



Choral Evensong for The Fourth Sunday of Advent

The Office of Evensong has been said or sung in this form throughout the Anglican Communion since the 1530s. This reflective service uses the order of worship found in the 1662 Prayer Book in common with Anglican Cathedrals across the world (with very slight adaptation for use in this Cathedral). The psalms, lessons, hymns, and anthem are varied according to the lectionary.

At Choral Evensong the choir offers its worship on behalf of those present. The congregation is invited to join in the prayers and the singing of the hymns.

Please stand as the procession enters

Invitation to Confession

Please kneel

The Confession (*said by all*)

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 Jesus 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

Please stand

Preces (*sung by the choir*)

Plainsong

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.

Office Hymn 63: O heavenly word, eternal Light

Please sit

Psalm 8 (*sung by the choir*)

O Lord our Governor, how excellent is thy Name in all the world: thou that hast set thy glory above the heavens!
Out of the mouth of very babes and sucklings hast thou ordained strength, because of thine enemies: that thou mightest still the enemy and the avenger.
For I will consider thy heavens, even the works of thy fingers: the moon and stars which thou hast ordained.
What is man, that thou art mindful of him: and the son of man, that thou visitest him?
Thou madest him lower than the angels: to crown him with glory and worship.
Thou makest him to have dominion of the works of thine hands: and thou hast put all things in subjection under his feet.
All sheep and oxen: yea and the beasts of the field.
The fowls of the air and the fishes of the sea: and whatsoever walketh through the paths of the seas.
O Lord our governor: how excellent is thy Name in all the world!

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 First Lesson

Isaiah 42:1-12

Magnificat (*sung by the choir*)

Service in C

Ralph Vaughan Williams

My soul doth magnify the Lord: and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior.
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 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.

The Second Lesson

Ephesians 6:10-20

Nunc Dimittis (*sung by the choir*)

Service in C

Ralph Vaughan Williams

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 Minister and the people stand to say

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.

Please kneel or sit

Versicles and Responses (*sung by the choir*)

Plainsong

The Lord be with you

And with thy spirit.

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.

O Lord, shew thy mercy upon us. And grant us thy salvation.

O Lord, save the State. 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 Three Collects (*the Collect of the day, the Collect for peace, and the Collect for aid against all perils*)

The Anthem: A Tender Shoot

Otto Goldschmidt

A tender shoot hath started up from a root of grace,
As ancient seers imparted from Jesse's holy race.
It blooms without a blight,
Blooms in the cold bleak winter turning our darkness into light.

This shoot, Isaiah taught us, from Jesse's root should spring.
The Virgin Mary brought us the branch of which we sing.
Our God of endless might,
Gave her this child to save us, turning our darkness into light.

Please kneel

The Prayers

Then the Minister offers the following prayer

A Prayer of St. 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.**

Please stand to sing

Hymn 66: Come, thou long-expected Jesus

Please remain standing as the Minister concludes the service

The Grace

Postlude: Chorale Prelude on 'Wachet Auf'

Flor Peeters

Thank you for joining us for Choral Evensong.

The service next Sunday will be sung by the Section Leaders of the Cathedral Choir

Canticles: Service in G – Charles Villiers Stanford
Anthem: No Small Wonder – Paul Edwards

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