



St James's
PICCADILLY

Choral Evensong

According to the 1662 Book of
Common Prayer

Sunday 11th January 2026
at 3pm

With St James's Lay Singers and Singing Scholars
Organist: Michael Haslam
Conductor: Harrison Knights

The service of Evensong is an historic one from the foundational prayerbook of the Anglican Communion: the Book of Common Prayer 1662. This prayerbook was a key document in the English Reformation as it brought together traditions from the Roman Catholic church (for example, singing the Magnificat at Vespers) with the Protestant insistence that the Bible was to be read in the vernacular language of the people.

The architect of the Prayer Book, Thomas Cranmer, took the monastic services of Matins, Lauds, Vespers and so on and condensed them into two main services of Morning and Evening Prayer, which all clergy still undertake at their ordination to say every day. But the point of these new services was that they were not to be restricted to religious communities; they were services of the people sung or said by the people in their own language.

Evening Prayer according to the Book of Common Prayer was, in its time, a radical service, but one that acknowledged its debt to the past as well as creating something new for the future. It has been said or sung in churches ever since as a way of thanking God for the day that is past; and in cathedrals is sung often every day of the week. For the congregation it has evolved into a service that is a mixture of participation by speaking or singing and participation by meditation while the choir sings.

The congregation sing the hymns, and say the Creed, the Lord's Prayer and some of the responses. The choir sing the canticles: Magnificat (the Song of Mary from Luke's gospel) and Nunc Dimitis (the Song of Simeon from Luke's gospel) and "in quires and places where they sing" an anthem too.

ORDER OF SERVICE

INTROIT

The choir sings O My Dear Heart, music: Eleanor Daley

O my dear heart, Young Jesu sweet,
Prepare thy cradle in my spreit,
And I shall rock thee in my heart,
And nevermore from thee depart.
Balulalow.

But I shall praise thee evermore,
With songes sweet unto thy gloir.
The knees of my heart shall I bow,
And sing that right Balulalow.
Balulalow.

RESPONSES: Joanna Forbes l'Estrange

The minister sings

O Lord, open thou our lips.

The choir sings

And our mouth shall shew forth thy praise.

Minister

O God, make speed to save us.

Choir

O Lord, make haste to help us.

Here, all standing up, the minister shall sing

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.

Choir

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be:
world without end.

Amen.

Minister

Praise ye the Lord.

Choir

The Lord's name be praised.

Please sit.

PSALM 60 *chant: S.S. Wesley and Thomas Tomkins*

The choir sings

O God, thou hast cast us out, and scattered us abroad :
thou hast also been displeased; O turn thee unto us again.

Thou hast moved the land, and divided it :
heal the sores thereof, for it shaketh.

Thou hast shewed thy people heavy things :
thou hast given us a drink of deadly wine.

Thou hast given a token for such as fear thee :
that they may triumph because of the truth.

Therefore were thy beloved delivered :
help me with thy right hand, and hear me.

God hath spoken in his holiness, I will rejoice, and divide
Sichem : and mete out the valley of Succoth.

Gilead is mine, and Manasses is mine :
Ephraim also is the strength of my head; Judah is my law-giver;

Moab is my wash-pot; over Edom will I cast out my shoe :
Philistia, be thou glad of me.
Who will lead me into the strong city :
who will bring me into Edom?

Hast not thou cast us out, O God :
wilt not thou, O God, go out with our hosts?

O be thou our help in trouble :
for vain is the help of man.

Through God will we do great acts :
for it is he that shall tread down our enemies.

PSALM 61 *chant: S.S. Wesley and Thomas Tomkins*

Hear my crying, O God : give ear unto my prayer.

From the ends of the earth will I call upon thee:
when my heart is in heaviness.

O set me up upon the rock that is higher than I :
for thou hast been my hope, and a strong tower for me
against the enemy.

I will dwell in thy tabernacle for ever :
and my trust shall be under the covering of thy wings.

For thou, O Lord, hast heard my desires :
and hast given an heritage unto those that fear thy Name.

Thou shalt grant the King a long life :

that his years may endure throughout all generations.
He shall dwell before God for ever :
O prepare thy loving mercy and faithfulness, that they may
preserve him.

So will I always sing praise unto thy Name :
that I may daily perform my vows.

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 sit.

THE FIRST LESSON

Hebrews 1.1-12

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs. For to which of the angels did God ever say, "You are my Son; today I have begotten you"? Or again, "I will be his Father, and he will be my Son"? And again, when he brings the

firstborn into the world, he says, "Let all God's angels worship him." Of the angels he says, "He makes his angels winds, and his servants flames of fire." But of the Son he says, "Your throne, O God, is forever and ever, and the righteous scepter is the scepter of your kingdom. You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions."

And, "In the beginning, Lord, you founded the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands; they will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like clothing; like a cloak you will roll them up, and like clothing they will be changed. But you are the same, and your years will never end."

Here ends the first lesson.

Please stand.

MAGNIFICAT C.V. Stanford in B flat

The choir sings

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

Please sit.

THE SECOND LESSON

Luke 3.15-22

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire." So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people. But Herod the ruler, who had been rebuked by him because of Herodias, his brother's wife, and because of all the evil things that Herod had done, added to them all by shutting up John in prison.

Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was

opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

Here ends the second lesson.

Please stand.

NUNC DIMITTIS C.V. Stanford in B flat

The choir sings

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.

Then shall be said the Apostles' Creed, by the minister and the people standing.

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.

THE LESSER LITANY

The minister says

The Lord be with you.

All say

And with thy spirit.

Please sit or kneel.

Let us pray.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Then the minister, clerks, and people shall say the Lord's Prayer with a loud voice.

**Our Father, which art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done on 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.**

Then the minister standing up shall sing

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.

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

THE COLLECT FOR THE FIRST SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY

Eternal Father,
who at the baptism of Jesus
revealed him to be your Son,
anointing him with the Holy Spirit:
grant to us, who are born again by water and the Spirit,
that we may be faithful to our calling as your adopted
children;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

THE SECOND 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 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.

In quires and places where they sing, here followeth the anthem:

O Lorde, The Maker Of All Thing music: John Joubert
(b. 1927); words: the Compline Hymn *Te Lucis Ante Terminum*
(trans. Henry VIII)

O Lord, the maker of all thing,
we pray thee now in this evening
us to defend through thy mercy
from all deceit of our enemy.

Let neither us deluded be,
good Lord, with dream or fantasy;
Our hearts waking in thee thou keep
That we in sin fall not on sleep.

O Father, through thy blessed Son,
Grant us this our petition,
To whom, with the Holy Ghost always,
In heaven and earth be laud and praise.

THE PRAYERS

HYMN

[Tune: Was Lebet, Was Schwebet from 'Rheinhardt MS';
Words: John Samuel Bewley Monsell (1811-1875)]

**O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness!
Bow down before him, his glory proclaim;
With gold of obedience, and incense of lowliness,
Kneel and adore him: the Lord is his Name!**

**Low at his feet lay thy burden of carefulness,
High on his heart he will bear it for thee,
Comfort thy sorrows, and answer thy prayerfulness,
guiding thy steps as may best for thee be.**

**Fear not to enter his courts in the slenderness
Of the poor wealth thou wouldest reckon as thine;
Truth in its beauty, and love in its tenderness,
These are the offerings to lay on his shrine.**

**These, though we bring them in trembling and fearfulness,
He will accept for the name that is dear;
Mornings of joy give for evenings of tearfulness,
Trust for our trembling and hope for our fear.**

**O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness!
Bow down before him, his glory proclaim;
With gold of obedience, and incense of lowliness,
Kneel and adore him: the Lord is his Name!**

THE SERMON

The Reverend Daniel Norris

During the final hymn, a collection will be taken. If you have cash, please fill in a Gift Aid envelope. If you don't have cash, please use the tap donate device in the collection plate, which is set to £5, or the QR code on page 16.

HYMN

[Tune: Crüger; Words: James Montgomery (1771-1854)
from Psalm 72]

**Hail to the Lord's Anointed,
great David's greater Son!
Hail, in the time appointed,
God's reign on earth begun!
Christ comes to break oppression,
to set the captive free,
to take away transgression,
and rule in equity.**

**He comes with succour speedy
to those who suffer wrong,
to help the poor and needy,
and bid the weak be strong,
to give them songs for sighing
their darkness turn to light,
whose souls condemned and dying
are precious in his sight.**

Christ shall come down like showers
upon the fruitful earth;
love, joy, and hope, like flowers,
spring in his path to birth;
before him, on the mountains,
shall peace the herald go;
and righteousness, in fountains,
from hill to valley flow.

THE BLESSING

The minister says

Go forth into the world in peace;
be of good courage, hold fast that which is good,
render to no one evil for evil.

Strengthen the fainthearted, support the weak,
help the afflicted, honour all people.

Love and serve God,
rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit,
and the blessing of God;
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit
be among you and remain with you always.

Amen.



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