



EVENSONG THE ASCENSION

EVENSONG

Gathering

† In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Priest. O Lord, open thou our lips.

Answer. **And our mouth shall shew forth thy praise.**

Priest. O God, make speed to save us.

Answer. **O Lord, make haste to help us.**

All stand.

Priest. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;

Answer. **As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.**

Priest. Praise ye the Lord.

Answer. **The Lord's Name be praised.**

Then shall be sung the Magnificat (or the Song of the Blessed Virgin Mary).

MAGNIFICAT - Luke 1

Response

I will walk in the presence of the Lord, in the land of the living.

Please repeat after choir, then sing as indicated below

My soul gives glory to my God; my heart pours out its praise,
God lifted up my lowliness, in many marvellous ways.

Response

My God has done great things for me: yes, holy is God's name.
All people will declare me blest, and blessings they shall claim.

Response

From age to age, to all who fear, such mercy love imparts,
dispensing justice far and near, dismissing selfish hearts.

Response

Love casts the mighty from their thrones, promotes the insecure,
leaves hungry spirits satisfied, the rich seem suddenly poor.

Response

Praise God, whose loving covenant, supports those in distress,
remembering past promises, with present faithfulness.

Response

Then a Lesson, as appointed.

A reading from Paul's letter to the Ephesians.

A hymn is sung

**The day you gave us, Lord, is ended,
the darkness falls at your behest.
To you our morning hymns ascended;
your praise shall sanctify our rest.**

**We thank you that your church, unsleeping,
while earth rolls onward into light,
through all the world her watch is keeping,
and never rests by day or night.**

**Across each continent and island,
as dawn leads on another day,
the voice of prayer is never silent,
nor dies the strain of praise away.**

**The sun that bids us rest is waking
our friends beneath the western sky,
and hour by hour fresh lips are making
your wondrous doings heard on high.**

**So be it, Lord: your throne shall never,
like earth's proud empires, pass away.
Your kingdom stands and grows forever,
till all your creatures own your sway.**

Then a Lesson of the New Testament, as it is appointed.

A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW

THE SERMON

Then shall be said or sung 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 Catholick Church; The Communion of Saints; The Forgiveness of
sins; The Resurrection of the body, And the Life everlasting. Amen.**

And after that these Prayers following: the Minister first pronouncing with a loud voice,

Minister. The Lord be with you.

Answer. **And with thy spirit.**

Minister. Let us pray.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

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

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Then the Minister, choir and people shall sing the Lord's Prayer.

**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.**

Then the Priest standing up shall say,

Priest. O Lord, shew thy mercy upon us.

Answer. **And grant us thy salvation.**

Priest. O Lord, save the King.

Answer. **And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.**

Priest. Endue thy Ministers with righteousness.

Answer. **And make thy chosen people joyful.**

Priest. O Lord, save thy people.

Answer. **And bless thine inheritance.**

Priest. Give peace in our time, O Lord.

Answer. **Because there is none other that fighteth for us, but only thou, O God.**

Priest. O God, make clean our hearts within us.

Answer. **And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.**

The Choir shall sing

A Clare Benediction (Rutter)

*Then shall follow three Collects: The first of the day:
The second for Peace: The third for Aid against all
Perils, as hereafter followeth.*

The First Collect at Evening Prayer

GRANT to us, Lord, we beseech thee,
the spirit to think and do, that we, who cannot do
any thing that is good without thee, may by thee
be enabled to live according to thy will; through
Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Second Collect at Evening Prayer

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.**

The Anthem

*In Quires and Places where they sing here followeth the
Anthem.*

'God be in my head' (Rutter)

Such prayers may follow as the Minister has ordered.

Evening Prayers

Let the darkness of night
surround us. Let light and
warmth gather us.

And let God's people say Amen. **Amen.**

Let the tools be stored

Let the winds blow around us,
but let hearts be glad and
minds be calm. And let God's
people say Amen. **Amen.**

LORD, it is night.

The night is for stillness

Let us be still in the
presence of God. It is night
after a long day.

What has been

done has

been done;

what has not been done

has not been done; let it be.

NOW that dusk is near –

with parrots in the gum trees lessening their
chatter, with the distant roar of cars fading
to a mere murmur – may I hear the 'voice of
the One

who walks in the
garden in the cool
of the evening',

and, in hearing
that voice,

find a little of the Eden -

peace which some day will be perfected.
This I pray in the name of him
who was once mistaken for a gardener.

LORD, be the guest of our homes;
keep far from them the deceits of the evil one.
May your holy angels watch over us as guardians of our peace. And may your
blessing be always upon us,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

A hymn is sung

A collection will be taken up during the singing of the hymn

CONGREGATIONAL HYMN

- 1. Mary, weep not, weep no longer, now thy heart hath gained its goal; here, in truth, the Gardener standeth, but the Gardener of thy soul, who within thy spirit's garden by his love hath made thee whole.**
- 2. Now from grief and lamentation lift thy drooping heart with cheer; while for love of him thou mournest, lo, thy Lord regained is here; fainting for him, thou hast found him; all unknown, behold him near!**
- 3. Whence thy sorrow, whence thy weeping, since with thee true bliss abides? In thy heart, thou undiscovered, balm of consolation hides: holding all, thou canst no longer lack the cure that health provides.**
- 4. Nay, no wonder if she knows not till the Sower's seed be sown, till from him, the Word eternal, light within her heart is thrown. Now he calls her; and "Rabboni," she in turn her Lord doth own.**
- 5. Faith that washed the feet of Jesus, fed with dew the Fount of Grace, win for us a like compassion, that, with all the ransomed race, at the glory of his rising we may see him face to face!**
- 6. Glory be to God and honor, who, preferring sacrifice, far above the rich man's bounty, sweetness found in Mary's sighs, who for all, his love foretasting, spreads the banquet of the skies. 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 show forth thy praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives, by giving up our selves 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.

A Prayer of Saint Chrysostom.

ALMIGHTY God, who hast given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplications unto thee; and dost promise that when two or three are gathered together in thy Name thou wilt grant their requests: Fulfil now, O Lord, the desires and petitions of thy servants, as may be most expedient for them; granting us in this world knowledge of thy truth, and in the world to come life everlasting. Amen.

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.

Hymn Nunc dimittis

**Lord, bid your servant go in peace, your word is now fulfilled.
These eyes have seen salvation's dawn, the child so long foretold.**

**This is the Saviour of the world, the Gentiles' promised light,
God's glory dwelling in our midst, the joy of Israel.**

**This child shall see in Israel, so many rise or fall:
God's sign raised high for all to see, which yet shall be denied.**

**His mother's soul a sword shall pierce, of sorrow keen and deep.
From many hearts their secret thoughts, through him shall be revealed.**

**Blessed be the Father, who has given, his Son to be our Lord,
blessed too that Son, and with them both, the Spirit of their love.**