



Choral Evensong



5.30pm Sunday 19th July 2026

7th Sunday after Trinity

St Mary's Kidlington

Wherever you are from and whatever has brought you here today, you are most welcome at this service of Choral Evensong.

The music in this service is sung by the choir offering praise to God on behalf of those gathered here and around the world; the people join silently in prayer alongside them and in **speaking together** the Confession, The Lord's Prayer, the Creed and in singing the Hymns.

The service derives from the medieval church and is offered here in classical form from the 1662 Book of Common Prayer of the Church of England. It is deeply rooted in ancient texts and the liturgy follows a set pattern.

Following the Opening Sentences, Confession, Absolution, and Lord's Prayer, the Choir sings the Preces (short petitions) and the Psalms appointed for this day in the evening. Evensong brings before us God's plan of salvation.

Following the Psalms, the Old Testament lesson recalls God's promise to Abraham and looks forward to the coming of a Messiah.

The Magnificat links the Old and New Testaments. It is the splendid song of the Blessed Virgin Mary before Jesus was born and has become the Church's greatest hymn of the Incarnation, by which God came to earth to save us.

Following the New Testament lesson, from which we learn about Jesus's life and teaching here on earth, the Choir sings the Nunc Dimittis, the prayer of Simeon, an aged man who longed to see the Christ before he died.

All then stand and, facing the altar used at the Holy Eucharist, address God in the words of the Apostles' Creed. The Officiant and the Choir then sing The Lesser Litany and the Collects: set prayers that with simplicity collect our thoughts, bidding God to strengthen our faith and protect us from all perils as evening falls.

The Anthem follows, meditating on Biblical and Prayer Book texts and providing a sermon in music.

Distinct from the noisy world around us, Choral Evensong anchors us in the presence of the Living Christ. It is a place for rest and refreshment. There is space to listen to music, to pray quietly for yourself and for other people and to put down the burdens of the day.

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Instructions to stand are invitations only – if it is more comfortable for you to remain seated you are welcome to do so.

You are invited to stand for the entry of the Choir and Clergy

Welcome

Hymn AMNS 170

1 The church's one foundation
is Jesus Christ her Lord;
she is his new creation
by water and the word:
from heaven he came and sought her
to be his holy Bride;
with his own blood he bought her,
and for her life he died.

2 Elect from every nation,
yet one o'er all the earth,
her charter of salvation
one Lord, one faith, one birth;
one holy name she blesses,
partakes one holy food,
and to one hope she presses
with every grace endued.

3 'Mid toil and tribulation,
and tumult of her war,
she waits the consummation
of peace for evermore;
till with the vision glorious
her longing eyes are blest,
and the great church victorious
shall be the church at rest.

4 Yet she on earth hath union
with God the Three in One,
and mystic sweet communion
with those whose rest is won:
O happy ones and holy!
Lord, give us grace that we,
like them, the meek and lowly,
on high may dwell with thee.

Please sit or kneel

Introduction

DEARLY beloved,
the Scripture moveth us in sundry places to acknowledge
and confess our manifold sins and wickedness;
and that we should not dissemble nor cloke them
before the face of Almighty God our heavenly Father;
but confess them with an humble, lowly, penitent,
and obedient heart;
to the end that we may obtain forgiveness of the same,
by his infinite goodness and mercy.
And although we ought at all times humbly to acknowledge
our sins before God;
yet ought we most chiefly so to do
when we assemble and meet together
to render thanks for the great benefits
that we have received at his hands,
to set forth his most worthy praise,
to hear his most holy Word,
and to ask those things which are requisite and necessary,
as well for the body as the soul.
Wherefore I pray and beseech you,
as many as are here present,
to accompany me with a pure heart and humble voice
unto the throne of the heavenly grace, saying after me:

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 Jesu 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.**

Grant, we beseech thee, merciful Lord,
to thy faithful people pardon and peace;
that they may be cleansed from all their sins,
and serve thee with a quiet mind;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power, and the glory,
For ever and ever. Amen.**

Evening Prayer

Please sit

*The Preces and Responses this evening are sung to the setting by
Ayleward*

Minister	O Lord, open thou our lips.
Choir	And our mouth shall shew forth thy praise.
Minister	O God, make speed to save us.
Choir	O Lord, make haste to help us.
Choir	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.

Psalm: 150 (chant: Ives)

1 O praise God in his holiness:
praise him in the firmament of his power.

2 Praise him in his noble acts:
praise him according to his excellent greatness.

3 Praise him in the sound of the trumpet:
praise him upon the lute and harp.

4 Praise him in the cymbals and dances:
praise him upon the strings and pipe.

5 Praise him upon the well-tuned cymbals:
praise him upon the loud cymbals.

6 Let everything that hath breath;
praise the Lord.

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.

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah chapter 44 verses 6-8

⁶ Thus says the Lord, the King of Israel
and his Redeemer, the Lord of hosts:
I am the first and I am the last;
besides me there is no god.

⁷ Who is like me? Let them proclaim it,
let them declare and set it forth before me.
Who has announced from of old the things to come?
Let them tell us what is yet to be.

⁸ Do not fear, or be afraid;
have I not told you from of old and declared it?
You are my witnesses!
Is there any god besides me?
There is no other rock; I know not one.

Here ends the first reading

*The canticles this evening are sung to the setting by Wood in D.
You are invited to stand as the Choir sings:*

Magnificat: Luke 1

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 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.

Please sit

New Testament Reading: Acts chapter 4 verses 1-22

While Peter and John were speaking to the people, the priests, the captain of the temple, and the Sadducees came to them, ²much annoyed because they were teaching the people and proclaiming that in Jesus there is the resurrection of the dead. ³So they arrested them and put them in custody until the next day, for it was already evening. ⁴But many of those who heard the word believed; and they numbered about five thousand.

The next day their rulers, elders and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, ⁶with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. ⁷When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, 'By what power or by what name did you do this?'

⁸Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, 'Rulers of the people and elders, ⁹if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, ¹⁰let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead.

¹¹This Jesus is
"the stone that was rejected by you, the builders;
it has become the cornerstone."

¹²There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved.'

¹³ Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John and realized that they were uneducated and ordinary men, they were amazed and recognized them as companions of Jesus. ¹⁴When they saw the man who had been cured standing beside them, they had nothing to say in opposition. ¹⁵So they ordered them to leave the council while they discussed the matter with one another.

¹⁶They said, 'What will we do with them? For it is obvious to all who live in Jerusalem that a notable sign has been done through them; we cannot deny it. ¹⁷But to keep it from spreading further among the people, let us warn them to speak no more to anyone in this name.' ¹⁸So they called them and ordered them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus.

¹⁹But Peter and John answered them, 'Whether it is right in God's sight to listen to you rather than to God, you must judge; ²⁰for we cannot keep from speaking about what we have seen and heard.'

²¹After threatening them again, they let them go, finding no way to punish them because of the people, for all of them praised God for what had happened. ²²For the man on whom this sign of healing had been performed was more than forty years old.

Here ends the second reading

You are invited to stand as the Choir sings:

Nunc Dimittis: Luke 2:29

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.

You are invited to turn to face the East Window

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.**

Minister The Lord be with you.

Choir And with thy spirit.

Minister Let us pray.

Please sit or kneel

Minister Lord, have mercy upon us

Choir Christ, have mercy upon us.

Minister 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.

Minister O Lord, shew thy mercy upon us.
Choir And grant us thy salvation.
Minister O Lord, save the King.
Choir And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.
Minister Endue thy Ministers with righteousness.
Choir And make thy chosen people joyful.
Minister O Lord, save thy people.
Choir And bless thine inheritance.
Minister Give peace in our time, O Lord.
Choir Because there is none other that fighteth for us,
but only thou, O God.
Minister O God, make clean our hearts within us.
Choir And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.

The First Collect: Collect of the Day

Lord of all power and might, who art the author and giver of all
good things; Graft in our hearts the love of thy Name, increase in
us true religion, nourish us with all goodness, and of thy great
mercy keep us in the same; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Second Collect: Collect for Peace

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: 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.

Choir Anthem: O for a closer walk with God – Ives

*O for a closer walk with God, a calm and heavenly frame;
a light to shine upon the road that leads me to the Lamb!
Return, O holy dove, return, sweet messenger of rest;
I hate the sins that made thee mourn,
and drove thee from my breast.
The dearest idol I have known, whate'er that idol be,
help me to tear it from thy throne and worship only thee.
So shall my walk be close with God,
calm and serene my frame;
so purer light shall mark the road that leads me to the Lamb.*

William Cowper (1731-1800)

Reflection

Prayers

This response may be used:

Lord, in your mercy
Receive our prayer.

Ending with the congregation saying the Grace

**The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Ghost,
be with us all evermore. Amen.**

You are invited to stand

Hymn: AMNS 203

1 O praise ye the Lord! Praise him in the height;
rejoice in his word, ye angels of light;
ye heavens adore him by whom ye were made,
and worship before him, in brightness arrayed.

2 O praise ye the Lord! Praise him upon earth,
in tuneful accord, ye sons of new birth;
praise him who hath brought you his grace from above,
praise him who hath taught you to sing of his love.

3 O praise ye the Lord, all things that give sound;
each jubilant chord re-echo around;
loud organs, his glory forth tell in deep tone,
and, sweet harp, the story of what he hath done.

4 O praise ye the Lord! Thanksgiving and song
to him be outpoured all ages along:
for love in creation, for heaven restored,
for grace of salvation, O praise ye the Lord!
(Amen, amen.)

Blessing

...and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son
and the Holy Spirit, be amongst us and remain with us
always. Amen.

*You are invited to remain standing as the Choir and Clergy depart.
You are invited to sit and listen to the organ voluntary,
or leave whenever you feel ready.*

Organ Voluntary: Toccata – Widor

*Thank you for coming this evening.
You are most welcome to join the choir for drinks and nibbles
after the service at 72 Church Street.*

Our next evensong will be on Sunday 20th September.