



An Order
for
Choral Mattins
from the Book of Common Prayer

Sunday 15 February 2026
Quinquagesima

A brief history

The routine of the earliest Christian liturgies are a continuation of the daily round of prayers found in the Jewish Synagogue at the time of Christ and it is from this pattern that the Christian communities formulated their own patterns of worship. The origins of Mattins and Evensong lie in the pattern of English monastic worship found at the time of the Reformation. From mediaeval times the life of the community was grounded in praying for the needs of the church and the world and as an embodiment of the kingdom of God on earth. This responsibility or 'office' included morning and evening prayer as well as the prayer times of Compline, Prime, Sext and None, offered up to God as a continuous cycle of daily prayer and praise on behalf of His world. Mattins as the Book of Common Prayer has it, was created by Archbishop Thomas Cranmer (1489-1556) and is a fusion of the monastic offices. Mattins is a fusion of Mattins, Lauds and Prime and is the Church's daily celebration of the Song of Zechariah to honour the birth of John Baptist. This is a foretaste of the other two canticles of the Gospel, the Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis which are sung at Evensong. We stand to for this canticle usually making the sign of the + cross over ourselves as we recall the making of the way for Christ as we do each morning.

¶ Please STAND

Entrance & Processional HYMN 234

Bidding

Priest Beloved, we are come together in the presence of almighty God and of the whole company of heaven to offer unto him through our Lord Jesus Christ our worship and praise and thanksgiving; to make confession of our sins; to pray, as well for others as for ourselves, that we may know more truly the greatness of God's love and shew forth in our lives the fruits of his grace; and to ask on behalf of all men such things as their well-being doth require. Wherefore let us kneel in silence, and remember God's presence with us now:

Confession

¶ SIT OR KNEEL

All 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.

Absolution

Priest 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.

All Amen.

The Versicles

Priest O Lord, open thou our lips
All and our mouth shall show forth thy praise

Priest O God make speed to save us
All O Lord, make haste to help us

¶ STAND

Priest Glory be to the Father, and to the Son
and to the Holy Ghost

All As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,
world without end, Amen

Priest Praise ye the Lord:

All The Lord's name be praised.

¶ SIT

Psalm 84 (Chant: George Job Elvey)

The choir sings the Psalm.

We stand for the Gloria.

¶ 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.

¶ SIT

A reading from the OLD TESTAMENT

¶ STAND

Benedicite

(responsorial): Roger T Petrich

O all ye Works of the Lord, bless ye the Lord

Praise Him and magnify Him for ever.

O ye Angels of the Lord, bless ye the Lord

O ye Heavens, bless ye the Lord.

O ye Waters that be above the Firmament, bless ye the Lord.

Praise Him and magnify Him for ever.

O ye Sun and Moon, bless ye the Lord.

O ye Stars if Heaven, bless ye the Lord.,

Praise Him and magnify Him for ever.

○ ye Showers and Dew, bless ye the Lord.

○ ye Winds of God, bless ye the Lord.

○ ye Fire and Heat, bless ye the Lord.

Praise Him and magnify Him for ever.

○ ye Winter and Summer, bless ye the Lord.

○ ye Dews and Frosts, bless ye the Lord.

○ ye Frosts and Cold, bless ye the Lord.

Praise Him and magnify Him for ever.

○ ye Ice and Snow, bless ye the Lord.

○ ye Nights and Days, bless ye the Lord.

○ ye Light and Darkness, bless ye the Lord.

Praise Him and magnify Him for ever.

○ ye Lightnings, and Clouds, bless ye the Lord.

○ let the Earth, bless ye the Lord.

○ ye Mountains, and Hills, bless ye the Lord.

Praise Him and magnify Him for ever.

○ all ye Green Things upon the Earth, bless ye the Lord.

○ ye Wells, bless ye the Lord.

○ ye Seas, and Floods, bless ye the Lord.

Praise Him and magnify Him for ever.

○ ye Whales, and all that move in the Waters,
bless ye the Lord.

○ ye Fowls of the Air, bless ye the Lord.

○ all ye Beasts, and Cattle, bless ye the Lord.

Praise Him and magnify Him for ever.

○ ye Children of Men, bless ye the Lord.

○ let Israel bless ye the Lord.

○ ye Priests of the Lord, bless ye the Lord.

Praise Him and magnify Him for ever.

O ye Servants of the Lord, bless ye the Lord.
O ye Spirits and Souls of the Righteous, bless ye the Lord.
O ye holy and humble Men of heart, bless ye the Lord.

Praise Him and magnify Him for ever.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Ghost.

Praise Him and magnify Him for ever.

¶ SIT

A reading from the NEW TESTAMENT

¶ STAND

Jubilate Deo
Benjamin Britten

O be joyful in the Lord, all ye lands :
serve the Lord with gladness,
and come before his presence with a song.
Be ye sure that the Lord he is God :
it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves;
we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.
O go your way into his gates with thanksgiving,
and into his courts with praise :
be thankful unto him, and speak good of his Name.
For the Lord is gracious, his mercy is everlasting :
and his truth endureth from generation to generation.
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

All 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 Responses

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

¶ SIT or KNEEL

Priest The Lord be with you:
Choir And with thy spirit.
Priest Let us pray. Lord, have mercy upon us.

Choir Christ, have mercy upon us.
Priest Lord, have mercy upon us.
Priest Our Father,
Choir 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.
Priest O Lord, shew thy mercy upon us.
Choir And grant us thy salvation.
Priest O Lord, save the King.
Choir And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.
Priest Endue thy ministers with righteousness.
Choir And make thy chosen people joyful.
Priest O Lord, save thy people.
Choir And bless thine inheritance.
Priest Give peace in our time, O Lord.
Choir Because there is none other t
 hat fighteth for us, but only thou, O God.
Priest O God, make clean our hearts within us
Choir And take not thy Holy Spirit from us

The Collects

The Collect of the Day

Stir up, we beseech thee, O Lord, the wills of thy faithful
 people; that they, plenteously bringing forth the fruit of
 good works, may of thee be plenteously rewarded;
 through Jesus Christ our Lord.

The Collect for Peace

O GOD,
who art the author of peace and lover of concord,
in knowledge of whom standeth our eternal life,
whose service is perfect freedom;
Defend us thy humble servants
in all assaults of our enemies;
that we, surely trusting in thy defence,
may not fear the power of any adversaries,
through the might of Jesus Christ our Lord.

The Collect for Grace

LORD, our heavenly Father, Almighty
and everlasting God,
who hast safely brought us to the beginning of this day;
Defend us in the same with thy mighty power;
and grant that this day we fall into no sin,
neither run into any kind of danger;
but that all our doings, being ordered by thy governance,
may be righteous in thy sight;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

The Anthem

O nata lux – Morten Lauridsen

*O nata lux de lumine, Jesu redemptory saeculi,
dignare clemens supplicum laudes preces que sumere.
Qui carne quondam contegi dignatus es pro perditis.
Nos membra confer effici, tui beati corporis.
O born light of light, Jesus, redeemer of the world,
mercifully deem worthy and accept the praises and prayers of your
supplicants.
Thou who once deigned to be clothed in flesh for the sake of the
lost ones,
grant us to be made members of your holy body.*

The Prayers

Almighty God, the fountain of all goodness, we humbly beseech thee to bless our most gracious Sovereign Lord King Charles, Queen Camilla, William Prince of Wales, the Princess of Wales, and all the Royal Family: endue them with thy Holy Spirit; enrich them with thy heavenly grace; prosper them with all happiness; and bring them to thine everlasting kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, from whom cometh every good and perfect gift; Send down upon our Bishops, and other Clergy, and upon the Congregations committed to their charge, the healthful Spirit of thy grace; and, that they may truly please thee, pour upon them the continual dew of thy blessing. Grant this, O Lord, for the honour of our Advocate and Mediator, Jesus Christ.

O GOD, the Creator and Preserver of all mankind, we humbly beseech thee for all sorts and conditions of men; that thou wouldest be pleased to make thy ways known unto them, thy saving health unto all nations. More especially we pray for thy holy Church universal; that it may be so guided and governed by thy good Spirit, that all who profess and call themselves Christians may be led into the way of truth, and hold the faith in unity of spirit, in the bond of peace, and in righteousness of life. Finally, we commend to thy fatherly goodness all those who are any ways afflicted, or distressed, in mind, body, or estate; that it may please thee to comfort and relieve them, according to their several necessities; giving them patience under their

sufferings, and a happy issue out of all their afflictions.
And this we beg for Jesus Christ's sake.

ALMIGHTY God, Father of all mercies, we, thine unworthy servants, do give thee most humble and hearty thanks for all thy goodness and loving-kindness to us and to all men; We bless thee for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all, for thine inestimable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ; for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory. And, we beseech thee, give us that due sense of all thy mercies, that our hearts may be unfeignedly thankful; and that we show forth thy praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives, by giving up our selves to thy service, and by walking before thee in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honour and glory, world without end.

ALMIGHTY God, who hast given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplications unto thee; and dost promise that when two or three are gathered together in thy Name thou wilt grant their requests; Fulfil now, O Lord, the desires and petitions of thy servants, as may be most expedient for them; granting us in this world knowledge of thy truth, and in the world to come life everlasting.

All 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

¶ Stand for the HYMN *Alleluia, song of gladness*

Alleluia, song of gladness, voice of joy that cannot die;
Alleluia is the anthem ever dear to choirs on high;
In the house of God abiding thus they sing eternally.

Alleluia thou resoundest, true Jerusalem and free;
Alleluia joyful Mother, all they children sing with thee;
But by Babylon's sad waters mourning exiles now are we.

Alleluia we deserve not here to chant for evermore;
Alleluia our transgressions make us for a while give o'er;
For the holy time is coming bidding us our sins deplore.

Therefore in our hymns we pray thee, grant us,
blessed Trinity,
At the last to keep thine Easter in our home beyond the sky;
There to thee for ever singing Alleluia joyfully.

11th C Latin, translated: John Mason Neale

Voluntary Fantasia in c minor, BWV 921 – J S Bach

The Procession of the ministers and choir