

The order of service for

Evensong

as set in the
Book of Common Prayer

This order of service has been prepared as the first 'public' service in which a congregation physically gather in a church building to be lead in prayer and worship following the suspension of public worship due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Evensong has been selected as the service for this for various reasons. As a service it is less common now than it was 50 years ago but it is still fondly remembered by many. The old words of The Book of Common Prayer (1662) remain a solid comfort in troubled times; they have stood the test of time as will the church albeit changed through experience.

Evensong can be led by a priest but it is not necessary to have a priest present: it is perfectly acceptable and to be encouraged that sometimes a deacon or lay person ministers by leading this service.

Due to the pandemic various aspects of Evensong as it has been traditionally conducted are not possible and other precautions are necessary. Singing is thought to be a risk and as such the whole service will be said and there will be no hymns or anthems. Please socially distance from one another; seats for sitting in and not sitting in are clearly marked. The sidesperson will assist you in this.

Being back gathered with other not from your household in an indoor space is likely to feel odd. Try not to worry if church does feel odd to you. Please do offer how you are feeling to God in prayer.

We will print fresh service sheets for each service. Please do take this service book away with you; you may wish to use some of the word in this booklet to aid your prayers at home during the week. If you attend in future it would be a kindness for you to bring a booklet you have previously used with you but don't worry if you forget.

*Reverend Tom Birch,
Vicar St Mary's Ovingham and St Oswin's Wylam,
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¶ **Introduction and Confession**

The minister introduces the service

Beloved, we are come together in the presence of almighty God and of the whole company of heaven to offer unto him through our Lord Jesus Christ our worship and praise and thanksgiving; to make confession of our sins; to pray, as well for others as for ourselves, that we may know more truly the greatness of God's love and shew forth in our lives the fruits of his grace; and to ask on behalf of all men such things as their well-being doth require.

Wherefore let us sit in silence, and remember God's presence with us now.

Silence is kept

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.

If a priest is leading the service, they declare the following absolution:

Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who desireth not the death of a sinner, but rather that he may turn from his wickedness and live; and hath given power, and commandment, to his ministers to declare and pronounce to his people, being penitent, the absolution and remission of their sins: he pardoneth and absolveth all them that truly repent and in feignedly believe his holy gospel. Wherefore let us beseech him to grant us true repentance, and his Holy Spirit, that those things may please him which we do at this present; and that the rest of our life hereafter may be pure and holy; so that at the last we may come to his eternal joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

If a deacon or lay person is leading the service, they pray:

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.

All pray 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. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever.

Amen.

¶ Evening Prayer

○ Lord, open thou our lips
and our mouth shall shew forth thy praise.

○ God, make speed to save us.
○ 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.

Psalmody

The minister reads the Psalm. At the end the psalm these words are said or sung

**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

The minister or somebody else reads from the Old Testament

Magnificat

- 1 My soul doth magnify the Lord :
and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.
- 2 For he hath regarded :
the lowliness of his handmaiden.
- 3 For behold, from henceforth :
all generations shall call me blessed.
- 4 For he that is mighty hath magnified me :
and holy is his Name.
- 5 And his mercy is on them that fear him :
throughout all generations.
- 6 He hath shewed strength with his arm :
he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.
- 7 He hath put down the mighty from their seat :
and hath exalted the humble and meek.
- 8 He hath filled the hungry with good things :
and the rich he hath sent empty away.
- 9 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.**

New Testament Reading

The minister or somebody else reads from the New Testament

Nunc dimittis

- 1 Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace :
according to thy word.
- 2 For mine eyes have seen :
thy salvation;
- 3 Which thou hast prepared :
before the face of all people;
- 4 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 Apostles' Creed

The minister and congregation stands, faces East and affirms their faith in the words of 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.

Prayers

The Lord be with you.
And with thy spirit.

Let us pray.

Congregation sits or kneels

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

○ Lord, shew thy mercy upon us.
And grant us thy salvation.

○ Lord, save the Queen.
And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.

Endue thy ministers with righteousness.
And make thy chosen people joyful.

○ 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 minister then 'collects' the prayers of congregation through the tree collects; the first of the day, the second for peace, the third for aid against all perils.

The Collect of 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.

Sermon

The minister may preach a sermon or give another address at this point.

Prayers

A Collect for the Queen

Almighty and everlasting God,
we are taught by thy holy Word,
that the hearts of kings are in thy rule and governance,
and that thou dost dispose and turn them
as it seemeth best to thy godly wisdom:
we humbly beseech thee so to dispose and govern the heart of
Elizabeth thy Servant, our Queen and Governor,
that, in all her thoughts, words, and works,
she may ever seek thy honour and glory,
and study to preserve thy people committed to her charge,
in wealth, peace, and godliness:
grant this, O merciful Father, for thy dear Son's sake,
Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

A Prayer for the Clergy and People

Almighty and everlasting God,
who alone workest great marvels,
send down upon our bishops and curates,
and all congregations committed to their charge,
the healthful spirit of thy grace;
and that they may truly please thee,
pour upon them the continual dew of thy blessing.
Grant this, O Lord,
for the honour of our advocate and mediator, Jesus Christ.
Amen.

A General Thanksgiving

Almighty God, Father of all mercies,
we thine unworthy servants
do give thee most humble and hearty thanks
for all thy goodness and loving-kindness to us and to all men;
We bless thee for our creation, preservation,
and all the blessings of this life;
but above all for thine inestimable love
in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ,
for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.
And we beseech thee, give us that due sense of all thy mercies,
that our hearts may be unfeignedly thankful,
and that we shew forth thy praise, not only with our lips,
but in our lives;
by giving up ourselves to thy service,
and by walking before thee in holiness and righteousness
all our days;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
to whom with thee and the Holy Ghost
be all honour and glory, world without end.
Amen.

Conclusion

**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.**