



Choral Evensong for the Fourth Sunday of Easter

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

Preces (*sung by the choir*)

John Reading

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

26: O gracious Light, Lord Jesus Christ

The people sit for the Psalm.

Psalm 103 (*sung by the choir*)

Praise the Lord O my soul: and all that is within me praise his holy name.
Praise the Lord O my soul: and forget not all his benefits;
Who forgiveth all thy sin: and healeth all thine infirmities;
Who saveth thy life from destruction: and crowneth thee with mercy and loving kindness;
Who satisfieth thy mouth with good things: making thee young and lusty as an eagle.
The Lord executeth righteousness and judgment: for all them that are oppressed with wrong.
He shewed his ways unto Moses: his works unto the children of Israel.
The Lord is full of compassion and mercy: long-suffering and of great goodness.
He will not always be chiding: neither keepeth he his anger for ever.
He hath not dealt with us after our sins: nor rewarded us according to our wickednesses.
For look how high the heaven is in comparison of the earth: so great is his mercy also toward them that fear him.
Look how wide also the east is from the west: so far hath he set our sins from us.
Yea like as a father pitieth his own children: even so is the Lord merciful unto them that fear him.
For he knoweth whereof we are made: he remembereth that we are but dust.
The days of man are but as grass: for he flourisheth as a flower of the field.
For as soon as the wind goeth over it it is gone: and the place thereof shall know it no more.
But the merciful goodness of the Lord endureth for ever and ever, upon them that fear him: and his righteousness upon children's children;
Even upon such as keep his covenant: and think upon his commandments to do them.
The Lord hath prepared his seat in heaven: and his kingdom ruleth over all.
O praise the Lord ye angels of his, ye that excel in strength: ye that fulfill his commandment, and hearken unto the voice of his words.
O praise the Lord all ye his hosts: ye servants of his that do his pleasure.
O speak good of the Lord all ye works of his, in all places of his dominion: praise thou the Lord O my soul.
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

Wisdom 1:1-15

Magnificat (*sung by the choir*)

Service in B flat

Henry Purcell

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

1 Peter 5:1-11

Nunc Dimittis (*sung by the choir*)

Service in B flat

Henry Purcell

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

Prayers and Suffrages (*sung by the choir*)

John Reading

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.

Then follow three Collects; the first of the day; the second for Peace; the third for Aid against all Perils

The Three Collects

The congregation sits while the choir sings the anthem.

The Anthem: O God, thou art my God

Henry Purcell

O God, thou art my God: early will I seek thee.
My soul thirsteth for thee, my flesh also longeth after thee: in a barren and dry land where no water is.
Thus have I looked for thee in holiness: that I might behold thy power and glory.
For thy loving-kindness is better than the life itself: my lips shall praise thee.
As long as I live will I magnify thee on this manner: and lift up my hands in thy Name.
Because thou hast been my helper: therefore under the shadow of thy wings will I rejoice.
Hallelujah.

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 377: All people that on earth do dwell

Please remain standing as the Minister concludes the service

The Grace

Postlude: Voluntary on the Old 100th

Henry Purcell

Thank you for joining us for Choral Evensong.

The service next Sunday will be the final evensong until September, and will be sung by the
Cathedral Choir

Canticles: Service in C – Stanford
Anthem: There is an old belief – Parry

All are welcome and encouraged to support Saint Mark's financially as an expression of gratitude for God's generosity. Your gift in this offering, or through a pledge commitment, automatic transfer or online, sustains and enriches our prayer, learning and community service. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

