



St Mary's
IN THE LACE MARKET

The service of
EVENSONG

Welcome to St Mary's in the Lace Market

Evensong is a wonderful and intentionally peaceful way to conclude the working day. Here in the awe-inspiring setting of St Mary's, our choir enriches the experience of worshipping God throughout the service. As the priest or cantor and choir enter into conversation, we are drawn close to God speaking to us and we to him. This is reinforced through listening to the Bible readings, in the prayers and when included, the sermon. This powerful act of worship is intended to help us remember that the centre of the universe is God, who in his grace invites us into his life, made possible by Jesus Christ.

This booklet will guide you through the service as it unfolds. We hope you will find the time both inspiring and enriching. Please do connect with us afterwards if you would like to know more about St Mary's.

Details of today's music, including the hymn and **Psalm** numbers, can be found in the **Choral Services and Concerts** booklet. If you are sitting in the stalls you will also find copies of the **Book of Common Prayer** (blue), **Hymns Ancient and Modern** (red), and the **Revised Standard Bible**.

Every Evensong includes:

A Psalm

For thousands of years the Psalms have been used by the Church to express our wonder at God's majesty as well as our frustration that the world is not as it should be. Praise and lament, mourning and joy, hope and defeat, life and death, are all included.

The Magnificat

This is Mary's song of praise on being told by the angel Gabriel she will give birth to Jesus Christ. She rejoices that God chooses the marginalised, powerless and poor to accomplish his purposes in history. This is reinforced by the fact that Mary is a woman who in her culture may have been excluded from religious, political, cultural and intellectual influence. She celebrates that in Jesus Christ, God is acting to bring about a reversal of worldly status and to institute his justice.

The Nunc Dimittis

These words are spoken by an old man, Simeon, who has long waited to see the promised Messiah, and identifies that the moment has arrived. The new life of an infant and the advanced age of an old man combine an ending and a looking forward in hope to the newness of what God is doing.

ORDER OF SERVICE

The congregation is invited to join in all texts printed in **bold**.

Please stand as the choir and clergy enter the Chancel

On Wednesdays, the service begins with the Preces on page 4.

[SENTENCE OF SCRIPTURE]

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

Dearly beloved brethren, the Scripture moveth us in sundry places to acknowledge and confess our manifold sins and wickedness; and that we should not dissemble nor cloak 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:

or

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 kneel in silence, and remember God's presence with us now.

Please sit or kneel

THE GENERAL CONFESSION (*an act of contrition*)

**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.**

ABSOLUTION (*forgiveness proclaimed by the priest*)

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 unfeignedly 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.

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.**

On Wednesdays, the service begins here.

PRECES (*“prayers” - ancient form of petitions sung by the minister/cantor and choir*)

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.

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.

Praise ye the Lord:
The Lord’s name be praised.

Please sit

THE PSALM *sung by the choir; please stand at the end for “Glory be to the Father...”*

The Psalm can be found towards the back of the blue Book of Common of Prayer

Please sit

FIRST LESSON *from the Old Testament*

HYMN *sung on Sundays; please stand*

Please remain standing

MAGNIFICAT (SONG OF THE VIRGIN MARY)

Luke 1: 46-55

sung by the choir, usually in English or Latin

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

SECOND LESSON *from the New Testament*

Please stand

NUNC DIMITTIS (SONG OF SIMEON)
sung by the choir, usually in English or Latin

Luke 2: 29-32

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.

CREED (*affirmation of faith*) *Please turn east towards the Altar*

**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.**

LESSER LITANY, LORD'S PRAYER AND RESPONSES
ancient forms of prayer sung by the minister/cantor and choir

The Lord be with you:
And with thy spirit.

Let us pray.

Please sit or kneel

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

THE LORD'S PRAYER *sung by the choir*

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.

O Lord, shew thy mercy upon us:
And grant us thy salvation.

O Lord, save the Queen:
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.

COLLECT OF THE DAY *sung by the minister/cantor*

[AN ADDITIONAL COLLECT MAY BE SUNG ON SPECIAL OCCASIONS]

COLLECT FOR PEACE *sung by the minister/cantor*

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.

COLLECT FOR AID AGAINST ALL PERILS *sung by the minister/cantor*

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.

Please sit

ANTHEM *sung by the choir*

Please remain seated, or kneel when invited to do so

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION *prayers for the world and Church led by the minister*

THE GRACE *from 2 Corinthians 13:14*

**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.**

NOTICES

HYMN *Please stand*

On Wednesdays, the service ends here.

SERMON *Please sit when invited to do so*

HYMN *during which an offering is usually received on Sundays; please stand*

BLESSING *to which all respond Amen.*

ORGAN VOLUNTARY *during which the clergy and choir depart.*

You are invited to listen quietly to the organ voluntary. If you wish to leave at this point, please do so quietly.

Thank you for attending Evensong today, and we hope that you will join us again soon.

Please leave this booklet behind after the service

Acknowledgements

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