

The Parish of
Saffron Walden



CHORAL EVENSONG

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We welcome you to St Mary's and to this service. Worship has been offered to God daily in this church for hundreds of years.

Evensong is the distinctive service of Evening Prayer used by churches of the Anglican Communion. It includes elements from the Medieval Latin offices of Vespers and Compline, and has been largely unchanged since the first English Prayer Book of 1549.

The service opens with an invitation to worship, a Confession and Absolution, and the Lord's Prayer. After versicles and responses sung by the Priest and Choir, the roots of the Christian faith in the Old Testament are acknowledged by the singing of a Psalm and the reading of the first lesson from the Old Testament. The Choir then sings the Magnificat, the song of the Virgin Mary when she received the promise of the birth of Jesus. The second lesson is from the New Testament, to which the Choir responds by singing Nunc Dimittis, the song of Simeon when he saw the child Jesus and recognised in him the fulfilment of the promise to Israel. After an affirmation of faith in the Creed, there are further sung prayers and an Anthem. This completes the office of Evensong; the service continues with a sermon, prayers of intercession and hymns.

✠ THE COLLECTS

*The priest says the first two collects.
All say the third collect:*

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.

✠ *The Congregation sits for* **THE ANTHEM**, *sung by the Choir*

✠ *All kneel or sit for* **THE INTERCESSIONS**

✠ *All stand to sing* **A HYMN.**

✠ *All sit for* **THE SERMON.**

✠ *All stand to sing* **A HYMN.**

✠ *All kneel or sit for* **THE BLESSING.**

All stand as the Choir and Clergy leave.

† **THE VERSICLES AND RESPONSES**

Sung by the choir

The Lord be with you;
And with thy spirit.
Let us pray

All kneel.

Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.

† **THE LORD'S PRAYER:**

Sung by the choir

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.

O Lord, shew mercy upon us;
And grant us thy salvation.
O Lord, save the Queen;
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.

ORDER OF SERVICE

All stand as the Choir and Clergy enter.

† *The Priest says* **THE INTRODUCTION.**

All kneel and say together

A 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 Priest stands and says **THE ABSOLUTION**

† **THE VERSICLES AND RESPONSES**

Sung by 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.

All stand

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son:
and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now,
and shall be: world without end. Amen.
Praise ye the Lord

† *All sit. The Choir sings a **PSALM**.*
All stand for the final Gloria.

† *All sit for the **FIRST LESSON**, from the Old Testament.*

† *All sit for **MAGNIFICAT**, sung by the Choir:*
My soul doth magnify the Lord:
and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.
For he hath regarded:
the lowliness of his handmaiden.
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.

† *All stand for the **GLORIA**.*
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.

† *All sit for **THE SECOND LESSON**, from the New Testament.*

† *All sit for **NUNC DIMITTIS**, sung by the 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.

† *All stand for the **GLORIA**.*
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.

All face the Altar and say together
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.