

CHICHESTER CATHEDRAL

THE ORDER OF SERVICE FOR
CHORAL EVENSONG

PRAYERS FOR PERSONAL USE BEFORE AND AFTER WORSHIP

Before Prayer

Give us grace, Almighty Father, to address you with all our hearts as well as with our lips. You are everywhere present: from you no secrets can be hidden. Teach us to fix our thoughts on you, reverently and with love, so that our prayers are not in vain, but are acceptable to you, now and always; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Adapted from Jane Austen

O Lord, hear our prayers, not according to the poverty of our asking but according to the richness of your grace, so that our lives may conform to those desires which accord with your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Reinhold Niebuhr

After Evensong

The Day fails; the darkness falls. Now, O Lord my God, now let thy servant lay him down in peace; for it is thou, Lord, only that makest him dwell in safety.

Out of mine own night let me call, let me cry, that I sleep not in sin unrepented.

Let my hands be clean, let my prayer be pure; let me look upon the brightness of thy glory, with whom is no darkness at all.

Let my lying down be very trust, mine eyes close under thy blessing.

Let action sleep, and memory, and even thought; but not love, never my hope in thee.

Into thy hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.

While the body rests, quiet in thy keeping, let my soul ascend and sing in thy light:

Hosanna in the highest.

CHORAL EVENSONG

From Monday to Saturday, the service begins on the following page

Stand as the procession enters. The minister invites the congregation to kneel and speak **THE GENERAL CONFESSION:**

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.

The minister pronounces **THE ABSOLUTION.**

Stand as the cantor and choir sing **THE PRECES:**

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.

On Sundays and certain Feast Days, a **HYMN** *is sung.*

Sit as the choir sings **THE PSALMODY.**

Texts for the Psalms can be found in The Book of Common Prayer, available in the stalls. The Psalms of the day are sung from Monday-Saturday; proper Psalms are sung on Sundays and Feast Days.

At the end of the final Psalm, stand as the choir sings:

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.

Sit for **THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON.**

After a brief pause for reflection, stand as the choir sings **MAGNIFICAT:**

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.

Luke 1: 46-55

Sit for **THE NEW TESTAMENT LESSON.**

After a brief pause for reflection, stand as the choir sings **NUNC DIMITTIS:**

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.

Luke 2: 29-32

Remain standing to say together **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 cantor and choir sing **THE RESPONSES:**

THE Lord be with you.
And with thy spirit.

Sit or kneel.

Let us pray.

Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.

Our Father,
who 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 those who 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 King.
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.

The Collect(s) for the Day

The 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 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.

Sit as the choir sings **THE ANTHEM.**

Sit or kneel for **THE INTERCESSIONS**, *which conclude with the Grace:*

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

On Saturdays and Sundays, stand to sing **THE HYMN** *and then remain standing for* **THE BLESSING** *and as the choir and clergy process to the South Transept.*

The cantor and choir sing **THE CLOSING RESPONSES:**

THE Lord be with you.
And with thy spirit.

The Lord give us his peace.
And life eternal. Amen.

or

Let us bless the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Remain standing as the procession departs.