



WINCHESTER
CATHEDRAL

The Order for
CHORAL EVENSONG

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WELCOME TO WINCHESTER CATHEDRAL

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Winchester Cathedral



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A MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

Welcome to Evensong at Winchester Cathedral.

The Cathedral was built over nine hundred years ago, to give space for a monastic community to worship and praise God, the Creator and Redeemer of the world. You join us at Evensong, as we continue this tradition of Christian prayer each morning and evening, every day of the year.

The choir of Winchester Cathedral sings Evensong most evenings. As is the custom in churches with a great choral tradition, the service is sung by the Choir alone. This allows the congregation to participate by listening. In our busy lives and noisy world, the opportunity to be quiet and still, to meditate on God's word and be immersed in beauty, is a precious gift that increasing numbers of us treasure.

Be still and allow yourself to be renewed and inspired by God in this act of worship that unites us with the faithful throughout time and space.

The Very Reverend Catherine Ogle, *Dean of Winchester*

THE OFFICE OF EVENSONG

From the earliest times, Christians gathered at regular hours during each day and night to respond to God's word with praise on behalf of all creation and to pray for those in need and for the salvation of the world. By the fourth century, if not earlier, morning and evening had emerged as the most popular hours for the offering of prayer and worship. They have remained so ever since, as with this order which follows the 1662 Book of Common Prayer.

The service begins with short prayers sung by the Cantor and the Choir. Psalms, the prayer book of the Bible and the heart of both Morning and Evening Prayer, then follow. A reading from the Old Testament is followed by the singing of the canticle *Magnificat*, the Song of Mary, which gathers together the promises of the Old Testament and points to their fulfilment in the New. A lesson is then read from the New Testament, and then the canticle *Nunc Dimittis*, Simeon's Song, rejoices in the coming of Christ as fulfilment of those promises. We affirm our faith in the Apostles' Creed. Further responses to God's word follow in intercession and in the singing of an anthem by the Choir. On Sundays a sermon is preached and a blessing is given. To close the service, a final responsary may be sung.

ORDER OF SERVICE

From the Transept, the Choir may sing a seasonal Antiphon

THE WELCOME

Stand

*On Mondays-Thursdays, Evensong continues at the top of page 6
On Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays (except feast days), the service
continues below*

THE GENERAL CONFESSION

Kneel or sit

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.

THE ABSOLUTION

The Minister pronounces the absolution and all respond, 'Amen'.

Monday-Thursday Evensong continues here

THE PRECES AND RESPONSES

Stand. The Cantor and Choir sing

○ Lord, open thou our lips ;
and our mouth shall show forth thy praise.

○ God, make speed to save us ;
○ Lord, make haste to help us.

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 HYMN

On Sundays, a hymn may be sung from the green hymn book

THE PSALM(S)

Unless otherwise announced, all sit while the choir sing the appointed psalm(s), which can be found at the back of the black prayer book. Stand for the Gloria at the end of the final psalm

THE FIRST LESSON

Sit for the Old Testament reading

MAGNIFICAT

Stand as the Song of Mary is sung by the Choir

On Festival days, the Altar and people are censed as a sign of the holiness of our prayers rising to God

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.

Luke 1:46-55

THE SECOND LESSON

Sit for the New Testament reading

NUNC DIMITTIS

Stand as the Song of Simeon is sung by the Choir

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.

Luke 2:29-32

THE APOSTLES' CREED

Turn to face East (High Altar)

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.

THE LESSER LITANY

Face inwards, remaining standing

The Lord be with you ;
and with thy spirit.

Kneel or sit

Let us pray.
Lord, have mercy upon us ;
Christ, have mercy upon us ;
Lord, have mercy upon us.

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.

THE VERSICLES & RESPONSES

O Lord, show thy mercy upon us :
and grant us thy salvation.

O Lord, save the King :
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 COLLECTS

The Collect of the Day

The Collect for the Season—during Advent and Lent

The 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.

The 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.

THE FLEURY PRAYER

God bless this Cathedral Church,
the Diocese of Winchester,
the Benedictine Community of Fleury,
and the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus.
Amen.

THE ANTHEM

Sit for the Anthem sung by the Choir

*Monday-Friday Evensong continues on page 12;
Saturday Evensong continues on page 13;
Sunday Evensong continues on page 14.*

MONDAY—FRIDAY

THE PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Kneel or sit

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.

On Festival days a hymn may be sung from the green hymn book

Closing responses may be sung by the Choir

Stand as the Choir and Clergy recess

SATURDAY

THE PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Kneel or sit

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.

THE HYMN

A hymn may be sung from the green hymn book

THE BLESSING

The blessing concludes with a said or a sung 'Amen'

Closing responses may be sung by the Choir

Stand as the Choir and Clergy recess

SUNDAY

THE SERMON

Stand for the opening prayer

THE PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Kneel or sit

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.

THE HYMN

A hymn may be sung from the green hymn book

THE BLESSING

The blessing concludes with a said or a sung 'Amen'

Closing responses may be sung by the Choir

Stand as the Choir and Clergy recess

ADDITIONAL PRAYERS

A 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 show 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.

A Prayer of Saint John Chrysostom

Almighty God, who hast given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplications unto thee; and dost promise that when two or three are gathered together in thy name thou wilt grant their requests: Fulfil now, O Lord, the desires and petitions of thy servants, as may be most expedient for them; granting us in this world knowledge of thy truth, and in the world to come life everlasting. Amen.



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