

LINCOLN CATHEDRAL



THE ORDER OF CHORAL EVENSONG



Introduction

WELCOME to Choral Evensong in Lincoln Cathedral. We are delighted to have you worship with us today, and this booklet is designed to help you find your way around the service as it is offered here in Lincoln. Please note that a hearing loop is in operation in the Choir, and those with hearing aids should turn them to T during the spoken parts of the service.

The service is essentially that composed by Archbishop Cranmer in the sixteenth century, but contains texts and melodies which are much earlier, many of which would have been familiar to St Hugh, the rebuilder of this Cathedral at the end of the twelfth century and to Remigius, who founded it in 1072. The solemn worship of God, with all the resources and creativity at our disposal, is our core purpose, pointing, as does the building itself, set on a hill, to our belief in the centrality of God in the life of the world.

The essence of this service is praise: words, inspired by God, used to worship him and lift our minds and hearts. The singing of psalms and the reading from the Old Testament unite us with our spiritual ancestors, the Jews, and with Jesus Christ, who himself used them to praise his Father. Our meditation on the word of God leads us to Jesus who *is* the Word made flesh, and so the *Magnificat* acts as a pivot, pointing us to the new relationship with God which he brings about. The remainder of the service celebrates that ‘new covenant’ and, in the intercessions, commits us to the life of service to which Christians are called.

There is not so much scope for active congregational involvement as you would find in other forms of service, but we hope that you will find prayerful reflection on what is said and sung a worthy offering to God. In our busy world it is easy for priorities to become distorted and it is our prayer that this act of worship may both glorify God and provide an opportunity for the recharging of spiritual batteries.

*O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness,
bow down before him, his glory proclaim.*

J.S.B. Monsell

The Office of Evensong

[On Festivals and Principal Holy Days, when Evensong is Solemn, the choir sings an introit in the Crossing.]

Please stand as the choir and clergy enter.

PRECES

The cantor and choir sing the introductory verse

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.
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.

OFFICE HYMN

This reflects the season or occasion being celebrated. It is normally sung to an ancient Gregorian melody. During Ordinary Time (when the altar is vested in green) the hymns are to be found in the appendix to this booklet.

PSALMODY

These ancient songs are the Jewish hymn book, and, as such, would have been used by Jesus and his disciples. Our use of them continues an ancient tradition which links us with the continuing prayer of Jesus himself. The psalms are to be found at the end of the small black prayer books.

At the end of the (final) psalm please stand as the choir sings

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

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Stand

MAGNIFICAT

[At Solemn Evensong the choir sings an antiphon (normally a sentence from scripture) which reflects the theme of the festival being celebrated. During the Magnificat which follows, the altar, the president and the congregation are greeted with incense.]

The choir sings, in English or Latin, the Song of Mary (Luke 1: 46-55).

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.
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.

If an antiphon was sung, it is repeated here.

Sit

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Stand

NUNC DIMITTIS

The choir sings, in English or Latin, the Song of Simeon (Luke 2: 29-32).

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.

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.

Turn to face east

THE APOSTLES' CREED

Priest

I believe in God

All

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 PRAYERS

sung by the cantor and choir

The Lord be with you
and with thy spirit.

Let us pray.

Kneel

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

**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 thy 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.

The cantor sings the Collect (special prayer) of the Day

and 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.**

and 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.**

Sit

ANTHEM

*The choir sings a setting of a sacred text, appropriate to the day or season,
as a form of musical meditation.*

Kneel

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

*led by the Canon in Residence. These include petitions for the Bishop and
parishes of the diocese of Lincoln, and for present and past members of the
Cathedral Foundation.*

After the prayers of intercession all say together

**The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with us all evermore. Amen.**

Stand
HYMN

[On certain days there is a sermon which follows here. On such days there is a further hymn, during which a collection is made, and the service concludes with a blessing.]

An organ voluntary concludes the service, during which the choir and clergy leave.

***Lincoln Cathedral Music Appeal** exists to provide an endowment which will safeguard the Cathedral's famous choir and historic organs. We need your help to reach our target. A retiring collection is taken after Evensong on weekdays - please give as generously as you can.*

For more information about the Music Appeal and ways to help please contact either the Precentor or the Appeal Secretary at the Chapter Office, 4, Priorygate, Lincoln LN2 1PL. Telephone 01522 523644 (Precentor) or 535599 (Appeal Secretary).

Acknowledgements

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Reproduction of the hymns in the appendix falls within the provisions of CCL 901658.

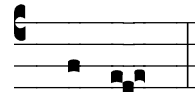
Office Hymn 1 - Saturday



Deus Creator omnium

CREATOR of the earth and sky,
ruling the firmament on high,
clothing the day with robes of light,
blessing with gracious sleep the night,

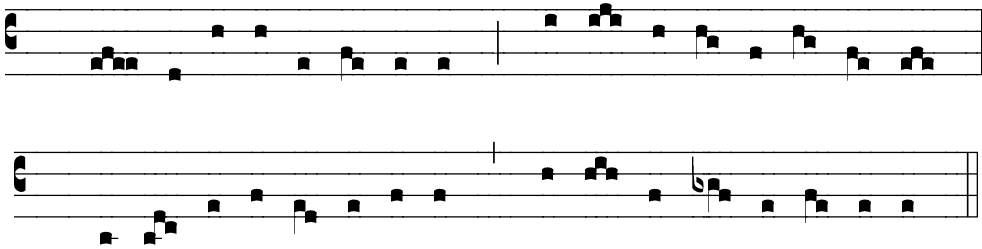
2. That rest may comfort weary men,
and brace to useful toil again,
and soothe awhile the harassed mind,
and sorrow's heavy load unbind.
3. **Day sinks; we thank thee for thy gift;
night comes; and once again we lift
our prayer and vows and hymns that we
against all ills may shielded be.**
4. That when black darkness closes day,
and shadows thicken round our way,
faith may no darkness know, and night
from faith's clear beam may borrow light.
5. **Pray we the Father and the Son,
and Holy Spirit, Three in One;
Blest Trinity, whom all obey,
guard thou thy sheep by night and day.**



A-men.

*St Ambrose (340-97)
tr. C. Bigg (1840-1908)*

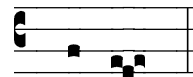
Office Hymn 2 - Sunday



Creator lucis optime

O BLEST Creator of the light,
who makest day with radiance bright,
and o'er the forming world didst call
the light from chaos first of all.

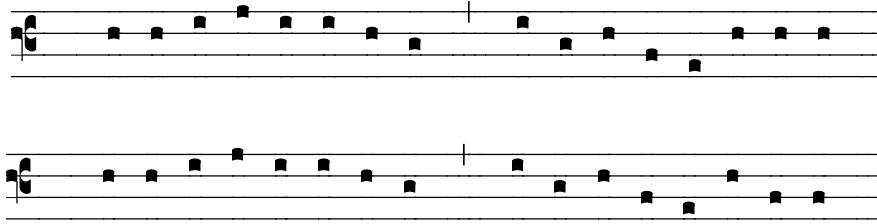
2. Whose wisdom joined in meet array
the morn and eve, and named them Day:
night comes with all its darkling fears;
regard thy people's prayers and tears.
3. Lest, sunk in sin and whelm'd with strife,
they lose the gift of endless life;
while, thinking but the thoughts of time,
they weave them chains of guilt and crime.
4. But grant them grace that they may strain
the heavenly gate and prize to gain:
each harmful lure aside to cast,
and purge away each error past.
5. **O Father, this we ask be done,
through Jesus Christ, thine only Son,
who with the Spirit and with thee
doth live and reign eternally.**



A-men.

*Latin, 8th century or earlier
tr. P. Dearmer (1867-1936)*

Office Hymn 3 - Monday



Immense caeli Conditor

GREAT Maker of the heavens and earth,
who from dark chaos brought to birth
creation's splendour, fixing fast
the land and sky from first to last.

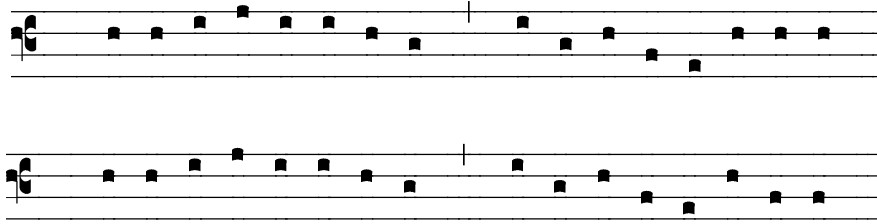
2. You gave the clouds of heaven their place,
ordained the streams to run their race,
that, 'neath the blazing sun by day,
the earth should not be burnt away.
3. **Pour down upon us, loving King,
your gift of grace, that we from sin
and from the first Deceiver's art
may now and evermore depart.**
4. May faith, our minds illumining,
reveal the radiance of the King,
whose love all falsehood drives away
as night retreats before the day.
5. **O Father, this we ask be done
through Jesus Christ, your only Son,
who, with the Spirit, reign above,
three Persons in one God of love.**



A-men.

*Latin, 6th century,
tr. G.J.K.*

Office Hymn 4 - Tuesday



Telluris ingens Conditor

O GREAT Creator of the globe,
by whose command foundations rose
from troubled waters, when your hand
first fixed in place the solid land.

2. That, bringing on the seeds each year
earth's golden flowers might appear,
the fields and hills good pasture be
and bear their fruits abundantly.

3. **The wounds of our inflaméd soul
with your refreshing grace make whole,
and as we weep for actions past
release us from their stain at last.**

4. Let each of us your law obey
and keep each evil thing away,
our lives with acts of virtue fill
and know no kind of deadly ill.

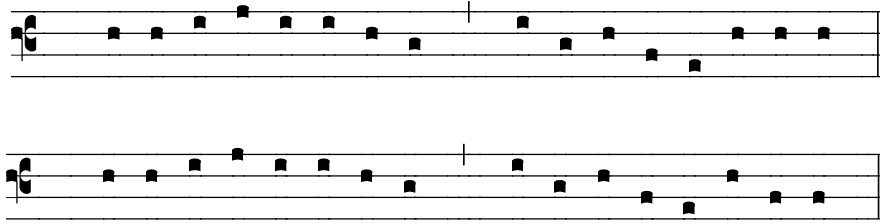
5. **O Father, this we ask be done
through Jesus Christ, your only Son,
who, with the Spirit, reign above,
three Persons in one God of love.**



A-men.

*Latin, c.7th century
tr. G.J.K.*

Office Hymn 5 - Wednesday



Caeli Deus sanctissime

MOST holy God of heaven, who
adorned the day with dazzling hue
and with the lustrous fire of morn
increased the light of earth's new dawn.

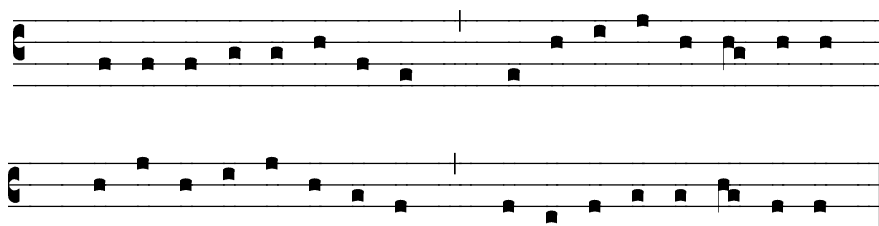
2. Who on the fourth day set on high
the sun's great flaming wheel to lie,
and moon and stars in turn to move
the bounds of day and night to prove.
3. **That each in its appointed way
might mark the course of night and day,
and show each passing month and year
by making well-known signs appear.**
4. Illuminate our minds and hearts,
wash clean away their filth and smarts,
strike off our heavy chains of blame
and overturn the weight of shame.
5. **O Father, this we ask be done
through Jesus Christ, your only Son,
who, with the Spirit, reign above,
three Persons in one God of love.**



A-men.

*Latin, 4th or 5th century
tr. G.J.K.*

Office Hymn 6 - Thursday



Magnae Deus potentiae

ALMIGHTY GOD, who from the flood
didst bring to light a twofold brood;
part in the firmament to fly,
and part in ocean's depths to lie;

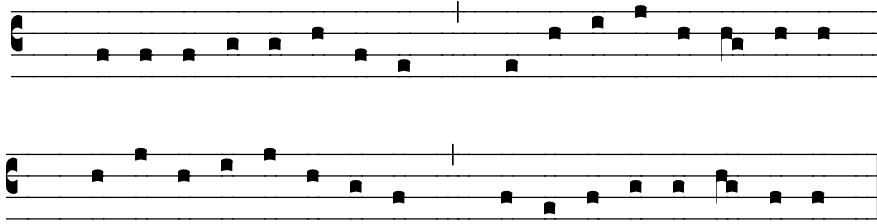
2. Appointing fishes in the sea,
and fowls in open air to be,
that each, by origin the same,
its separate dwelling-place might claim.
3. **Grant that thy servants, by the tide
of blood and water purified,
no guilty fall from thee may know,
nor death eternal undergo.**
4. Be none submerged in sin's distress,
none lifted up in boastfulness;
that contrite hearts be not dismayed,
nor haughty souls in ruin laid.
5. **O Father, this we ask be done
through Jesus Christ, thine only Son,
who, with the Spirit and with thee
doth live and reign eternally.**



A-men.

*Latin, 6th or 7th century
tr. J.M. Neale*

Office Hymn 7 - Friday



Plasmator hominis, Deus

MAKER of man, who from thy throne,
dost order all things, God alone;
by whose decree the teeming earth
to reptile and to beast gave birth.

2. The mighty forms that fill the land,
instinct with life at thy command,
are given subdued to humankind
for service in their rank assigned.
3. **From all thy servants drive away
whate'er of thought impure today
hath been with open action blent,
or mingled with the heart's intent.**
4. In heaven thine endless joys bestow,
and grant thy gifts of grace below;
from chains of strife our souls release,
bind fast the gentle bands of peace.
5. **O Father, this we ask be done
through Jesus Christ, thine only Son,
who, with the Spirit and with thee
doth live and reign eternally.**



A-men.

*Latin, 7th century
tr. J.D. Chambers*