



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

Choral Evensong

The third Sunday of Easter

Sunday 4 May 2025, 6.00 pm



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, or give online by card or directly from your bank by scanning this QR Code with your phone's camera or by visiting **wkrk.uk/donate**.



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

Accessible for everyone

We aim to be accessible for everyone. For more information on accessibility at St Mary's please see **wkrk.uk/access** or ask any member of our team.



Follow the instructions of our stewards

Please follow all instructions from our stewards.

Digital order of service available

If you prefer, you can follow our order of service on your own phone or tablet. Just visit **wkrk.uk/oos** on your browser or scan this QR Code.



This service is streamed

We record and live-stream many of our services. If you'd prefer not to appear on camera, please let any member of our team know. You can find more information on streaming, privacy and your rights on our website at **wkrk.uk/sp** or by scanning this QR Code.



Safeguarding

Our Parish Safeguarding team can be contacted at any time. You can talk to Rev'd Claire or to Janet Blenkinsop, our Parish Safeguarding Officer, you can email **safeguarding@whitkirkchurch.org.uk**, or you can find more information and contact details at **wkrk.uk/safe**.



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

**The strife is o'er, the battle done;
now is the Victor's triumph won;
O let the song of praise be sung:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**Death's mightiest pow'rs have done their worst,
and Jesus hath his foes dispersed;
let shouts of praise and joy outburst:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**On the third morn he rose again
glorious in majesty to reign;
O let us swell the joyful strain:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**Lord, by the stripes which wounded thee
from death's dread sting thy servants free,
that we may live, and sing to thee:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

Words: Latin hymn (17th century)

translated by Francis Pott (1832-1909)

Music: melody from Melchior Vulpius' 'Gesangbuch' (1609)

Hymn Tune: GELOBT SEI GOTT (VULPIUS)

Sentences of the Scriptures

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to his great mercy hath begotten us again unto a living hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

(1 Peter 1.3)

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.

The Absolution

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 Preces

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

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 86 verses 1-10

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.

Choir Bow down thine ear O Lord and hear me :
for I am poor and in misery.

Preserve thou my soul for I am holy :
my God save thy servant that putteth his trust in thee.

Be merciful unto me O Lord :
for I will call daily upon thee.

Comfort the soul of thy servant :
for unto thee O Lord do I lift up my soul.

For thou Lord art good and gracious :
and of great mercy unto all them that call upon thee.

Give ear Lord unto my prayer :
and ponder the voice of my humble desires.

In the time of my trouble I will call upon thee :
for thou hearest me.

Among the gods there is none like unto thee O Lord :
there is not one that can do as thou doest.

All nations whom thou hast made
shall come and worship thee O Lord :
and shall glorify thy Name.

For thou art great and doest wondrous things : thou art
God alone.

Please stand.

Choir 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: John Foster (1827-1915)

Old Testament Lesson

Please sit.

The First Lesson is taken from the thirty-eighth chapter of the book of the prophet Isaiah beginning to read at the ninth verse.

A writing of King Hezekiah of Judah, after he had
been sick and had recovered from his sickness: I

said: In the noontide of my days I must depart; I am consigned to the gates of Sheol for the rest of my years. I said, I shall not see the LORD in the land of the living; I shall look upon mortals no more among the inhabitants of the world. My dwelling is plucked up and removed from me like a shepherd's tent; like a weaver I have rolled up my life; he cuts me off from the loom; from day to night you bring me to an end; I cry for help until morning; like a lion he breaks all my bones; from day to night you bring me to an end. Like a swallow or a crane I clamour, I moan like a dove. My eyes are weary with looking upwards. O Lord, I am oppressed; be my security! But what can I say? For he has spoken to me, and he himself has done it. All my sleep has fled because of the bitterness of my soul. O Lord, by these things people live, and in all these is the life of my spirit. O restore me to health and make me live! Surely it was for my welfare that I had great bitterness; but you have held back my life from the pit of destruction, for you have cast all my sins behind your back. For Sheol cannot thank you, death cannot praise you; those who go down to the Pit cannot hope for your faithfulness. The living, the living, they thank you, as I do this day; fathers make known to children your faithfulness. The LORD will save me, and we will sing

to stringed instruments all the days of our lives, at
the house of the LORD.

Isaiah 38.9-20

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 Mary sang after learning that she would give birth to Jesus, as recounted in Luke's gospel.

Choir 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

Choir 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: Charles Villiers Stanford (1852-1924)

Please sit.

New Testament Lesson

The Second Lesson is taken from the eleventh chapter of Saint John's gospel beginning to read at the seventeenth verse.

When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. Martha said to Jesus, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him.' Jesus said to her, 'Your brother will rise again.' Martha said to him, 'I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.' Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?'

She said to him, 'Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world.' When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, 'The Teacher is here and is calling for you.' And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.' When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. He said, 'Where have you laid him?' They said to him, 'Lord, come and see.' Jesus began to weep. So the Jews said, 'See how he loved him!' But some of them said, 'Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?' Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. Jesus said, 'Take away the stone.' Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, 'Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead for four days.' Jesus said to her, 'Did I not tell you that if you

believed, you would see the glory of God?’ So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upwards and said, ‘Father, I thank you for having heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me.’ When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, ‘Lazarus, come out!’ The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, ‘Unbind him, and let him go.’

John 11.17-44

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.

Choir 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

Choir 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: Charles Villiers Stanford (1852-1924)

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.

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

Almighty God,
who hast given thine only Son
to be unto us both a sacrifice for sin,
and also an ensample of godly life.
Give us grace that we may always
most thankfully receive that his inestimable benefit,
and also daily endeavour ourselves to follow
the blessed steps of his most holy life;
through the same 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.

Anthem

Sung by the Choir.

‘The Easter Song of Praise’

Choir Sing, choirs of heaven! Let saints and angels sing!
 Around God’s throne exult in harmony!
 Now Jesus Christ is risen from the grave!
 Salute your King in glorious symphony!

Sing, choirs of earth! Behold your light has come!
The glory of the Lord shines radiantly!
Lift up your hearts, for Christ has conquered death!
The night is past; the day of life is here!

Sing, Church of God! Exult with joy outpoured!
The gospel trumpets tell of victory won!
Your Saviour lives: he's with you evermore!
Let all God's people shout the long Amen!

Words: The Exultet

Music: Richard James Shephard (1949-2021)

Please remain seated.

Sermon

Hymn

Please stand.

**Christ the Lord is ris'n again,
Christ hath broken ev'ry chain.
Hark, the angels shout for joy,
singing evermore on high: Alleluia!**

**He who gave for us his life,
who for us endured the strife,
is our Paschal Lamb today!
We too sing for joy, and say: Alleluia!**

**He who bore all pain and loss
comfortless upon the cross,
lives in glory now on high,
pleads for us, and hears our cry: Alleluia!**

**He whose path no records tell,
who descended into hell;
who the strong man armed hath bound,
now in highest heav'n is crowned. Alleluia!**

**Now he bids us tell abroad
how the lost may be restored,
how the penitent forgiv'n,
how we too may enter heav'n. Alleluia!**

**Thou, our Paschal Lamb indeed,
Christ, today thy people feed;
take our sins and guilt away,
that we all may sing for ay. Alleluia!**

Words: Michael Weisse (c. 1480-1534)

translated by Catherine Winkworth (1827-1878)

Music: melody from 'Hundert Arien', Dresden (1694)

Hymn Tune: WÜRTTEMBERG

Prayers

Please kneel or sit.

Offertory Hymn

Please stand. 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.



**Thine be the glory, risen, conqu'ring Son,
endless is the vict'ry thou o'er death hast won;
angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away,
kept the folded grave-clothes where thy body lay.
*Thine be the glory, risen, conqu'ring Son,
endless is the vict'ry thou o'er death hast won.***

**Lo! Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb;
lovingly he greets us, scatters fear and gloom.
Let the Church with gladness hymns of triumph sing,
for her Lord now liveth; death hast lost its sting.
*Thine be the glory, risen, conqu'ring Son,
endless is the vict'ry thou o'er death hast won.***

**No more we doubt thee, glorious Prince of life;
life is naught without thee: aid us in our strife;
make us more than conqu'rors,
through thy deathless love:
bring us safe through Jordan to thy home above.
*Thine be the glory, risen, conqu'ring Son,
endless is the vict'ry thou o'er death hast won.***

*Words: Edmund Louis Budry (1854-1932)
translated by Richard Birch Hoyle (1875-1939)
Music: George Frideric Handel (1685-1759)
Hymn Tune: MACCABAEUS*

The Blessing

The peace of God
which passeth all understanding,
keep your hearts and minds
in the knowledge and love of God,
and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord;
and the blessing of God Almighty,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost,
be amongst you and remain with you always.

Amen.

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

*Please join us again for Choral Evensong on Sunday 1 June at 6.00 pm.
All are welcome.*

Extracts from The Book of Common Prayer, the rights in which are vested in the Crown, are reproduced by permission of the Crown's patentee, Cambridge University Press. BCP 1662

Our regular services

Sung Eucharist:	Every Sunday at 10.00 am
Said Eucharist:	Every Wednesday at 10.00 am
Choral Evensong:	First Sunday of the month at 6.00 pm
Compline:	First Wednesday of the month at 8.30 pm
Sacred Space:	Last Thursday of the month at 6.00 pm
Daily Prayers:	Tuesday to Saturday at 8.30am and 5.30pm

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**.

To help us reach net zero carbon emissions by 2030,
St Mary's uses recycled paper for all its single-use printing.

Please take this order of service home to recycle again.

St Mary's Church, Whitkirk 390 Selby Road Leeds LS15 0AA

Registered Charity Number 1130280

 whitkirkchurch.org.uk  [/whitkirkchurch](https://www.facebook.com/whitkirkchurch)  [@stmaryswhitkirk](https://twitter.com/stmaryswhitkirk)