Cathedral Choral Evensong is essentially a service of reflection—of leaving ourselves open that God may speak to us through the psalms, readings and canticles, which are the core of the service.

We welcome you to share with us in worship that has been offered here for nearly a thousand years. Cathedrals with a great choral tradition draw upon a rich inheritance of music, much of it sung by the choir alone. In the Anglican tradition this music finds its natural setting in the office of Evensong, a combination of the medieval offices of Vespers and Compline. Here beauty in language and music can speak to us of God in a rich and diverse way. Within this hallowed space you may forget the ceaseless activity of daily life and be still.

The choice of scripture readings is from the ecumenical lectionary now in use in the Church of Ireland, reading though the different books of the Bible, little by little, day by day. Today’s readings will be continued tomorrow.

There are no announcements during services. Please join strongly in all spoken parts and in the singing of hymns (where these are appointed). To aid reflection you are invited to sit during the singing of the psalm(s) and the canticles.

Please stand when the choir and clergy enter.

PRECES  Jack Oades (b. 1994)

Cantor  O Lord, open thou our lips;
Choir   and our mouth shall shew forth thy praise,
Cantor  O God, make speed to save us;
Choir   O Lord, make haste to help us.
Cantor  Glory be to the Father, and to the Son: and to the Holy Spirit;
Choir   as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be:
       world without end. Amen.
Cantor  Praise ye the Lord.
Choir   The Lord’s Name be praised
O praise the Lord, laud ye the Name of the Lord: praise it, O ye servants of the Lord; Ye that stand in the house of the Lord: in the courts of the house of our God. O praise the Lord, for the Lord is gracious: O sing praises unto his Name, for it is lovely. For why? the Lord hath chosen Jacob unto himself: and Israel for his own possession. For I know that the Lord is great: and that our Lord is above all gods. Whatever the Lord pleased, that did he in heaven and in earth: and in the sea, and in all deep places. He bringeth forth the clouds from the ends of the world: and sendeth forth lightnings with the rain, bringing the winds out of his treasures. He smote the first-born of Egypt: both of man and beast. He hath sent tokens and wonders into the midst of thee, O thou land of Egypt: upon Pharaoh, and all his servants. He smote divers nations: and slew mighty kings; Sehon king of the Amorites, and Og the king of Basan: and all the kingdoms of Canaan; And gave their land to be an heritage: even an heritage unto Israel his people. Thy Name, O Lord, endureth for ever: so doth thy memorial, O Lord, from one generation to another. For the Lord will avenge his people: and be gracious unto his servants. As for the images of the heathen, they are but silver and gold: the work of men's hands. They have mouths, and speak not: eyes have they, but they see not. They have ears, and yet they hear not: neither is there any breath in their mouths. They that make them are like unto them: and so are all they that put their trust in them. Praise the Lord, ye house of Israel: praise the Lord, ye house of Aaron. Praise the Lord, ye house of Levi: ye that fear the Lord, praise the Lord. Praise be the Lord out of Sion: who dwelleth at Jerusalem.

Please sit

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 stand

THE FIRST LESSON — Isaiah 49:5-6

MAGNIFICAT

THOMAS WEELKES (1576-1623), The Sixth Service

The song of the Blessed Virgin Mary

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.

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

THE SECOND LESSON — Acts 10:1-34
The song of Simeon

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. 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

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 Spirit, 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 Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the Communion of Saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Responses Jack Oades (b. 1994)

Cantor The Lord be with you
Choir and with thy spirit.
Cantor Let us pray
Choir Lord have mercy upon us.
Cantor Christ have mercy upon us.
Choir Lord have mercy upon us.
Cantor 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. Amen.
Cantor O Lord, shew thy mercy upon us;
Choir and grant us thy salvation.
Cantor O Lord, guide and defend our rulers;
Choir and mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.
Cantor Endue thy Ministers with righteousness;
Choir and make thy chosen people joyful.
Cantor O Lord, save thy people;
Choir and bless thine inheritance.
Cantor Give peace in our time, O Lord;
Choir because there is none other that fighteth for us, but only thou, O God.
Cantor O God, make clean our hearts within us;
Choir and take not thy holy Spirit from us.
The Collect, of the Day
O Almighty God, who alone canst order the unruly wills and affections of sinful men; Grant unto thy people, that they may love the thing which thou commandest, and desire that which thou dost promise; that so, among the sundry and manifold changes of the world, our hearts may surely there be fixed, where true joys are to be found; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Second 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 Third 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

Sicut cervus desiderat ad fontes aquarum, ita desiderat anima mea ad te, Deus. Like as the hart desireth the waterbrooks, so longeth my soul after thee, O Lord.

GP da Palestrina (1525-1594) Psalm 42: v.2

THE PRAYERS THE BLESSING

THE BLESSING

Please stand for the procession of choir and clergy and sit for the

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

which concludes the service