

SOUTHWARK  
◆ CATHEDRAL ◆

**CHORAL EVENSONG**  
**FROM THE BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER**

SOU

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## WELCOME TO SOUTHWARK CATHEDRAL

A MEMBER OF THE



### ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Please ensure that all electronic devices are switched to silent.

### PHOTOGRAPHY

Photography and video recording of the Choir is not permitted.

You are welcome to take photographs of the Cathedral but please do not take any photographs or videos during the service.

### HEARING LOOP

Please switch your device to 'T'.

### POSTURE

The instructions in this booklet are not prescriptive. Please sit if that is more appropriate for you.

### DONATIONS



There are several donation points in the Cathedral where you can make your donation, or you can simply scan or tap the QR code, or text SOUTHWARK (Amount) to 70085 (one standard rate message is also charged). Thank you very much for your generous support of the Cathedral.

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# CHORAL EVENSONG

## FROM THE BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER



Wherever you are from, and however you have come to be here, you are so very welcome. Our service lasts about forty minutes and is led by our Choir and clergy. This gives you the opportunity to listen to some beautifully sung choral music, to be still at the end of the day and to reflect in a place where others have brought their joys and concerns to God over many centuries.

### **CAN I JOIN THE CONGREGATION?**

Yes, of course: if you would like to stay for the whole service, you are welcome to sit in the seats beyond the stalls where the Choir is singing, or if you have only a few minutes feel free to just sit in the nave and let the space and the music communicate something of God's beauty beyond all words.

### **DO I HAVE TO SAY OR DO ANYTHING?**

There are places where the congregation is invited to stand and you may like to do this, but it is fine if you prefer to remain seated. You will be invited to join in with some spoken parts, printed in bold in this booklet, but you don't have to.

### **MAY I TAKE PHOTOGRAPHS?**

Please don't take photographs so we can keep the atmosphere peaceful and the space safe. We often have children singing so you can't take pictures of the service or Choir rehearsal beforehand, though you are most welcome to take pictures after the service.

### **MAY I COME BACK TO ATTEND THIS SERVICE ON ANOTHER DAY?**

Of course! Choral Evensong usually takes place in school term time on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays at 5.30pm, on some Saturdays at 4.00pm and on Sundays at 3.00pm. Do check the Cathedral website just to be sure; sometimes we have to vary our usual routine.

### **WHAT'S THE AIM OF THE SERVICE?**

Choral Evensong is an opportunity to worship God and experience God's loving welcome in a holy space that can feel like a window on heaven.

## **WHAT IS CHORAL EVENSONG?**

Choral Evensong is a form of worship which is several hundred years old and is unique to the Anglican Church. To be at Choral Evensong is like dropping in on a conversation which is already in progress – a conversation between God and human beings which began long before we were born and will go on long after we are dead. So do not be surprised, or disturbed, if there are some things in the conversation which you do not understand at first. The text of the service is drawn almost entirely from the Bible. Its main purpose is to proclaim the wonderful works of God in history and in the life and death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. It also invites those who worship to respond with praise and penitence, prayer and obedience.

### **The service is in three parts.**

**The first part**, which is very brief, prepares us for the story which is to follow.

**The second part** is the story of what God has done (and continues to do) to save his people, beginning in the Old Testament (the Psalm and the First Reading), then moving to the New Testament (the Magnificat, the Second Reading and the Nunc Dimittis) and reaching its climax as we turn to face East, looking towards the dawn of God's Kingdom, as we affirm our faith in the words of the Apostles' Creed.

**The third part** is our human response to the God who has revealed himself in history, in Jesus Christ and in the Church.

## **WHY DOES THE CHOIR HAVE SO MUCH TO DO AND THE CONGREGATION SO LITTLE?**

Whether it's your first language or not, music has a particular power, reaching out to express truths beyond words. In worship this can happen through the simplicity of a well-known hymn sung together, or as highly skilled musicians offer something more elaborate on behalf of everyone else. This is the pattern at Choral Evensong. The Choir and organist work in partnership with the building to point us towards the beauty of God that is our source and inspiration, and the congregation are freed to rest and rejoice in God's presence.

**We are so glad that you are here and hope that you find the service enriching.**

# CHORAL EVENSONG

## FROM THE BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER

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*Please stand as the Procession enters.*

## WELCOME

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*The officiating Minister welcomes the congregation.*

*Then, the Minister and Choir sing:*

## THE PRECES

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O Lord, open thou our lips  
And our mouth shall shew forth thy praise.

O God, make speed to save us;  
O 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.

## PSALMODY

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*Please be seated as the Psalm(s) appointed for the service are sung.*

*Please stand when the Choir sings: 'Glory be to the Father ...'*

*Please be seated for:*

## THE FIRST LESSON

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*Please stand as the Choir sings:*

## **THE MAGNIFICAT**

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*The Song of Mary is found in Luke's Gospel. Mary, pregnant with Jesus, visits her cousin Elizabeth, who is also pregnant with John the Baptist. Mary's greeting to Elizabeth causes the baby to leap in Elizabeth's womb. Elizabeth blesses Mary and, in return, Mary sings the Magnificat. The name 'Magnificat' comes from the Latin translation of the first line; 'Magnificat anima mea Dominum' – 'my soul magnifies the Lord'. Mary sings of God's holiness and power, God's concern for the poor and judgment of the rich, the fulfilment of God's promises and the redemption of God's people.*

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 has 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.

*Please be seated for:*

## **THE SECOND LESSON**

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Please stand as the Choir sings:

## THE NUNC DIMITTIS

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*The Nunc Dimittis, or the Song of Simeon, is also found in Luke's Gospel. A man in Jerusalem named Simeon had waited many years for the coming of the Messiah and was told by the Holy Spirit that he would not die until he had seen him. Simeon went to the temple and saw Mary and Joseph with the baby Jesus, whom they had come to present to God. Simeon held Jesus in his arms and praised God, singing of his salvation for all people. Having seen the Messiah, Simeon could now depart ('Nunc dimittis') in peace.*

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.

## THE APOSTLES' CREED

---

**All 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 Minister and Choir sing:*

## **THE LESSER LITANY, THE LORD'S PRAYER & THE RESPONSES**

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The Lord be with you;  
And with thy spirit.

Let us pray.

*Please be seated or kneel.*

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

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.

O Lord, shew 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.

*Followed by:*

## **THE COLLECTS**

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### **THE COLLECT FOR THE DAY**

*A special prayer for the day.*

*During certain times and seasons, an extra collect may be sung here.*

Amen.

### **THE SECOND COLLECT AT EVENING PRAYER**

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 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.

*Please be seated as the Choir sings:*

## **THE ANTHEM**

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*On Sundays, please remain seated for:*

## **THE SERMON**

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*Please remain seated or kneel for:*

## **THE PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

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*The prayers conclude with:*

**All      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.**

*Weekday and Saturday Choral Evensong ends here.*

*On a Sunday or feast day, please stand for:*

## **THE HYMN**

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*Which is followed by:*

## **THE BLESSING**

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*Please remain standing as the Choir and clergy depart.*

*Thank you for joining us. Please consider supporting us with a gift. You can donate to the Cathedral by using the donation points. Alternatively, you can scan the QR code, visit [southwarkcathedral.org.uk/support-us/](https://southwarkcathedral.org.uk/support-us/) or text SOUTHWARK (amount) to 70085 (one standard rate message also charged). Thank you for any support that you are able to give.*



**PLEASE LEAVE THESE CARDS TO BE USED AGAIN**

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# SOUTHWARK

## ◆ CATHEDRAL ◆

**making space for love**  
with heart, mind, and soul

It is good to welcome you to Southwark Cathedral. Set on the south bank of the River Thames, in one of the most vibrant and diverse communities in London, this building has been a constant witness in a place of change.

The first church was built on this site around the year 606. First a convent, then a monastery, it became in 1106 the Augustinian Priory of St Mary Overie ('over-the-river'). With Westminster Abbey and St Bartholomew the Great in Smithfield, it is one of the three remaining great monastic churches of London. At the Reformation, the Priory became a parish church, and it remains so for the people of Bankside. In 1905, as south London was rapidly expanding, the church was consecrated as the Cathedral for the new Diocese of Southwark.

The Cathedral has a momentous and significant history and has had links with many famous and influential characters including St Thomas Becket, Geoffrey Chaucer, William Shakespeare and Charles Dickens. It has also been a Cathedral for those who feel on the edges of faith or society, our welcome reaching out to all people in their beautiful God-given diversity.

Here, our Christian faith is captured in our vision to 'make space for love: with heart, mind, and soul'. Faith requires our hearts to stand up for social justice, upholding integrity and kindness, and supporting the vulnerable and oppressed. It challenges our thinking, inviting our minds to be enquiring, honest, and generous. Faith also seeks to deepen our inner lives, with the arts and creativity, by sharing in the life of our community, and by learning the arts of prayer and attention. In Jesus Christ we see the human face of God, and our faith in him is our joy and our life.

We really hope you enjoy being here with us today and that we will see you again very soon.

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