

CHORAL EVEN SONG



Welcome to the Parish Church of St John the Evangelist

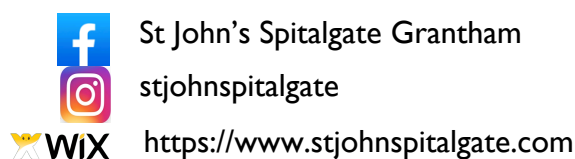
St John's, Spitalgate is committed to expressing the love of God by welcoming all people and maintaining a lively, sustainable and attractive Christian presence in South Grantham.

Choral Evensong is the Church's ancient evening prayer, offered in the rich tradition of English cathedral and parish church music. Emerging from the English Reformation, it brought the monastic daily offices of Vespers and Compline together into a single service, making the daily prayer of the Church accessible to all.

Here, in this church, we continue that legacy: we believe everyone should be able to pray, to lift their souls in the beauty of holiness through the offering of music, the reading of scripture, and the recitation of psalms and prayers.

Toilet facilities are available and are situated at the back of church.

To enable our worship to be uninterrupted, please ensure all mobile phones and pagers are switched off before and during the service.



**Large print copies of this booklet
are available. Please ask the
Stewards.**

*This Order of Service is the property of St John's Church.
Please leave it in the church after the service.*

Introit

*On festival days, an Introit may be sung from the West End. All remain **seated** during the Introit.*

Opening Hymn

*All **stand** to sing the Opening Hymn, the number of which is displayed on the hymn board.*

The Minister then introduces the invitation to the General 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 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:

*All **sit** or **kneel** to say the following words of the 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.**

*All remain **seated** or **kneeling** as the Priest announces the absolution of
sins.*

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.

All Amen.

*Then the Minister shall say the Lord's Prayer: the people also **sitting or kneeling** and repeating with him.*

**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.**

Opening Responses

The choir sings the responses.

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

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

*All **stand** for the doxology.*

Choir 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.

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

Psalm

*The Psalmody appointed for the day is sung and all **stand** for the doxology at the conclusion.*

First Lesson

*All **sit** as the Old Testament (or Apocryphal) lesson for the day is read.*

Office Hymn

*All **stand**.*

Magnificat (Song of Mary)

*All remain **standing**. On Festival Days, it is customary for the High Altar to be censed during the 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.

Second Lesson

*All **sit** as the New Testament lesson for the day is read.*

Nunc Dimittis
(Song of Simeon)

All stand.

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

All remain standing.

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

Lesser Litany & Responses

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

Let us pray.

All sit or kneel.

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

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.

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

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

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

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

Choir Give peace in our time, O Lord.
 Because there is none other that fighteth for us, but
 only thou, O God.

Choir O God, make clean our hearts within us.
 And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.

*The Minister and choir sing three Collects. The first of the day: The second for
Peace: The third for Aid against all Perils.*

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 Anthem

The choir sing an anthem, details of which can be found on the notice sheet.

Sermon

A sermon may be preached.

Prayers of Intercessions

The prayers conclude with:

**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.**

Concluding Hymn

All stand.

Blessing

The Priest offers a final blessing, following which the choir may sing the closing responses.

*All remain **standing** as the Minister and choir depart.*

Thank You for Joining Us

We warmly thank you for being with us today at St. John's.

As a parish church, we rely entirely on your generous support. Every contribution, whether monetary or voluntary, helps us keep this building open as a sacred space for reflection, social action, and hope in our parish communities of Spitalgate and Earlsfield.



To keep the sacred liturgy flowing seamlessly, we do not take a collection during this service. Instead, we invite you to make your offering as you leave. A retiring collection dish is at the back of the church, and we also have card payment facilities there.

Alternatively, you can scan this QR code from your pew to give easily and generously. Your support sustains all that we do for God's glory and for the life of this church.

Thank you.

Liturgical texts are taken from the ***Book of Common Prayer*** (1662).
The Book of Common Prayer is in the public domain.