



# Evensong

## Eve of St. Michael and All Angels

Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> September 2025  
6.00 pm

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### A Guide to Evensong

Evensong is drawn almost entirely from the Bible. Its primary purpose is to proclaim the wonderful works of God in history and in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Its secondary purpose is to evoke from the worshipper a response of praise, penitence, prayer and obedience. Much of the service is sung by the choir. As the choir sings, we are provided with space for reflection, which allows us the freedom to participate in a silent, but equally direct way. In our busy lives and noisy world, the opportunity to be quiet and still, to meditate of God's word and be immersed in beauty, is a precious gift that increasing numbers of us treasure.

*Today's Service is sung by  
Voice of Praise, Chamber Choir*

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### Order of Service

*The congregation is asked to join in all text printed in **bold**.*

*If you are unable to stand at any point during the service, please feel free to remain seated.*

# The Gathering

*Please stand as the choir and clergy enter*

## Processional Hymn



**Angel-voices ever singing  
round thy throne of light,  
angel-harps for ever ringing,  
rest not day nor night;  
    thousands only live to bless thee  
    and confess thee  
    Lord of might.**

**Thou who art beyond the farthest  
mortal eye can scan,  
can it be that thou regardest  
songs of sinful man?  
    Can we know that thou art near us,  
    and wilt hear us?  
    Yea, we can.**

**Yea, we know that thou rejoicest  
o'er each work of thine;  
thou didst ears and hands and voices  
for thy praise design;  
    craftsman's art and music's measure  
    for thy pleasure  
    all combine.**

**In thy house, great God, we offer  
of thine own to thee;  
and for thine acceptance proffer  
all unworthily  
    hearts and minds and hands and voices  
    in our choicest  
    psalmody.**

**Honour, glory, might, and merit  
thine shall ever be,  
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,  
blessèd Trinity.  
    Of the best that thou hast given  
    earth and heaven  
    render thee.**

Words: Francis Pott (1656–1727)

Tune: Angel Voices  
W. H. Monk (1823–89)

*Remain standing*

*The minister introduces a general confession*

Welcome in the Name of the Father, and the Son,  
and the Holy Spirit.

Dear Friends, we have come together in the name of Christ  
to offer our praise and thanksgiving, to hear and receive God's  
holy word, to pray for the needs of the world, and to seek the  
forgiveness of our sins, that by the power of the Holy Spirit we  
may give ourselves to the service of God. Therefore let us kneel  
and keep silence, and remember God's presence with us now:

*All kneel or sit and silence is kept*

Most merciful God,

**Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
we confess that we have sinned  
in thought, word and deed.**

**We have not loved you with our whole heart.**

**We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.**

**In your mercy forgive what we have been,**

**help us to amend what we are,**

**and direct what we shall be;**

**that we may do justly, love mercy,**

**and walk humbly with you, our God.**

**Amen.**

*The minister continues,*

May the God of love and power forgive you  
and free you from your sins,  
heal and strengthen you by his Spirit,  
and raise you to new life in Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

*All stand*

## The Responses

*sung by the 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.*

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son: and to the Holy Spirit;  
*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!*

Music: Gabriel Jackson (b.1962)

*All sit*

*The choir sings*

*from Psalm 91*

Whoso dwelleth under the defence of the most high:  
shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.  
I will say unto the Lord, thou art my hope, and my stronghold :  
my God, in him will I trust.  
For thou, Lord, art my hope :  
thou hast set thine house of defence very high.  
There shall no evil hap-pen unto thee :  
neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling.  
For he shall give his angels charge over thee :  
to keep thee in all thy ways.  
They shall bear thee in their hands :  
that thou hurt not thy foot against a stone.  
Thou shalt go upon the lion and adder :  
the young lion and the dragon shalt thou tread under thy feet.  
Because he hath set his love upon me,  
therefore will I deliver him:  
I will set him up, because he hath known my Name.  
He shall call upon me, and I will hear him :  
yea, I am with him in trouble; I will deliver him,  
and bring him to honour.  
With long life will I satisfy him: and show him my salvation.

*All stand*

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son :  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be :  
world without end. Amen.

Chant: John Davy (1763–1824)

*All sit*

## First Lesson

A reading from the Second Book of Kings 6. 8–17

Once when the king of Aram was at war with Israel, he took counsel with his officers. He said, 'At such and such a place shall be my camp.' But the man of God sent word to the king of Israel, 'Take care not to pass this place, because the Arameans are going down there.' The king of Israel sent word to the place of which the man of God spoke. More than once or twice he warned such a place so that it was on the alert. The mind of the king of Aram was greatly perturbed because of this; he called his officers and said to them, 'Now tell me who among us sides with the king of Israel?' Then one of his officers said, 'No one, my lord king. It is Elisha, the prophet in Israel, who tells the king of Israel the words that you speak in your bedchamber.' He said, 'Go and find where he is; I will send and seize him.' He was told, 'He is in Dothan.' So he sent horses and chariots there and a great army; they came by night, and surrounded the city. When an attendant of the man of God rose early in the morning and went out, an army with horses and chariots was all around the city. His servant said, 'Alas, master! What shall we do?' He replied, 'Do not be afraid, for there are more with us than there are with them.' Then Elisha prayed: 'O Lord, please open his eyes that he may see.'

So the Lord opened the eyes of the servant, and he saw; the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.

Here ends the First Lesson

*All stand to sing*

Hymn



**Come, let us join our cheerful songs  
with angels round the throne;  
ten thousand thousand are their tongues,  
but all their joys are one.**

**‘Worthy the Lamb that died,’ they cry,  
‘to be exalted thus’;  
‘Worthy the Lamb,’ our lips reply,  
‘for he was slain for us.’**

**Jesus is worthy to receive  
honour and power divine;  
and blessings, more than we can give,  
be, Lord, for ever thine.**

**The whole creation joins in one  
to bless the sacred name  
of him that sits upon the throne,  
and to adore the Lamb.**

Word: Isaac Watts (1674–1748)

Tune: Nativity  
Henry Lahee (1826–1928)

*Remain standing as the choir sings*

Magnificat  
(Song of Mary)

My soul doth magnify the Lord:  
and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.  
For he hath regarded: the lowliness of his hand-maiden.  
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.

Music: Evening Canticles in E Flat  
Charles Wood (1866–1926)

*All sit*

## Second Lesson

A reading from the Gospel according to Matthew 18. 1–6,10

At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, ‘Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?’ He called a child, whom he put among them, and said, ‘Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever becomes humble like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me. ‘If any of you put a stumbling-block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were fastened around your neck and you were drowned in the depth of the sea. ‘Take care that you do not despise one of these little ones; for, I tell you, in heaven their angels continually see the face of my Father in heaven.

*Silence is kept*

Here ends the Second Lesson

*All stand. The choir sings*

Nunc Dimittis  
(Song of Simeon)

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.

Music: Evening Canticles in E Flat  
Charles Wood

*Remain standing. The minister invites all to say*

## 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.**

*Remain standing*

Responses  
*sung by the choir*

The Lord be with you;  
*and with thy spirit.*

Let us pray

*All sit or kneel*

*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.*

O Lord, shew thy mercy upon us;  
*and grant us thy salvation.*

O Lord, be gracious unto our land  
*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 of the Day

Everlasting God,  
you have ordained and constituted the ministries of angels  
and mortals in a wonderful order:  
grant that as your holy angels always serve you in heaven,  
so, at your command,  
they may help and defend us on earth;  
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 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.*

Music: Gabriel Jackson



*All sit. The choir sings*

## Anthem

O quam gloriosum est regnum  
in quo Christo gaudent omnes sancti!  
Amicti stolis albis  
Agnum sequuntur quocunque ierit.

*O how glorious is the kingdom  
in which all the saints rejoice with Christ,  
clad in robes of white they follow the Lamb  
wherever he goes.*

Words: Antiphon for All Saints

Music: Tomás Victoria (1548–1611)

*All kneel or remain seated*

## Prayers

*At the end a period of silence is kept for open prayer*

*All stand to sing*

## Hymn

*during which a collection will be taken*



**It came upon the midnight clear,  
That glorious song of old,  
From angels bending near the earth  
To touch their harps of gold:  
‘Peace on the earth, good-will to men,  
From heaven’s all-gracious King!’  
The world in solemn stillness lay  
To hear the angels sing.**

**Still through the cloven skies they come,  
With peaceful wings unfurled;  
And still their heav’nly music floats  
O’er all the weary world;  
Above its sad and lowly plains  
They bend on hovering wing;  
And ever o’er it Babel sounds  
The blessed angels sing.**

**Yet with the woes of sin and strife  
 The world has suffered long;  
 Beneath the angel-strain have rolled  
 Two thousand years of wrong;  
 And man, at war with man, hears not  
 The love-song which they bring:  
 O hush the noise, ye men of strife,  
 And hear the angels sing!**

**For, lo! the days are hastening on,  
 By prophet bards foretold,  
 When, with the ever-circling years,  
 Comes round the age of gold;  
 When peace shall over all the earth  
 Its ancient splendours fling,  
 And the whole world give back the song  
 Which now the angels sing.**

Words: Edmunds Sears (1810–76)

Tune: Noel  
 Arthur Sullivan (1842–90)

*Remain standing. The minister gives the*

**Blessing**

God keep you in the fellowship of his saints;  
 Christ protect you by the ministry of the angels;  
 the Spirit make you holy in God's service;  
 and the blessing of God almighty,  
 the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
 be among you and remain with you always.

**Amen.**

*Remain standing as the choir and clergy depart*

**Organ Voluntary**

Grand Choeur

Théodore Salomé (1834–96)

*You may sit for the organ music which is the conclusion of the  
 service, or you may leave quietly at this point*

**SERVICES FOR THE PATRONAL FESTIVAL**  
**St. Michael and All Angels**

**Monday 29<sup>th</sup> September**

Feast of St. Michael and All Angels

Festal Trilingual Sung Eucharist

6.00 pm

Thank you for worshipping with us



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