

# CHORAL EVENSONG on SUNDAY

Jesus says, 'Where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.' He is here with us now in our worship.

Ask God for help to acknowledge what you have done today that is good, and to recognise where you have fallen short of your own hopes and God's. Ask for repentance, hope, and encouragement.

Jesus says, 'Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.' *Matthew 11.28*

*All stand as the Choir and ministers enter the Chapel, and remain standing to sing a HYMN, the text of which may be found in the green hymnals in the stalls.*

*All remain standing as the officiating minister says*

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 cloak 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. And although we ought at all times humbly to acknowledge our sins before God; yet ought we chiefly so to do, when we assemble and meet together to render thanks for the great benefits that we have received at his hands, to set forth his most worthy praise, to hear his most holy Word, and to ask those things which are requisite and necessary, as well for the body as the soul. 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 after me:

*All sit or kneel to say the GENERAL CONFESSION.*

**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, or a bishop if present, pronounces the ABSOLUTION.*

'For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.' *John 3.16*

Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who desireth not the death of a sinner, but rather that he may turn from his wickedness, and live; and hath given power, and commandment, to his Ministers, to declare and pronounce to his people, being penitent, the Absolution and Remission of their sins: He ✠ pardoneth and absolveth all them that truly repent, and unfeignedly believe his holy Gospel. Wherefore let us beseech him to grant us true repentance, and his Holy Spirit, that those things may please him, which we do at this present; and that the rest of our life hereafter may be pure, and holy; so that at the last we may come to his eternal joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *All join in saying Amen.*

*'How shall we pray?'*

This is the prayer which Jesus gives us. These are his words which we repeat. When you have no words to pray, when life is too hard, when God feels distant, this prayer is written on your heart and will always reach him.

*All say together the LORD'S PRAYER:*

**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.**

Here I stand, Lord, in your presence. Open my lips that I might be ready to pray.

This hymn of praise, the 'Doxology', joins us with all in heaven and earth throughout the ages in glorifying God.

The *Psalms* help us to consider the entire span of history and human experience. Which verses speak most closely to your experiences today?

With Mary, we make our song of prayer. As she rejoices, so do we, allowing the music to lift our souls to God.

We join Mary in saying, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' *Luke 1.38*

**CHORAL EVENSONG on WEEKDAYS begins here.**

*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.

*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.

Praise ye the Lord.  
The Lord's Name be praised.

*The Choir sings a PSALM. Words of the Psalms may be found in the green Prayer Books in the stalls.*

*All stand as the Choir sings 'Glory be to the Father...' and sit for the FIRST LESSON, from the Old Testament.*

*All stand for the MAGNIFICAT, or 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 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.

*All sit for the **SECOND LESSON**, from the New Testament, and then stand for the **NUNC DIMITTIS**, or Song of Simeon.*

With the old man Simeon (whose words these are) we allow our heart to be full with God's peace and God's calm. As the day draws to a close we make our peace with everything that has happened and offer it now to God.

Aligning us with the stream of living history we try to find the words to express our faith. This creed was drawn together by Jesus's first followers in the early Church and we have said it ever since.

Lord, I believe! Help my unbelief. *Mark 9.24*

Holy is God! Holy and strong! Holy Immortal one, have mercy on us.

Jesus said, Remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age. *Matthew 28.20*

A simple and eloquent little prayer. When might you repeat it, today or tomorrow?

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.

*Remaining standing, all turn east and say together 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 Catholic Church; The Communion of Saints; the Forgiveness of sins; the Resurrection of the body, and the Life everlasting. Amen.**

*The officiant and Choir sing the **LESSER LITANY and SUFFRAGES**.*

The Lord be with you.  
And with thy spirit.  
Let us pray.

*All sit or kneel.*

Lord, have mercy upon us.  
Christ, have mercy upon us.  
Lord, have mercy upon us.

As the choir sing, so we have the chance to meditate on Jesus's own words. Pray for signs of God's kingdom on earth. Pray to be fed and nourished by God today. Pray for forgiveness for the burdens you are carrying.

An ancient cycle of prayers for governance. We need God's mercy, God's righteousness, and God's blessing on the world's people and leaders more than ever.

Each week of the year, and each feastday, has its own special Collect, a prayer which gathers together our intentions.

Let the words and rhythms of these prayers become so familiar and well-worn that they spring to your lips unbidden in times of anxiety and need.

Use this time to thank God in your thoughts for the blessings

*The officiant and Choir sing*

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.

O Lord, shew thy mercy upon us.

*And grant us thy salvation.*

O Lord, save the Queen.

*And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.*

Endue thy Ministers with righteousness.

*And make thy chosen people joyful.*

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 officiant sings the COLLECT OF THE DAY. In Advent and Lent the seasonal Collect is added. Then are sung the following two Collects, for Peace, and for Aid against all Perils:*

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.

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.

*All sit for the ANTHEM.*

of this day, and for protection and comfort tonight.

Listen to the prayers, and add your own in the silence. Try praying, *Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.*

St Paul uses this form of words to close his second letter to the Corinthians. We use it here to conclude our service.

*On Sundays, the **SERMON** follows.*

*All sit or kneel for the **PRAYERS** which conclude with the **Grace**, with which all join in.*

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

*On weekdays, the service ends here.*

*On Sundays, all stand for the final **HYMN** and remain standing for the **BLESSING**, to which all reply **Amen**.*

*Remain standing as the Choir and ministers depart.  
The organist plays a voluntary.*

# Weekday CHORAL EVENSONG

Here I stand, Lord, in your presence. Open my lips that I might be ready to pray.

This hymn of praise, the 'Doxology', joins us with all in heaven and earth throughout the ages in glorifying God.

The *Psalms* help us to consider the entire span of history and human experience. Which verses speak most closely to your experiences today?

With Mary, we make our song of prayer. As she rejoices, so do we, allowing the music to lift our souls to God.

We join Mary in saying, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.'  
*Luke 1.38*

*All stand as the Choir and ministers enter the Chapel.  
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.

*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.

Praise ye the Lord.  
The Lord's Name be praised.

*The Choir sings a PSALM. Words of the Psalms may be found in the green Prayer Books in the stalls.*

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*All stand for the MAGNIFICAT, or Song of Mary.*

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(whose words these are) we  
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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 sit for the SECOND LESSON, from the New Testament,  
and then stand for the NUNC DIMITTIS, or Song of  
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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.

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*Remaining standing, all turn east and say together 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  
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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 officiant and Choir sing the LESSER LITANY and  
SUFFRAGES.*

The Lord be with you.  
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Lord, have mercy upon us.

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this night; for the love of thy only Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

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*All sit or kneel for the PRAYERS which conclude with the Grace, with which all join in.*

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

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