



St James's
PICCADILLY

Choral Evensong

According to the 1662 Book of
Common Prayer

Sunday 9th November 2025
at 3pm

With St James's Lay Singers and Singing Scholars
Director of Music: Michael Haslam
Associate Choral Director: Harrison Knights
Organist: Angelina Ding



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 Dimittis (the Song of Simeon from Luke's gospel) and "in quires and places where they sing" an anthem too.

ORDER OF SERVICE

RESPONSES: *Kathryn Rose*

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 30 *chant: Hylton Stewart*

The choir sings

I will magnify thee O Lord, for thou hast set me up:
and not made my foes to triumph over me.

O Lord my God

I cried unto thee, and thou hast healed me.

Thou Lord hast brought my soul out of hell:
thou hast kept my life from them that go down to the pit.

Sing praises unto the Lord O ye saints of his:
and give thanks unto him for a remembrance of his holiness.

For his wrath endureth but the twinkling of an eye, and in his
pleasure is life:
heaviness may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the
morning.

And in my prosperity I said, I shall never be removed:
thou Lord of thy goodness hast made my hill so strong.

Thou didst turn thy face from me and I was troubled.

Then cried I unto thee O Lord:
and gat me to my Lord right humbly.

What profit is there in my blood:
when I go down to the pit?

Shall the dust give thanks unto thee?
or shall it declare thy truth?

Hear O Lord and have mercy upon me:
Lord, be thou my helper.

Thou hast turned my heaviness into joy:
thou hast put off my sackcloth, and girded me with gladness.

Therefore shall every good man sing of thy praise without ceasing:

O my God, I will give thanks unto thee for ever.

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

1 Kings 3.1-15

Solomon made a marriage alliance with Pharaoh king of Egypt; he took Pharaoh's daughter and brought her into the city of David, until he had finished building his own house and the house of the Lord and the wall around Jerusalem. The people were sacrificing at the high places, however, because no house had yet been built for the name of the Lord.

Solomon loved the Lord, walking in the statutes of his father David; only, he sacrificed and offered incense at the high places. The king went to Gibeon to sacrifice there, for that was the principal high place; Solomon used to offer a thousand burnt-offerings on that altar. At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, 'Ask what I should give you.' And Solomon said, 'You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart towards you; and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love, and have given him a son to sit

on his throne today. And now, O Lord my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people, so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil; for who can govern this your great people?’

It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. God said to him, ‘Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches, or for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, I now do according to your word. Indeed I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you and no one like you shall arise after you. I give you also what you have not asked, both riches and honour all your life; no other king shall compare with you. If you will walk in my ways, keeping my statutes and my commandments, as your father David walked, then I will lengthen your life.’

Then Solomon awoke; it had been a dream. He came to Jerusalem, where he stood before the ark of the covenant of the Lord. He offered up burnt-offerings and offerings of well-being, and provided a feast for all his servants.

Here ends the first lesson.

Please stand.

MAGNIFICAT *Thomas Causton in G minor*

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

Matthew 22.15-22

Then the Pharisees went and plotted to entrap him in what he said. So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, 'Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show

deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality. Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?' But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, 'Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? Show me the coin used for the tax.' And they brought him a denarius. Then he said to them, 'Whose head is this, and whose title?' They answered, 'The emperor's.' Then he said to them, 'Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor's, and to God the things that are God's.' When they heard this, they were amazed; and they left him and went away.

Here ends the second lesson.

Please stand.

NUNC DIMITTIS *Thomas Causton in G minor*

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 THIRD SUNDAY BEFORE ADVENT

Almighty Father,
whose will is to restore all things
in thy beloved Son, the King of all:

govern the hearts and minds of those in authority
and bring the families of the nations,
divided and torn apart by the ravages of sin,
to be subject to his just and gentle rule;
who liveth and reigneth with thee,
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:

Ave Verum Corpus *music: William Byrd (c. 1540-1523)*

Ave, verum corpus natum
de Maria Virgine:
vere passum, immolatum

in cruce pro homine:
cuius latus perforatum
fluxit aqua et sanguine:
esto nobis praegustatum,
in mortis examine.
O Jesu dulcis, O Jesu pie,
O Jesu Fili Mariae.
Miserere mei. Amen.

*Hail the true body, born
of the Virgin Mary:
You who truly suffered and were sacrificed
on the cross for the sake of man.
From whose pierced flank
flowed water and blood:
Be a foretaste for us
in the trial of death.
O sweet, O merciful,
O Jesus, Son of Mary.
Have mercy on me. Amen.*

THE PRAYERS

HYMN

[Tune: St Margaret; words: George Matheson (1842-1906)]

**O love that wilt not let me go,
I rest my weary soul in thee:
I give thee back the life I owe,
that in thine ocean depths it flow
may richer, fuller be.**

**O light that followest all my way,
I yield my flickering torch to thee;**

my heart restores its borrowed ray,
that in the sunshine's blaze its day
may brighter, fairer be.

O joy that seekest me through pain,
I cannot close my heart to thee:
I trace the rainbow through the rain,
and feel the promise is not in vain,
that morn shall tearless be.

O cross that liftest up my head,
I dare not ask to fly from thee:
I lay in dust life's glory dead,
and from the ground there blossoms red
life that shall endless be.

THE SERMON

The Reverend Dr Ayla Lepine

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: Love Unknown, by John Orelan; Words: Ally Barrett (1725-1807)]

*Winner of Jubilate's **Hymns of Peace** competition 2018, to mark the centenary of Armistice Day and the end of the First World War.*

**Hope for the world's despair:
we feel the nations' pain;
can anything repair**

this broken earth again?
For this we pray:
in every place
a spark of grace
to light the way.

Wisdom for all who bear
the future in their hand,
entrusted with the care
of this and every land.
When comes the hour,
O Lord, we pray,
inspire the way
we spend our power.

Honour for all who've paid
war's painful, bitter price,
when duty called they made
the greatest sacrifice.
Their memory
will never cease
to cry for peace
and harmony.

Ease for the troubled mind
in endless conflict caught,
each soul that cannot find
the peace beyond all thought.
May they be blessed
with healing balm
for inner calm
and perfect rest.

Love for the human heart:
when hate grows from our fears
and inwardly we start
to turn our ploughs to spears.
Help us to sow
love's precious seed
in word and deed,
that peace may grow.

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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make a one-off or regular donation.*

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