



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

Festal Evensong for Easter Day

Sunday 5 April 2026, 6.00 pm



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Accessible for everyone

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Follow the instructions of our stewards

Please follow all instructions from our stewards.

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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

**The Lord is ris'n indeed:
now is his work performed;
now is the mighty captive freed,
and death's strong castle stormed.**

**The Lord is ris'n indeed:
then hell has lost his prey;
with him is ris'n the ransomed seed
to reign in endless day.**

**The Lord is ris'n indeed:
he lives, to die no more;
he lives, the sinner's cause to plead,
whose curse and shame he bore.**

**The Lord is ris'n indeed:
attending angels, hear!
up to the courts of heav'n with speed
the joyful tidings bear.**

**Then take your golden lyres
and strike each cheerful chord;
join, all ye bright celestial choirs,
to sing our risen Lord.**

Words: Thomas Kelly (1769-1855)

*Music: melody from Johannes Leisentritt's
'Catholicum Hymnologium Germanicum', Cologne (1584)
adapted by William Henry Havergal (1793-1870)*

Hymn Tune: NARENZA

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.

○ 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.

Please sit.

The Psalmody

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.

The Choir sings the psalm appointed for today.

Psalm 66 (verses 1-11)

Choir ○ be joyful in God all ye lands :
Sing praises unto the honour of his Name
make his praise to be glorious.

Say unto God, 'O how wonderful art thou in thy works :
'Through the greatness of thy power
'shall thine enemies be found liars unto thee.

'For all the world shall worship thee :
'Sing of thee and praise thy Name.'

O come hither and behold the works of God :
How wonderful he is in his doing toward the children of
men.

He turned the sea into dry land
so that they went through the water on foot :
There did we rejoice thereof.

He ruleth with his power for ever,
his eyes behold the people :
And such as will not believe
shall not be able to exalt themselves.

O praise our God ye people :
And make the voice of his praise to be heard ;

Who holdeth our soul in life :
And suffereth not our feet to slip.

For thou O God hast proved us :
Thou also hast tried us like as silver is tried.

Thou broughtest us into the snare :
And laidest trouble upon our loins.

Thou sufferedst men to ride over our heads :
We went through fire and water
and thou broughtest us out into a wealthy place.

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.

The Old Testament Lesson

Please sit.

The First Lesson is taken from the third and eighth chapters of the Song of Solomon, beginning to read at the second verse of the third chapter.

‘I will rise now and go about the city, in the streets
and in the squares; I will seek him whom my soul
loves.’ I sought him, but found him not. The
sentinels found me, as they went about in the city.
‘Have you seen him whom my soul loves?’ Scarcely
had I passed them, when I found him whom my soul
loves. I held him, and would not let him go until I
brought him into my mother’s house, and into the
chamber of her that conceived me. I adjure you, O
daughters of Jerusalem, by the gazelles or the wild
does: do not stir up or awaken love until it is ready!

Set me as a seal upon your heart, as a seal upon
your arm; for love is strong as death, passion fierce
as the grave. Its flashes are flashes of fire, a raging
flame.

Song of Solomon 3.2-5; 8.6,7

At the end the reader says:

Here endeth the First Lesson.

After a short silence, please stand.

The 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. During the singing of the Magnificat the altar will be censed.

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 blessèd.
 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.

The New Testament Lesson

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

Mary Magdalene stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, 'Woman, why are you weeping?' She said to them, 'They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.' When she had said this, she turned round and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, 'Woman, why are you weeping? For whom are you looking?' Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, 'Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.' Jesus said to her, 'Mary!' She turned and said to him in Hebrew, 'Rabbouni!' (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, 'Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and

say to them, “I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.” Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, ‘I have seen the Lord’; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

John 20.11-18

At the end the reader says:

Here endeth the Second Lesson.

After a short silence, please stand.

The 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 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

Almighty God,
who through thine only-begotten Son Jesus Christ
hast overcome death,
and opened unto us the gate of everlasting life;
we humbly beseech thee,
that, as by thy special grace preventing us
thou dost put into our minds good desires,
so by thy continual help
we may bring the same to good effect;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost,
ever 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.

Anthem

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

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

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

Lord, by the stripes which wounded thee,
from death's dread sting thy servants free,
that we may live, and sing to thee,
Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah! Amen.

*Words: 17th century Latin text
translated by Francis Pott (1832-1909)
Music: melody by Melchior Vulpus (c. 1570-1615)
arranged by Henry George Ley (1887-1962)*

Please remain seated.

Sermon

Hymn

Please stand.

**Now the green blade riseth from the buried grain,
wheat that in dark earth many days has lain;
Love lives again, that with the dead has been;
Love is come again, like wheat that springeth green.**

**In the grave they laid him, Love whom men had slain,
thinking that never he would wake again,
laid in the earth like grain that sleeps unseen:
Love is come again, like wheat that springeth green.**

**Forth he came at Easter, like the risen grain,
he that for three days in the grave had lain,
quick from the dead, my risen Lord is seen:
Love is come again, like wheat that springeth green.**

**When our hearts are wintry, grieving, or in pain,
thy touch can call us back to life again,
fields of our hearts, that dead and bare have been:
Love is come again, like wheat that springeth green.**

Words: John MacLeod Campbell Crum (1872-1958)

Music: French traditional melody

Hymn Tune: NOEL NOUVELET

The 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.



**Jesus Christ is ris'n today, alleluia!
our triumphant holy day, alleluia!
who did once, upon the cross, alleluia!
suffer to redeem our loss, alleluia!**

**Hymns of praise then let us sing, alleluia!
unto Christ, our heav'nly King, alleluia!
who endured the cross and grave, alleluia!
sinners to redeem and save, alleluia!**

**But the pains that he endured, alleluia!
our salvation have procured, alleluia!
now above the sky he's King, alleluia!
where the angels ever sing, alleluia!**

Words & Music: from 'Lyra Davidica' (1708)

Hymn Tune: EASTER HYMN

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 3 May at 6.00 pm.

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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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