



ELY CATHEDRAL

LIVE STREAMED CHORAL EVENSONG



Ely Cathedral - the West Front

WELCOME TO CHORAL EVENSONG

We are delighted that you have joined us for this live streamed act of worship.

This order of service will guide you through. The service lasts about forty-five minutes and is led by the choir and clergy. There is space to listen to music, to pray quietly for yourself and for other people, to put down the burdens of the day.

It is at the heart of what the Cathedral is for: to worship God every day and to be renewed by coming close to him. Choral Evensong is a form of worship which is several hundred years old, but draws on much older traditions than that. The monks who worshipped here when the Cathedral was new will have sung and prayed an evening service which is intimately related to the one we experience today.

Its words and music are almost always drawn directly from the Bible. They may tell stories, or parts of stories, which show God acting within the mess and violence of human history, and you may find that the different parts of the service express the whole range of emotions of which the human heart is capable - despair, anger, sorrow or praise. There are readings from the Old Testament (the ancient Jewish sacred writings) and from the New Testament (the collection of stories, letters, sayings and visionary writing clustering round the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ). In between the readings we hear musical settings of the Magnificat (the words Jesus' mother, Mary, sang when pregnant to rejoice in the coming of her baby and all that he would bring), and of the Nunc Dimittis (the words that a faithful servant of God, Simeon, spoke upon seeing the infant Jesus). Their names (Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis) are simply the first words of each, but in Latin.

RESPONSES

Cantor O Lord, open thou our lips.
Choir And our mouth shall show forth thy praise.

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

Cantor Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
Choir 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.

PSALM

The psalms set for the day will be announced by the officiant

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.

FIRST LESSON

A reading from the Bible, from the Old Testament

OFFICE HYMN

The office hymn, giving thanks for the day, or season, or celebrating particular saints, is announced by the officiant

MAGNIFICAT

The words of Mary - an obscure young woman chosen to carry God within her body, look towards the coming of Jesus Christ into the world as the start of a revolutionary change, a great reversal in the systems of power, so that the poor become rich, the hungry are fed, the disregarded given honour. We stand through the Magnificat to mark the significance of Mary's song in the Christian story. It is sometimes sung in Latin.

My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour. For he hath regarded the lowliness of his hand-maiden. 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.

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**

SECOND LESSON

A reading from the Bible, from the New Testament

NUNC DIMITTIS

The words of Simeon, an elderly man who has waited in the Temple for many years to see the fulfilment of God's promise for salvation for all people. It is sometimes sung in Latin.

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.**

APOSTLES' CREED

Cantor I believe in God
**All 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.**

Cantor The Lord be with you.
Choir And with thy spirit.

Cantor Let us pray.

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

The choir sings 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. 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 OF THE DAY

*A sung prayer which bring together the themes of that week
or celebrates the day's saint*

SECOND COLLECT OF EVENSONG

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.

THIRD 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.

ANTHEM

The officiant announces the anthem

PRAYERS

Prayers are offered reflecting the day's readings or commemorations, prayers for ourselves, for others and for the wider world, the prayers left by visitors in the Cathedral that day, and prayers for the evening.

The Prayers end with the Grace

**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.**

BLESSING

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

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