



Where all find a welcome and are nurtured in their journey with Christ.

# Choral Evensong

Sunday 1 September 2024, 6.00 pm  
The fourteenth Sunday after Trinity



# Welcome to St Mary's

## Support our work

St Mary's is a charity which receives no funding from the government and is entirely dependent on donations and fees to keep its doors open, continue its work in the community, and maintain its buildings and outdoor spaces.

If you would like to donate to support us you can give during the service as giving plates are passed around. Alternatively, you can place your offering on the plate by the door as you leave or tap your contactless card or device.

You can also donate online by card or directly from your bank by scanning this QR Code with your camera or by visiting [wkrk.uk/donate](https://wkrk.uk/donate).



If you'd like to give in some other way, find out more about planned giving or learn how we use donations, then please ask a member of our team.

## Hearing loop available

Our church is fitted with an inductive loop system which can be picked up by setting hearing aids to the "T" position.

## Follow the instructions of our stewards

Please follow all instructions from our stewards.



## **Please sanitise your hands**

Please clean your hands using the provided hand sanitiser when entering and leaving the building.



## **Masks welcome**

If you feel more comfortable wearing a face covering, please do so. If you've forgotten a face covering and would like one, please speak to a member of our team.

# What is Evensong?

Evensong is a combination of two of the seven offices (services) that made up the daily round of monastic prayer. These were the evening offices of Vespers and Compline which consisted of responses, psalms, canticles, readings and prayers. The liturgy of Evensong was first written down in 1549 in Archbishop Thomas Cranmer's *Book of Common Prayer*. Several revisions to the book were made over subsequent years with the definitive version published in 1662. Widely known for the beauty and richness of its language, including Myles Coverdale's translation of the psalms, the 1662 edition of the *Book of Common Prayer* remains the official prayer book of the Church of England.

The service of Evensong is renowned for its choral music. Several sections of the liturgy are sung by the choir though there are various ways in which everyone can participate. For example, it is an ancient custom in the *Magnificat* and the *Nunc Dimittis* as the choir sings the first two lines of the *Gloria* ('Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost') to make the sign of the cross and to bow one's head in honour of God the Holy Trinity.

Ever since its foundation this church has been a house of prayer. The first recorded priest of St Mary's Whitkirk was Paulinus who was the priest here in 1185 AD. The worship we share today gives a powerful sense of connecting the present with the past and of being part of a great, and continuing, tradition. Thank you for being part of this act of worship as we join our prayers and praises with those that have been offered here at St Mary's for over eight hundred and thirty years.

# The Service of Choral Evensong

*Our worship begins at the sound of the bell, please stand as the sacred ministers enter, during which the introit hymn is sung.*

## Hymn

**Glorious things of thee are spoken,  
Zion, city of our God;**

**he whose word cannot be broken  
formed thee for his own abode.**

**On the Rock of Ages founded,  
what can shake thy sure repose?**

**With salvation's walls surrounded,  
thou may'st smile at all thy foes.**

**See, the streams of living waters,  
springing from eternal love,  
well supply thy sons and daughters,  
and all fear of want remove.**

**Who can faint while such a river  
ever flows their thirst to assuage?**

**Grace which, like the Lord, the giver,  
never fails from age to age.**

**Saviour, if of Zion's city  
I through grace a member am,  
let the world deride or pity,  
I will glory in thy name.  
Fading is the worldling's pleasure,  
boasted pomp and empty show;  
solid joys and lasting treasure  
none but Zion's children know.**

*Words: John Newton (1725-1807)*

*based on Isaiah 33.20-21 alt.*

*Music: Croation folk melody*

*adapted by Franz Joseph Haydn (1732-1809)*

*Hymn Tune: AUSTRIA*

## **Sentences of the Scriptures**

*Please remain standing.*

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 cloke 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;

*Please kneel or sit.*

## **The General Confession**

**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.**

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.**

## **Preces**

*The Preces (short petitions) are sung alternately by the cantor and the choir.*

○ 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.**

*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.**



*The Choir sings the psalm appointed for today.*

*Please sit.*

## **Psalm 119 verses 9-16**

*The psalms are sacred poems from the Old Testament dating back over three thousand years. The music for the psalm is known as Anglican chant, a short repeating tune.*

Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way :  
even by ruling himself after thy word.

With my whole heart have I sought thee :  
O let me not go wrong out of thy commandments.

Thy words have I hid within my heart :  
that I should not sin against thee.

Blessed art thou O Lord :  
O teach me thy statutes.

With my lips have I been telling :  
of all the judgements of thy mouth.

I have had as great delight in the way of thy testimonies :  
as in all manner of riches.

I will talk of thy commandments :  
and have respect unto thy ways.

My delight shall be in thy statutes :  
and I will not forget thy word.

*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.

*Please sit.*

## **Old Testament Lesson**

The First Lesson is from the Book of the Exodus.

Moses called all the elders of Israel and said to them, 'Go, select lambs for your families, and slaughter the passover lamb. Take a bunch of hyssop, dip it in the blood that is in the basin, and touch the lintel and the two doorposts with the blood in the basin. None of you shall go outside the door of your house until morning. For the LORD will pass through to strike down the Egyptians; when he sees the blood on the lintel and on the two doorposts, the LORD will pass over that door and will not allow the destroyer to enter your houses to strike you down. You shall observe this rite as a perpetual ordinance for you and your children. When you come to the land that the LORD will give you, as he has promised, you shall keep this observance. And when your children ask you, "What do you mean by this observance?" you shall say, "It is the passover

sacrifice to the LORD, for he passed over the houses of the Israelites in Egypt, when he struck down the Egyptians but spared our houses.” And the people bowed down and worshipped.

*Exodus 12.21-27*

*At the end the reader says:*

Here endeth the First Lesson.

*After a short silence, please stand.*

# Magnificat

*The Magnificat is the song of praise that Mary sang after learning that she would give birth to Jesus, as recounted in Luke's gospel.*

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.

*Luke 1.46-55*

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.*

## **New Testament Lesson**

The Second Lesson is from the gospel according to Matthew.

Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people. So his fame spread throughout all Syria, and they brought to him all the sick, those who were afflicted with various diseases and pains, demoniacs, epileptics, and paralytics, and he cured them. And great crowds followed him from Galilee, the Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea, and from beyond the Jordan.

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

‘Blessèd are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

'Blessèd are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

'Blessèd are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

'Blessèd are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

'Blessèd are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

'Blessèd are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

'Blessèd are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

'Blessèd are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

'Blessèd are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

'You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

'You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hidden. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

'Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfil. For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished.

Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.'

*Matthew 4.23-5.20*

*At the end the reader says:*

Here endeth the Second Lesson.

*After a short silence, please stand.*

# Nunc Dimittis

*The Nunc Dimittis is also known as the Song of Simeon. Luke's gospel tells us that old Simeon, a devout Jew, had been promised that he would not die until he had seen the promised Saviour. When Jesus was presented to him at the temple in Jerusalem, he at once recognised the Messiah and uttered these words of farewell.*

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.

*Luke 2.29-32*

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 remain 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 catholic Church;  
the communion of saints;  
the forgiveness of sins;  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting.  
Amen.**

# The Lesser Litany and the Responses

*These prayers bind together themes of praise, mercy and the desire for God's protection as night draws in. The Lesser Litany, the Lord's Prayer and the Responses are sung alternately by the cantor and the choir.*

The Lord be with you.

**And with thy spirit.**

Let us pray.

*Please 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 heav'n,  
hallowed be thy name.  
thy kingdom come.  
thy will be done,  
in earth as it is in heav'n.  
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 King.

**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.**

O God, make clean our hearts within us.

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

## **The Collect of the Day**

Almighty and everlasting God,  
give unto us the increase of faith, hope, and charity;  
and, that we may obtain that which thou dost promise,  
make us to love that which thou dost command;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**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.**

*Please sit as the Choir sings the anthem.*

Blessèd are the pure in heart,  
for they shall see their God;  
the secret of the Lord is theirs;  
their soul is Christ's abode.

Still to the lowly soul  
he doth himself impart,  
and for his dwelling and his throne  
chooseth the pure in heart.

*Words: John Keble (1792-1866)*

*Music: Henry Walford Davies (1869-1941)*

*Please remain seated.*

## **The Sermon**

# Hymn

*Please stand.*

**Holy Father, cheer our way  
with thy love's perpetual ray;  
grant us every closing day  
light at evening time.**

**Holy Saviour, calm our fears  
when earth's brightness disappears;  
grant us in our latter years  
light at evening time.**

**Holy, blessed Trinity,  
darkness is not dark with thee;  
those thou keepst always see  
light at evening time.**

*Words: Richard Hayes Robinson (1842-1892)*

*Music: Walter Parratt (1841-1924)*

*Hymn Tune: HUDDERSFIELD*

*Please kneel or sit.*

# The Prayers

*Please stand.*

## Offertory Hymn

*During this hymn a collection, our financial offering in support of the work of the church both at St. Mary's and across our diocese, is taken.*

*You can place cash or giving envelopes on the collection plates as they are passed around. If you would prefer, or if you miss the plate, you can also give by scanning this QR code, or by tapping your contactless card or device on the card reader by the door as you leave.*



**Thou, whose almighty word  
chaos and darkness heard,  
and took their flight;  
hear us, we humbly pray,  
and where the gospel-day  
sheds not its glorious ray,  
let there be light.**

**Thou, who didst come to bring  
on thy redeeming wing  
healing and sight;  
health to the sick in mind,  
sight to the inly blind,  
O now to all mankind  
let there be light.**

**Spirit of truth and love,  
life-giving, holy Dove,  
speed forth thy flight;  
move on the water's face,  
bearing the lamp of grace,  
and in earth's darkest place  
let there be light.**

**Holy and blessed Three,  
glorious Trinity,  
Wisdom, Love, Might;  
boundless as ocean's tide,  
rolling in fullest pride,  
through the earth far and wide  
let there be light.**

*Words: John Marriott (1780-1825)*

*Music: melody from Madan's 'Collection' (1769)*

*adapted by Felice de Giardini (1716-1796)*

*Hymn Tune: MOSCOW*

## **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.**



*Thank you for being part of this evening's act of worship.*

*Please note that there will be no Choral Evensong at St Mary's in October.*

*The next Choral Evensong will be on Sunday 3 November at 6.00 pm.*

*All are welcome.*

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## Our regular services

- Sung Eucharist: Every Sunday at 10.00 am
- Said Eucharist: Every Wednesday at 10.00 am
- Choral Evensong: Next on Sunday 3 November at 6.00 pm  
(There is no service of Evensong in October)
- Compline: First Wednesday of the month at 8.30 pm


## Contact us

If you'd like to talk to us you can call us on **0113 264 5790**, send an email to **hello@whitkirkchurch.org.uk**, or find more details on our website at **whitkirkchurch.org.uk/contact**.

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