

# *St Bridget's West Kirby*



## **Choral Evensong and Sermon**

according to the  
Book of Common Prayer

A very warm welcome to everyone in church this evening. Christians have worshipped here for many years, and we extend a welcome to those visiting, those returning and the regular members of the congregation.

We are delighted that you have come to share in the tradition of Evensong based on the Book of Common Prayer (BCP) 1662.

The heart of Evensong is the reading of Scripture. The service that surrounds it is intended to prepare us to hear God's word and to be able to respond to it with praise.

Its traditional or archaic language may help us to put aside the pressures of our lives as we enter a tradition that has sustained Christians in England since the 17th Century.

If you are new to this style of worship or unfamiliar with the language, then let us put you at ease.

We have tried to include sufficient instructions to help you take part in the service, but if you'd rather sit and listen then you're very welcome to be still and let the music and words wash over you.

However you join in, we pray that you sense the presence and love of God.

While we wait for the service to begin, it may be helpful for us to sit in stillness and quiet to help us prepare our hearts and minds for this reflective service of Evensong.

*Please STAND as the ministers enter.*

*The minister welcomes the people.*

*A hymn may be sung.*

*Please remain STANDING if possible.*

*Enter not into judgement with thy servant, O Lord; for in thy sight shall no man living be justified. Psalm 143.2*

*If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us: but if we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 1 St. John 1.8-9*

Dearly beloved, the Scripture moveth us in sundry places to acknowledge and confess our manifold sins and wickedness; and that we should not dissemble nor cloke 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:

*A general Confession to be said of the whole Congregation after the Minister, all KNEELING OR SITTING.*

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 Absolution or Remission of sins to be pronounced by the  
minister alone, standing: the people still SEATED OR KNEELING.*

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.**

*Or if no priest is present the following*

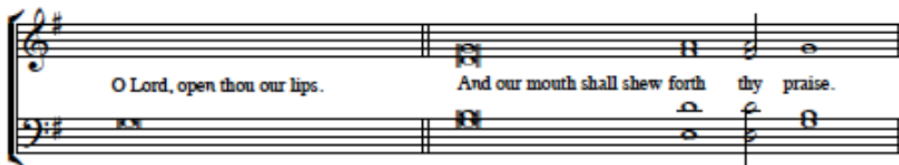
Grant, we beseech thee, merciful Lord, to thy faithful people  
pardon and peace, that they may be cleansed from all their  
sins, and serve thee with a quiet mind; through Jesus Christ  
our Lord. **Amen**

*Then the Minister shall sit or kneel, and say the Lord's Prayer:  
the people repeating it with them.*

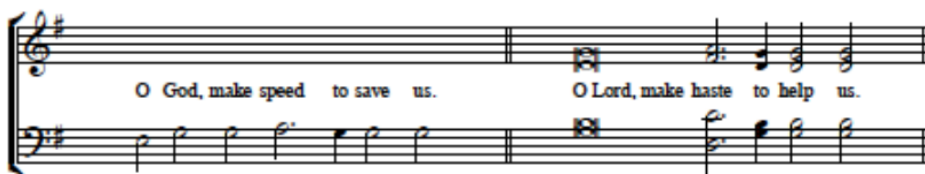
**Our Father,  
which art in heaven,  
Hallowed be thy Name,  
Thy kingdom come,  
Thy will be done, in earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
As we forgive them that trespass against us;  
And lead us not into temptation,  
But deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory,  
For ever and ever. Amen**

### **The opening responses**

**O Lord, open thou our lips.  
And our mouth shall shew forth thy praise.**

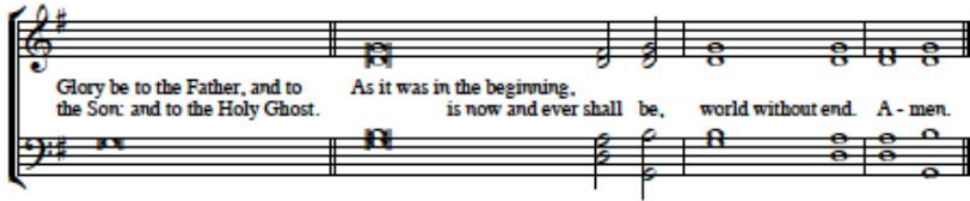


**O God, make speed to save us.  
O Lord, make haste to help us.**



***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.**



Praise ye the Lord.  
**The Lord's Name be praised.**



**The psalm**

*Please STAND to sing the psalm unless directed otherwise*

**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.**

**First lesson**

*A passage from the Old Testament is read.*

*At the end the Reader will say 'Here endeth the First Lesson'  
PLEASE STAND to sing the Magnificat*



## Magnificat

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.

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*

## Second lesson

*A passage from the New Testament is read.*

*At the end the Reader will say 'Here endeth the Second Lesson'  
PLEASE STAND to sing the Nunc Dimittis*

## Nunc dimittis

**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.**

## The Apostles' Creed

*Please turn to face the altar.*

**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 Catholick Church;  
The Communion of Saints; The Forgiveness of sins; The  
Resurrection of the body, And the Life everlasting. Amen.**

## Prayers

*Please SIT OR KNEEL.*

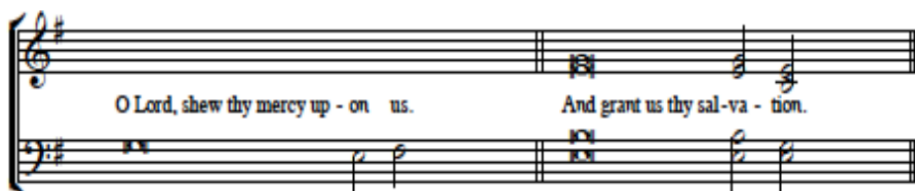


The Lord be with you.  
**And with thy spirit.**

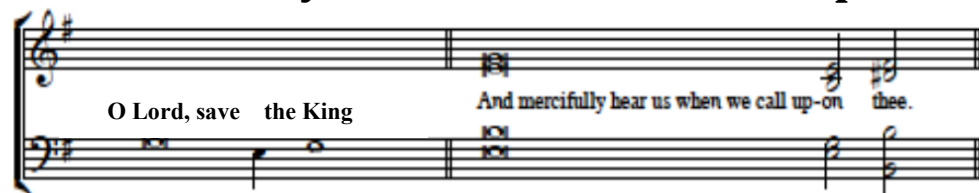
Let us pray.  
Lord, have mercy upon us.  
**Christ, have mercy upon us.**  
**Lord, have mercy upon us.**

**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.**

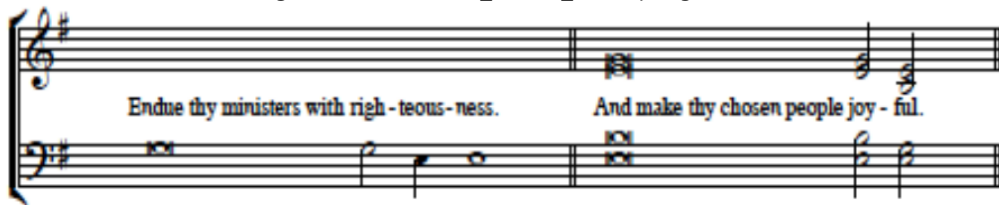
O Lord, shew thy mercy upon us.  
**And grant us thy salvation.**



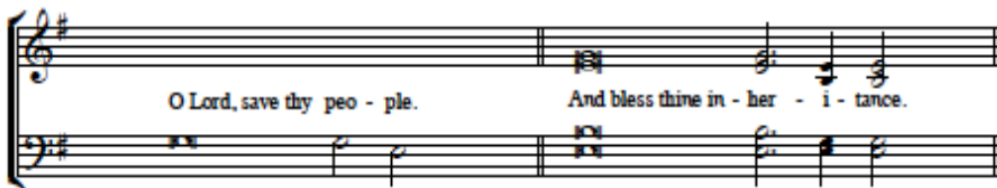
O Lord, save the King.  
**And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.**



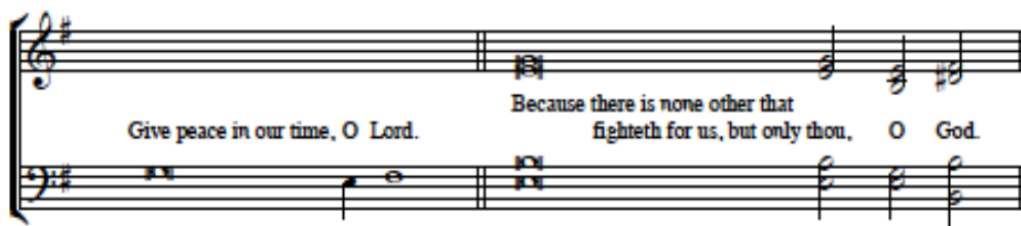
Endue thy Ministers with righteousness.  
**And make thy chosen people joyful.**



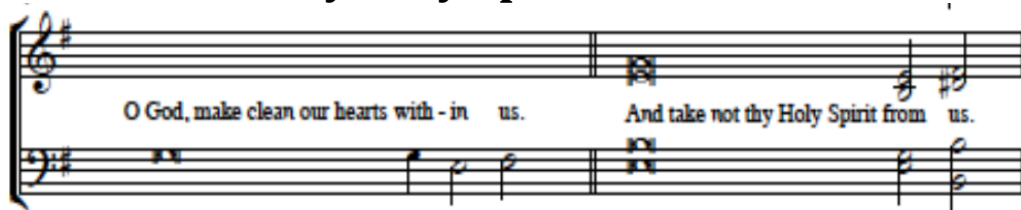
O Lord, save thy people.  
**And bless thine inheritance.**



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.**



## The Collects

*Then shall follow three Collects:*

*The Collect of the Day*

*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.**

*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.**

*The choir may sing an anthem.*

*PLEASE SIT*

**The sermon**

*A hymn may be sung*

*PLEASE STAND*

*Please KNEEL OR SIT*

**Intercessions**

*After the prayers of intercession, a final hymn is sung.*

*PLEASE STAND*

## Blessing or the Grace

Almighty and everlasting God, who alone workest great marvels: Send down upon our Bishops, and Curates, and all 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.

**Amen.**

*or*

*2 Corinthians 13.*

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.**

*Here endeth the Order of Evening Prayer throughout the Year.*

