

# LEADERS' PREPARATION GUIDE

## SUNDAY EVENSONG

*Effective September 2026, the officiant, prayers and homilist are scheduled as distinct roles to make room for broader participation and training. Please verify your scheduled positions in the rota, and note who else may be serving with you.*

### Preces and Responses

In advance, determine which setting will be sung. Music is published on the cathedral website at <https://www.christchurchcathedral.bc.ca/music-at-christ-church-cathedral/worship-and-music>. Scores are kept in the clergy vestry, in an alphabetized stack on the shelves between vestments.

### Lectionary

The lectionary is published online at <https://www.christchurchcathedral.bc.ca/pages/lectionary>

Please note that feasts are often transferred to choral services, so the observance and tone of the evening office may differ from that of the morning Eucharist.

### The Collects

Three collects are chanted. These include the Collect of the Day, printed in the leaflet, as well as one from each of two groups of collects. This custom follows the 1979 Book of Common Prayer (TEC).

The collects are published [here](#) and accessible from the website at [services/customaries](#).

### Sermon

The sermon at Evensong is 5-6 minutes / 500-600 words, and generally allows for the exposition of a single theme. The congregation often includes visitors or lightly churched seekers, and may include young choristers, so the preacher should take particular care to avoid theological terms of art and employ language that is accessible to a broad congregation.

### The Prayers

The prayers are offered in composed form, rather than as a litany or other responsive form. When there is a sermon, two prayers, followed by the prayer of St. John Chrysostom, is generally ample. In the absence of a sermon or of necessity, perhaps three. Officiants may draw from resources such as the *New Parish Prayers* or ancient or contemporary resources, and use them as opportunity to meaningfully engage the themes of the day and the concerns of the wider community and world.

### Rehearsal/Check-in

- Mark a leaflet and get a binder from the vestry. Check in with the vergers on duty.

- At 3:30 p.m., rehearse the Preces and Responses with the choir.

## Vesture

- Appropriate attire is cassock and surplice with
  - Tippet
  - Academic hood outside of Lent
  - Cope optional on festal occasions, and in that case, forgoing academic hood

## Preparations and Vestry Prayer

- By 3:55 p.m., meet the choir in the rear hallway.
- Form the procession at the gate of the Lady Chapel.
- After the organ voluntary, offer a vestry prayer, which may be spoken or sung.
  - A final prayer is also offered with the choir after the outgoing procession.

# OFFICIANT'S GUIDE AND CUSTOMARY WEDNESDAY EVENSONG

## Music

### Preces and Responses

In advance, determine which setting will be sung. Music is published on the cathedral website at <https://www.christchurchcathedral.bc.ca/music-at-christ-church-cathedral/worship-and-music>. Scores are kept in the clergy vestry, in an alphabetized stack on the shelves between vestments.

### Anthem

The Officiant introduces the anthem and may include a few words that help the congregation enter into it as a prayer offered on their behalf. Consult the music list. When information is not readily available about the piece, saying a little bit about the composer, period, or text may also be helpful.

### Office Hymn

The office hymn (which follows the grace) is also published in the music list beginning October 2026.

## Lectionary and Collects

The lectionary is published on the cathedral website at <https://www.christchurchcathedral.bc.ca/pages/lectionary>

Collects are as appointed for the week, or on a festal occasion, for the feast, in The Episcopal Church's Rite One (traditional language) resources, found at <https://www.bcponline.org/Collects/toctradit.html>

## The Prayers

The prayers are offered in composed form, rather than as a litany or other responsive form. In the absence of a sermon three prayers, followed by the prayer of St. John Chrysostom, is generally ample. Officiants may draw from resources such as the *New Parish Prayers* or ancient or contemporary resources, and use them as opportunity to meaningfully engage the themes of the day and the concerns of the wider community and world.

## Arrive early, mark resources, verify details

- Verify with the music director that the Psalm is as appointed. Sometimes a portion will be trimmed to facilitate the choristers' learning.
  - Confirm the page number in the BCP.
- Verify the lections with the sacristan or vergier.
- Mark the Collect of the Day in the appropriate resource.

- Mark the hymnal with the office hymn.

## Rehearsal and Vestry Prayer

- At 4:30 p.m., rehearse the Preces and Responses with the choir.
- By 4:55 p.m., meet the choir at the West end of the cathedral.
- After the organ voluntary, offer a vestry prayer, which may be spoken or sung.

## FOLLOW THE ORDER OF SERVICE, EXCEPT:

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- After the Preces & Responses
  - Offer a Land Acknowledgement
  - Briefly welcome the congregation
  - Announce the Psalm and its page number in the BCP
- After the Third Collect
  - Introduce the anthem
- After the Prayers and Grace, announce the office hymn
- After the Concluding Voluntary
  - Process with the choir to the narthex, thank, pray with and dismiss them
  - Sign the vestry book and ensure that the attendance is recorded
  - Return the Preces and Responses to their alphabetized place

# OPENING SENTENCES

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## In the Evening

- Let my prayer be set forth in thy sight as the incense, and let the lifting up of my hands be an evening sacrifice. Psalm 141:2
- Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ. Philippians 1:2
- Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness; let the whole earth stand in awe of him. Psalm 96:9
- Thine is the day, O God, thine also the night; thou hast established the moon and the sun. Thou hast fixed all the boundaries of the earth; thou hast made summer and winter. Psalm 74:15, 16
- I will bless the Lord who giveth me counsel; my heart teacheth me, night after night. I have set the Lord always before me; because he is at my right hand, I shall not fall. Psalm 16:7, 8
- Seek him that made the Pleiades and Orion, that turneth deep darkness into the morning, and darkeneth the day into night; that calleth for the waters of the sea, and poureth them out upon the face of the earth: The Lord is his Name. Amos 5:8
- If I say, "Surely the darkness will cover me, and the light around me turn to night," darkness is not dark to thee, O Lord; the night is as bright as the day; darkness and light to thee are both alike. Psalm 139:10, 11
- Jesus said, "I am the light of the world; he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life." John 8:12
- The LORD is in his holy temple: let all the earth keep silence before him. Habakkuk 2. 20.
- Thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy: I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit. Isaiah 57. 15
- The hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit in truth; for the Father seeketh such to worship him. St John 4. 23.

# Seasons of the Church Year

## Advent

- Repent ye; for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. St Matthew 3. 2.
- Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Isaiah 40:3
- The glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together. Isaiah 40:5

## Christmas

- Behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. St Luke 2. 10, 11.

## Epiphany

- The earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea. Habakkuk 2. 14.
- The Gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising. Isaiah 60:3
- I will give thee for a light to the Gentiles, that thou mayest be my salvation unto the end of the earth. Isaiah 49:6b

## Lent

- The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise. Psalm 51. 17.
- Rend your heart, and not your garments, and turn unto the LORD your God; for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repenteth him of the evil. Joel 2. 13.
- I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee, and am no more worthy to be called thy son. St Luke 15. 18, 19.
- Jesus said, "Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me." Mark 8:34

### Passiontide

- God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Romans 5. 8.
- Is it nothing to you, all ye that pass by? Behold and see if there be any sorrow like unto my sorrow which is done unto me, wherewith the Lord hath afflicted me. Lamentations 1:12
- All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all. Isaiah 53. 6.

### Easter

- Alleluia! The Lord is risen indeed. St Luke 24. 34.
- Thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. 1 Corinthians 15. 57.
- This is the day which the Lord hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it. Psalm 118:24

### Ascension

- Seeing that we have a great high priest that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need. Hebrews 4. 14, 16.
- Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us. Hebrews 9:24

### Whitsunday and Embertide.

- The love of God hath been shed abroad in our hearts through the Holy Spirit which was given unto us. Romans 5. 5.
- Ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Spirit is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem and in all Judæa, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth. Acts 1. 8.

### Trinity

- God is love; and any that abideth in love abideth in God, and God in them. 1 St John 4. 16.
- Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come. Revelation 4:8

### All Saints' and Saints' Days

- Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race which is set before us, looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith. Hebrews 12. 1, 2.
- We give thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light. Colossians 1:12
- Ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow-citizens with the saints and of the household of God. Ephesians 2:19
- Their sound is gone out into all lands; and their words into the ends of the world. Psalm 19:4

### **Rogation Days**

- The LORD is nigh unto all them that call upon him, to all that call upon him in truth. Psalm 145. 18.

### **On National Occasions**

- Let the nations rejoice and be glad; for thou shalt judge the folk righteously, and govern the nations upon earth. Psalm 67.4.

### **Of Missions**

- Go ye into all the world, and preach the Gospel to every creature. St Mark 16.15.