



Choral Evensong for the Last Sunday after the Epiphany

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*)

Bernard Rose

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

46: The duteous day now closeth

The people sit for the Psalm.

Psalm 114 (*sung by the choir*)

When Israel came out of Egypt: and the house of Jacob from among the strange people,
Judah was his sanctuary: and Israel his dominion.
The sea saw that and fled: Jordan was driven back.
The mountains skipped like rams: and the little hills like young sheep.
What aileth thee O thou sea that thou fleddest: and thou Jordan that thou wast driven back?
Ye mountains that ye skipped like rams: and ye little hills like young sheep?
Tremble thou earth at the presence of the Lord: at the presence of the God of Jacob;
Who turned the hard rock into a standing water: and the flint-stone into a springing well.

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

Ecclesiasticus 48:1-11

Magnificat (*sung by the choir*)

Service in A

Herbert Sumsion

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

2 Corinthians 3:7-18

Nunc Dimittis (*sung by the choir*)

Service in A

Herbert Sumsion

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 catholick 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*)

Bernard Rose

*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 for the anthem.

The Anthem: O be joyful in the Lord all ye lands

Benjamin Britten

O be joyful in the Lord all ye lands; serve the Lord with gladness,
and come before his presence with a song.
Be ye sure that the Lord he is God; it is he that hath made us and not we ourselves,
we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.
O go your way into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise;
Be thankful unto him and speak good of his Name.
For the Lord is gracious, his mercy is everlasting;
And his truth endureth from generation to generation.

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 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 422: Not far beyond the sea

Please remain standing as the Minister concludes the service

The Grace

Postlude: Prelude and Fugue on a Theme of Vittoria

Benjamin Britten

Thank you for joining us for Choral Evensong.

The service next Sunday will be sung by the Cathedral Choir

Canticles: Service in G – Kenneth Leighton

Anthem: Locus iste – Robert Oganovic

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