



St Michael with St Mary

Evening Prayer

Evening Prayer is the traditional afternoon service of the Church of England. It offers a framework of prayer and music for thematic Bible readings as we reflect on the day which has passed and look with hope to the future.

In the *Confession* we pray for forgiveness so that we may focus on the service ahead. The *Psalm* which follows introduces the themes which are developed in the *First Lesson* from the Old Testament. Next is the *Magnificat*, a song of Mary which expresses belief in God's plan of love across time. It bridges the hope of the Old Testament and its fulfilment in Jesus; this is revealed in the New Testament from which the *Second Lesson* is taken. The *Nunc Dimittis* which follows was first prayed by Simeon, an old man after he had seen Jesus; like him we can depart in peace in the knowledge that God fulfils his promises.

Having heard God's message, we can repeat the *Apostles' Creed*, an ancient declaration of belief, and pray as Jesus taught using *The Lord's Prayer*. Next are prayers for the Church and the world in the *Versicles* and *Collects*. The *Anthem*, *Sermon* and *Intercessions* conclude our reflections on the earlier readings. Having received God's *Blessing* we leave in peace and commitment.

Plain text is said by the choir or minister; **bold type** is said by everyone.

There is no collection during this service but if you are not a member of our regular giving scheme and can make a donation as you leave or via our website that would be hugely appreciated.

HYMN

stand

THE CONFESSION

kneel or sit after words of introduction

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 ABSOLUTION

O Lord, open thou our lips: and our mouth shall show forth thy praise.
O God, make speed to save us: O Lord, make haste to help us.

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.

THE PSALM

sit

THE FIRST READING

THE MAGNIFICAT

stand

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 forever.
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 SECOND READING

sit

THE NUNC DIMITTIS

stand

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.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

stand and turn to face 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 Catholick Church;
The Communion of Saints;
The Forgiveness of sins;
The Resurrection of the body,
And the life everlasting. Amen.**

The Lord be with you.
And with thy spirit.

Let us pray

kneel or sit

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

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.**

THE VERSICLES AND RESPONSES

○ 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, ○ Lord.
Because there is none other that fighteth for us, but only thou, ○ God.
○ God, make clean our hearts within us. And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.

THE COLLECTS

THE ANTHEM

sit

THE SERMON

HYMN

stand

PRAYERS

kneel or sit

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.**

HYMN

stand

THE BLESSING