

SOUTHWARK
◆ CATHEDRAL ◆

CHORAL EVENSONG
IN THANKSGIVING FOR OUR VOLUNTEERS & FORMER CHORISTERS

SATURDAY 12 JULY 2025
4.00PM



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.

You can also support the Cathedral by buying your books from the ethical online bookseller bookshop.org and designating Southwark Cathedral shop for the 30% of purchase price donation they offer us.

CHOIR

The Cathedral Choir & Former Choristers

SETTING

Stanford in B flat

RESPONSES

Bernard Rose (1916-1996)

CHORAL EVENSONG

Wherever you are from and however you have come to be here you are so very welcome. We especially welcome our volunteers and former choristers whom we thank for their contributions to Cathedral life past, present and future. Our service lasts about forty minutes and is led by the 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 and on Sunday 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 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.

Please stand as the Procession enters.

THE HYMN

CP 250



All creatures of our God and King,
lift up your voice and with us sing,
Alleluia, alleluia!

Thou burning sun with holden beam,
thou silver moon with softer gleam:

Refrain

O praise him, O Praise him,
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Thou rushing wind that art so strong,
ye clouds that sail in heaven along,
O praise him, alleluia!

Thou rising morn, in praise rejoice;
ye lights of evening find a voice:

Refrain

Thou flowing water, pure and clear,
make music for thy Lord to hear,
Alleluia, alleluia!

Thou fire, so masterful and bright,
that givest us both warmth and light:

Refrain

Dear mother earth, who day by day
unfoldest blessings on our way,
O praise him, alleluia!

The flowers and fruits that in thee grow,
let them his glory also show:

Refrain

Let all things their creator bless,
and worship him in humbleness;
O praise him, alleluia!

Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son,
and praise the Spirit, Three in One:

Refrain

TUNE: LASST UNS ERFREUEN

From an Easter hymn in *Geistliche Kirchengesang*
Cologne 1623, arr. R. Vaughan Williams

TEXT:

W. H. Draper (1855-1933), based
on Francis of Assisi (1182-1226)

THE WELCOME

Canon Kathryn Fleming, Precentor

The Choir sings:

THE PRECES

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.

Please be seated as the Choir sings:

THE PSALM

Psalm 150

O praise God in his holiness : praise him in the firmament of his power.
Praise him in his noble acts : praise him according to his excellent greatness.
Praise him in the sound of the trumpet : praise him upon the lute and harp.
Praise him in the cymbals and dances : praise him upon the strings and pipe.
Praise him upon the well-tuned cymbals : praise him upon the loud cymbals.
Let every thing that hath breath : praise the Lord.

Please 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.

Please be seated.

THE FIRST LESSON

1 Chronicles 16.8-11, 28-34, 36b

The First Lesson is written in the sixteenth chapter of the First Book of Chronicles, beginning at the eighth verse.

'O give thanks to the LORD, call on his name,
make known his deeds among the peoples.
Sing to him, sing praises to him,
tell of all his wonderful works.
Glory in his holy name;
let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice.
Seek the LORD and his strength,
seek his presence continually.

Ascribe to the LORD, O families of the peoples,
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.
Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name;
bring an offering, and come before him.
Worship the LORD in holy splendour;
tremble before him, all the earth.
The world is firmly established; it shall never be moved.
Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice,
and let them say among the nations, 'The LORD is king!'
Let the sea roar, and all that fills it;
let the field exult, and everything in it.
Then shall the trees of the forest sing for joy
before the LORD, for he comes to judge the earth.
O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;
for his steadfast love endures for ever.'

Then all the people said 'Amen!' and praised the LORD.

Here ends the First Lesson.

Please stand as the Choir sings:

THE MAGNIFICAT

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.

THE SECOND LESSON

Ephesians 4.1-16

The Second Lesson is written in the fourth chapter of the Letter of St Paul to the Ephesians, beginning at the first verse.

I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.

But each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ's gift. Therefore it is said,

'When he ascended on high he made captivity itself a captive;
he gave gifts to his people.'

(When it says, 'He ascended', what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is the same one who ascended far above all the heavens, so that he might fill all things.) The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ. We must no longer be children, tossed to and fro and blown about by every wind of doctrine, by people's trickery, by their craftiness in deceitful scheming. But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and knitted together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love.

Here ends the Second Lesson.

Please stand as the Choir sings:

THE NUNC DIMITTIS

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, LORD'S PRAYER & RESPONSES

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

Heavenly Father, whose blessed Son came not to be served but to serve: Bless all who, following in his steps, give themselves to the service of others; that with wisdom, patience, and courage, they may minister in his Name to the suffering, the friendless, and the needy; for the love of him who laid down his life for us, your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

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.

Please be seated as the Choir sings:

THE ANTHEM

Blest pair of sirens • C. H. H. Parry (1848-1918)

Blest pair of Sirens, pledges of Heavens joy,
Sphere-born harmonious Sisters, Voice, and Verse,
Wed your divine sounds, and mixt power employ
Dead things with inbreathed sense able to pierce,
And to our high-raised fantasy present,
That undisturbèd Song of pure content,
Ay sung before the sapphire-coloured throne
To him that sits thereon
With Saintly shout, and solemn Jubilee,
Where the bright Seraphim in burning row
Their loud up-lifted Angel trumpets blow,
And the Cherubic host in thousand quires
Touch their immortal Harps of golden wires,
With those just Spirits that wear victorious Palms,
Hymns devout and holy Psalms
Singing everlastingly;

That we on Earth with undiscording voice
May rightly answer that melodious noise;
As once we did, till disproportioned sin
Jarred against natures chime, and with harsh din
Broke the fair music that all creatures made
To their great Lord, whose love their motion swayed
In perfect Diapason, whilst they stood
In first obedience, and their state of good.
O may we soon again renew that Song
And keep in tune with Heav'n, till God ere long
To his celestial consort us unite,
To live with him, and sing in endless morn of light.

John Milton (1608-1674)

Please remain seated or kneel for:

THE PRAYERS

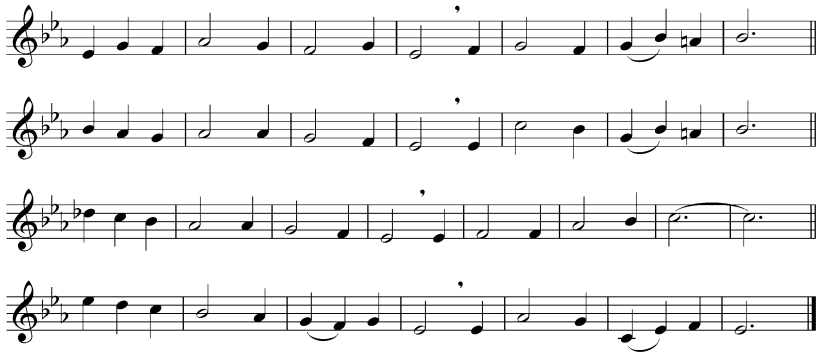
The prayers conclude with:

**All May 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.**

Please stand to sing:

THE HYMN

CP 466



How shall I sing that majesty
Which angels do admire?
Let dust in dust and silence lie;
Sing, sing, ye heavenly choir.
Thousands of thousands stand around
Thy throne, O God most high;
Ten thousand times ten thousand sound
Thy praise; but who am I?

Thy brightness unto them appears,
Whilst I thy footsteps trace;
A sound of God comes to my ears,
But they behold thy face.
They sing because thou art their Sun;
Lord, send a beam on me;
For where heaven is but once begun
There alleluyas be.

Enlighten with faith's light my heart,
Inflame it with love's fire;
Then shall I sing and bear a part
With that celestial choir.
I shall, I fear, be dark and cold,
With all my fire and light;
Yet when thou dost accept their gold,
Lord, treasure up my mite.

How great a being, Lord, is thine,
Which doth all beings keep!
Thy knowledge is the only line
To sound so vast a deep.
Thou art a sea without a shore,
A sun without a sphere;
Thy time is now and evermore,
Thy place is everywhere.

TUNE: COE FEN

Ken Naylor (1931-1991)

TEXT:

John Mason (1646-1694)

THE BLESSING

Canon Kathryn Fleming, Precentor

The love of the Lord Jesus
draw you to himself,
the power of the Lord Jesus
strengthen you in his service,
the joy of the Lord Jesus fill your hearts;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

All Amen.

THE VOLUNTARY

Fugue in C minor, K. 546 • W. A. Mozart (1756-1793)
trans. Jean Guillou (1930-2019)

Thank you for joining us. Please leave the Cathedral by the North West doors and the Millennium Courtyard. Please consider supporting us by giving using the contactless donation points if you have not set up a regular payment. We look forward to welcoming you back.

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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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