



LICHFIELD
CATHEDRAL
RE▶SOURCE
Recovering together

**THE OFFICE
OF EVENING PRAYER
(CHORAL EVENSONG)
IN THE SEASON OF ADVENT**

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. It 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.

ORDER OF SERVICE

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

***Stand** as the Choir and Clergy enter and as the Canon in Residence introduces the service.*

*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.

Sit for the appointed PSALMODY

The words 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 OLD TESTAMENT READING

A **HYMN** might follow

Stand for the MAGNIFICAT (*The Song of Mary*)

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 NEW TESTAMENT READING

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 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

COLLECT FOR THE FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Almighty God, give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness, and put upon us the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which thy Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious Majesty, to judge both the quick and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, now and ever. 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

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 (except Fridays) the rite concludes at this point.

On Fridays the Advent Prose is sung – page 9.

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 **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.*

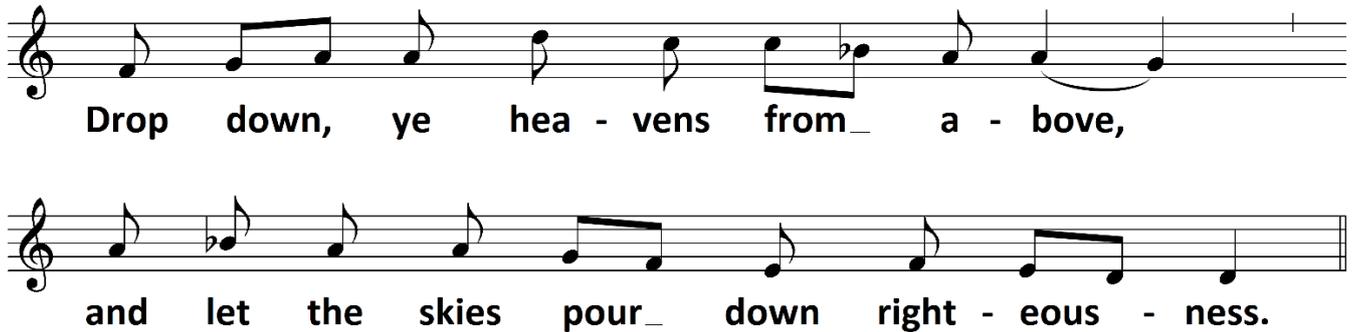
*An **ORGAN VOLUNTARY** may be played to conclude the worship.*

*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.*

ADVENT PROSE

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



Be not wroth very sore, O Lord, neither remember iniquity for ever:
Thy holy cities are a wilderness,
Sion is a wilderness, Jerusalem a desolation:
our holy and beautiful house, where our fathers praised thee.

Drop down...

We have sinned and are as an unclean thing, and we all do fade as a leaf:
and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.
Thou hast hid thy face from us:
and hast consumed us because of our iniquities.

Drop down...

Ye are my witnesses, saith the Lord, and my servant whom I have chosen;
that ye may know me and believe me:
I, even I, am the Lord, and beside me there is no Saviour:
and there is none that can deliver out of my hand.

Drop down...

Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, my salvation shall not tarry:
I have blotted out as a thick cloud thy transgressions:
fear not, for I will save thee:
for I am the Lord thy God, the Holy One of Israel, thy Redeemer.

Drop down...

Stand as the Choir and Clergy depart.

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