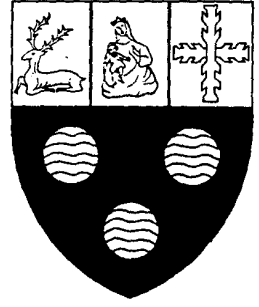


Southwell Minster

THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF
THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY



EVENSONG

Welcome to Southwell Minster



As you prepare for worship, please be sensitive to the needs of those around you who may wish to pray in silence. Please switch off mobile telephones and do not use photographic, video or recording equipment at any time.



A loop system is in operation throughout the Minster. Hearing aids that are equipped to do so should be switched to the 'T' position or the loop setting appropriate to your equipment.



Large print orders of service are available. Please ask a Churchwarden, Sidesman or Verger for a copy.



Toilet facilities (including disabled access) are situated in the Archbishop's Palace, opposite the South Door of the Minster.



We are a Fairtrade cathedral, committed to continuing and increasing our use of fairly traded goods wherever possible.

The congregation is invited to join in all texts printed in **bold**.

Standing, Sitting and Kneeling

Throughout the booklet, you will find various references to posture:

- **Standing** is used for parts of the service where the emphasis is on praising or praying to God together; so we usually stand to sing hymns, and for certain important prayers.
- **Sitting** indicates listening and receiving; so we sit for the first and second readings from the Bible, and for the sermon.
- **Kneeling** is the traditional position for personal prayer. Please speak to one of the Vergers or Sidesmen if you would like a cushion for kneeling.

Adopting the same posture is a way of showing that we are worshipping God together, as his people. However, please always feel free to adopt a different posture, especially if standing or kneeling is uncomfortable.

We are always delighted to welcome newcomers and visitors. If you would like to keep in regular contact with the Minster, please either speak to one of the clergy or churchwardens, or email office@southwellminster.org.uk

The Service of Evensong

The experience of the service of Evensong is unique. It takes place at the end of the working day, and the choir leads worship through their singing. The service is centred around the singing of psalms, ancient texts that speak powerfully and accessibly to our very human hopes, fears and dreams. Every service of Evensong also includes two canticles, or songs, recorded in St Luke's Gospel: the *Magnificat* and *Nunc dimittis*. Both canticles focus on hope and the fulfilment of what God promised to his people, and so have acted as a foundation for prayer and reflection towards the end of the day for many hundreds of years. The beauty of daily sung services in cathedrals is that no two composers' interpretation of these texts is the same, so in the repetition of familiar texts we find fresh meaning every single day.

The gift of the service of Evensong is that it requires little active participation from the congregation; it is a service of respite from the stresses of the day. Our hope is that those of you for whom this is your first taste of Evensong will let yourselves be immersed in the experience: you need simply to be receptive, and to allow yourself to be carried by the choir in song and prayer. In letting others take on the responsibility for prayer on your behalf, you are left with greater freedom to be open to the presence and grace of God.

Donations for the mission and ministry of the Cathedral

On Sundays a collection will be taken at this service during the hymn at the end of the service. On other days, no collection is taken, but donations as you leave in support of the mission and ministry of the Cathedral are very welcome. Cash



donations may be placed in the donation box near each entrance. If you are a UK taxpayer, you are invited to fill in your details on the Gift Aid envelopes provided so that we can reclaim your income tax and thus increase your donation by 25p for every £1 given. Donations by card can be made using the contactless donation station. Alternatively, to make a donation online, please scan this QR code or visit www.southwellminster.org/donate. Please give generously.

ORDER OF SERVICE

Please stand at the entry of the ministers

*Except on Fridays (or on Monday to Friday throughout the season of Lent)
the service begins with the Preces on page 4.*

SENTENCE OF SCRIPTURE

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

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 cloak 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:

or

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.

Please sit or kneel

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.**

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 LORD'S PRAYER

**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;
for thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.**

Please stand

THE OFFICE OF EVENSONG

PRECES *sung by the Canon Precentor (or another cantor) and 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.

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 *sung by the choir and congregation*

These hymns can be found in the separate booklet.

Please sit

PSALMODY *sung by the choir*

At the end of the psalmody, please stand for the GLORIA PATRI:

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

FIRST LESSON *taken from the Old Testament or the Apocrypha*

Please stand

MAGNIFICAT (SONG OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY)

Luke 1: 46–55

sung by the choir, usually in English or Latin

On Festivals, the Magnificat is preceded by an antiphon.

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 above, it is repeated here.

Please sit

SECOND LESSON *taken from the New Testament*

Please stand

NUNC DIMITTIS (SONG OF SIMEON)

Luke 2: 29–32

sung by the choir, usually in English or Latin

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.

Please turn East to face towards the High Altar

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.**

Please turn back

LESSER LITANY, LORD'S PRAYER AND RESPONSES
sung by the Canon Precentor (or another cantor) and choir

The Lord be with you:
And with thy spirit.

Let us pray.

Please sit or 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 King:
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.

COLLECT FOR THE DAY

There may be two collects here in the seasons of Advent and Lent.

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.

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.

Please sit

ANTHEM sung by the choir

On Sundays, a HOMILY is preached.

Please remain seated or kneel when invited

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

One of the following responses, or another, may be used:

Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Lord, hear us.
Lord, graciously hear us.

THE GRACE

**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.**

Please stand

On Saturdays and Sundays a Hymn is sung. On Sundays a collection is taken for the mission and ministry of the Cathedral.

A BLESSING *is given on Saturdays and Sundays, to which all respond* **Amen.**

DISMISSAL *sung by the Canon Precentor (or another cantor) and choir*

The Lord be with you:
And with thy Spirit.

or

The Lord be with you:
And with thy Spirit.

The Lord give us his peace:
And life eternal. Amen.

Let us bless the Lord:
Thanks be to God.

ORGAN VOLUNTARY *during which the ministers depart*

On Fridays (except where that day is a Festival) there is no organ voluntary, and the ministers and choir depart in silence.

Once the ministers and choir have departed, you are invited to sit to listen quietly to the organ voluntary. If you wish to leave at this point, please do so without disturbing those who may still wish to listen or pray. The ministers will stand in the crossing to greet you on your way out.

A collection will be taken at this service on Sundays. On other days, no collection is taken but donations as you leave in support of the mission and ministry of the Cathedral are very welcome. Envelopes and cash may be deposited in the donation box, or donations by card may be made using the contactless donation station. Alternatively, you can give online at www.southwellminster.org/donate. Please give generously.

Please leave this booklet in the stalls for use at future services.

The Minster Centre, Church Street, Southwell, NG25 0HD.

Tel.: 01636 812649

office@southwellminster.org.uk

www.southwellminster.org

Facebook: @SouthwellMinster

Twitter: @SouthwMinster

Instagram: @SouthwellMinster

Acknowledgements

Text from the Book of Common Prayer, the rights in which are vested in the Crown, is reproduced by permission of the Crown's Patentee, Cambridge University Press. This booklet was revised in February 2023 and is copyright © The Chapter of Southwell Cathedral.