness,
may obtain of thee, the God of all mercy,
perfect remission and forgiveness;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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 you are invited to 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 Fridays the Lent Prose may be sung.

LENT PROSE

*At the opening the refrain is sung by the Choir, and repeated
by the people. It is then sung by all after each verse.*

Hear us, O Lord, have mer - cy up - on us:
for we have sinn'd a - gainst thee.

To thee, Redeemer, on thy throne of glory:
lift we our weeping eyes in holy pleadings:
listen, O Jesu, to our supplications. **Hear us...**

O thou chief cornerstone, Right Hand of the Father:
Way of Salvation, Gate of Life Celestial:
cleanse thou our sinful souls from all defilement. **Hear us...**

God, we implore thee, in thy glory seated:
bow down and hearken to thy weeping children:
pity and pardon all our grievous trespasses. **Hear us...**

Sins oft committed, now we lay before thee:
with true contrition, now no more we veil them:
grant us, Redeemer, loving absolution. **Hear us...**

Innocent captive, taken unresisting:
falsely accused, and for us sinners sentenced:
save us, we pray thee, Jesu, our Redeemer. **Hear us...**

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 look 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**, after the Anthem **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

*to support the mission and ministry of the cathedral
may be taken on weekdays and Saturdays.
We invite you to give as generously as you are able.*

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