



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

# Choral Evensong

The seventh Sunday of Easter

Sunday 1 June 2025, 6.00 pm



# Welcome to St Mary's

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## Accessible for everyone

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## Follow the instructions of our stewards

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## This service is streamed

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## 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

**Rejoice, the Lord is King!  
your Lord and King adore;  
mortals give thanks and sing,  
and triumph evermore.  
*Lift up your heart, lift up your voice;  
rejoice, again I say, rejoice.***

**Jesus the Saviour reigns,  
the God of truth and love;  
when he had purged our stains,  
he took his seat above.  
*Lift up your heart, lift up your voice;  
rejoice, again I say, rejoice.***

**His kingdom cannot fail;  
he rules o'er earth and heav'n;  
the keys of death and hell  
are to our Jesus giv'n.  
*Lift up your heart, lift up your voice;  
rejoice, again I say, rejoice.***

**He sits at God's right hand  
till all his foes submit,  
and bow to his command,  
and fall beneath his feet.**

***Lift up your heart, lift up your voice;  
rejoice, again I say, rejoice.***

*Words: C. Wesley (1707-1788)*

*Music: G. F. Handel (1685-1759)*

*Hymn Tune: GOPSAL*

## **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.**

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.**

## **The 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 68 verses 1-6, 18-19**

*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*      Let God arise and let his enemies be scattered :  
let them also that hate him flee before him.

Like as the smoke vanisheth  
so shalt thou drive them away :  
and like as wax melteth at the fire  
so let the ungodly perish at the presence of God.

But let the righteous be glad and rejoice before God :  
let them also be merry and joyful.

O sing unto God, and sing praises unto his Name :  
magnify him that rideth upon the heav'ns  
as it were upon an horse  
praise him in his name JAH, and rejoice before him.

He is a father of the fatherless  
and defendeth the cause of the widows :  
even God in his holy habitation.

He is the God that maketh men to be of one mind in an  
house,  
and bringeth the prisoners out of captivity :  
but letteth the runagates continue in scarceness.

Thou art gone up on high, thou hast led captivity captive,  
and receivèd gifts for men :  
Yea even for thine enemies,  
that the Lord God might dwell among them.

Praisèd be the Lord daily :  
even the God who helpeth us and poureth his benefits  
upon us.

*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.

## Old Testament Lesson

*Please sit.*

The First Lesson is taken from the forty-fourth chapter of the book of the prophet Isaiah beginning to read at the first verse.

But now hear, O Jacob my servant,  
Israel whom I have chosen!  
Thus says the LORD who made you,  
who formed you in the womb and will help you:  
Do not fear, O Jacob my servant,  
Jeshurun whom I have chosen.  
For I will pour water on the thirsty land,  
and streams on the dry ground;  
I will pour my spirit upon your descendants,  
and my blessing on your offspring.  
They shall spring up like a green tamarisk,  
like willows by flowing streams.  
This one will say, 'I am the LORD's',  
another will be called by the name of Jacob,  
yet another will write on the hand, 'The LORD's',  
and adopt the name of Israel.

Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel  
and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts:  
I am the first and I am the last;  
besides me there is no god.  
Who is like me? Let them proclaim it,  
let them declare and set it forth before me.

Who has announced from of old the things to come?  
Let them tell us what is yet to be.  
Do not fear, or be afraid;  
have I not told you from of old and declared it?  
You are my witnesses!  
Is there any god besides me?  
There is no other rock; I know not one.

*Isaiah 44.1-8*

*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.

*Please sit.*

## **New Testament Lesson**

The Second Lesson is taken from the fourth chapter of the letter to the Ephesians beginning to read at the seventh verse.

Each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ's gift. Therefore it is said, 'When he ascended on high he made captivity itself a captive; he gave gifts to his people.' (When it says, 'He ascended', what does it mean but that he had also

descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is the same one who ascended far above all the heavens, so that he might fill all things.) The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ. We must no longer be children, tossed to and fro and blown about by every wind of doctrine, by people's trickery, by their craftiness in deceitful scheming. But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and knitted together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love.

*Ephesians 4.7-16*

*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.

*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.**

○ God, make clean our hearts within us.

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

## **The Collect of the Day**

○ God the King of glory;  
who hast exulted thine only Son Jesus Christ  
with great triumph unto thy kingdom in heaven;  
we beseech thee, leave us not comfortless;  
but send to us thine Holy Ghost to comfort us,  
and exalt us unto the same place  
whither our Saviour Christ is gone before,  
who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost,  
one God, world without end.

**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 remain seated.*

## **Anthem**

*Choir*      God is gone up with a merry noise  
and the Lord with the sound of the trumpet.  
Thou art gone up on high.  
Thou hast led captivity captive,  
and received gifts for men.  
O sing praises unto our God,  
O sing praises unto our King.  
Thou hast led captivity captive,  
and received gifts for men.  
Alleluia, alleluia,  
God is gone up on high.

*Words: from Psalms 47 and 68  
Music: A. Hutchings (1906-1989)*

*Please remain seated.*

## **Sermon**

## **Hymn**

*Please stand.*

**The head that once was crowned with thorns  
is crowned with glory now:  
a royal diadem adorns  
the mighty victor's brow.**

**The highest place that heav'n affords  
is his, is his by right.**

**The King of kings and Lord of lords,  
and heav'ns eternal light.**

**The joy of all who dwell above,  
the joy of all below,  
to whom he manifests his love,  
and grants his name to know.**

**To them the cross, with all its shame,  
with all its grace is giv'n;  
their name an everlasting name,  
their joy the joy of heav'n.**

**They suffer with their Lord below,  
they reign with him above,  
their profit and their joy to know  
the myst'ry of his love.**

**The cross he bore is life and health,  
though shame and death to him;  
his people's hope, his people's wealth,  
their everlasting theme.**

*Words: T. Kelly (1769-1855)*

*Music: J. Clarke (c.1674-1707)*

*Hymn Tune: SAINT MAGNUS*

## **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.*



**Hail the day that sees him rise; alleluia!  
To his throne above the skies; alleluia!  
Christ the Lamb, for sinners giv'n; alleluia!  
Enters now the highest heav'n; alleluia!**

**There for him high triumph waits; alleluia!  
Lift your heads, eternal gates; alleluia!  
He hath conquered death and sin; alleluia!  
Take the King of Glory in; alleluia!**

**Lo, the heav'n its Lord receives; alleluia!  
Yet he loves the earth he leaves; alleluia!  
Though returning to his throne; alleluia!  
Still he calls mankind his own; alleluia!**

**Still for us he intercedes; alleluia!  
His prevailing death he pleads; alleluia!  
Near himself prepares our place; alleluia!  
He the first-fruits of our race; alleluia!**

**Lord, though parted from our sight, alleluia!  
Far above the starry height, alleluia!  
Grant our hearts may thither rise, alleluia!  
Seeking thee above the skies; alleluia!**

**Ever upward let us move, alleluia!  
Wafted on the wings of love; alleluia!  
Looking when our Lord shall come, alleluia!  
Longing, sighing after home; alleluia!**

*Words: C. Wesley (1707-1788),  
T. Cotterill (1779-1823) and others.  
Music: R. Williams (1781-1821)  
Hymn Tune: LLANFAIR*

## **The Grace**

**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.**

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

*Please join us again on Sunday 6 July at 6.00 pm for a special Deanery Evensong. There will be refreshments before the service in the Community Centre from 5.00 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:	First Sunday of the month at 6.00 pm
Compline:	First Wednesday of the month at 8.30 pm
Sanctuary:	Second Thursday of the month at 6.30 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**.

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