

EVENSONG (ADAPTED)
THE BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER NOTED (1550)

When the first Book of Common Prayer was published, in 1549, a need was felt for service music similar to that which had been used for the old Latin rites. So Archbishop Cranmer engaged one John Merbecke to provide such a collection of service music “containing so much of the Order of Common Prayer as is to be sung in Churches.” Cranmer desired a simpler form of service music than was then current, urging Merbecke to have “for every syllable a note.” — *from* <http://Justus.anglican.org/resources/bcp/Merbecke/Merbecke.htm>

This prayer book was used only for a few years, but became very important for establishing the types of music to be used in Anglican services.

Since there are few Services (and Sext did not survive), we will do parts of the Service of Evensong. Evensong was later expanded with a separate service for Compline. *We will take our antiphon from there and mix in a few things from that service.*

Evensong.

The Quere with the Priest.



Our father
which arte in
heauen, halowed. &c.

Org. God make speede to saue me.
Tunf. lorde make hast to helpe me.
C. l. Stopp

[Compline: The Lord Almighty grant us a peaceful night and a perfect end. Rx: *Amen*]

The “quere” with the Priest:

Oure father which arte in heave~, hallowed, &c

Prst. O God make speede to saue me.

Ans. O lorde make hast to helpe me. Glory be to the father and to the &c [son and to the holy ghost], As it was in the begynnyng &c [is now and ever shall be, world without end, amen]

Evensong.

Glory be to the father and to the. &c.
As it was in the begynnyng. &c.

As it is before at Whattins.

Antiphon from Compline (usually precedes the *Nunc dimittis*)

8
Guide us wa - king O Lord and guard us slee - ping that a - wake we may watch with Christ —
and a - sleep we may rest — in peace —

Psalm 110 Dixit Dominus

The Lord said unto my Lord:*

Sit thou on my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy foot-stool

The Lord shall send the rod of thy power out of Sion:*

be thou ruler, even in the midst among thine enemies.

In the day of thy power shall the people offer thee free-will offerings with an holy worship:*

the dew of thy birth is of the womb of the morning.

The Lord sware, and will not repent.*

Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchisedech.

The Lord upon thy right hand:*

shall wound even kings in the day of his wrath.

He shall judge among the heathen:*

he shall fill the places with the dead bodies: and smite in sunder the heads over diverse countries.

He shall drink of the brook in the way:*

therefore shall he lift up his head.

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.

Guide us... [repeat antiphon]

Responsory: In Manus Tuas

The following responsory may be said or sung



In-to thy hands, O Lord, I com-mend my spi-rit.



In-to thy hands, O Lord, I com-mend my spi-rit.



For thou hast re-deem-ed me, O Lord, thou God of truth.



I com-mend my spi-rit.



Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho-ly Ghost.



In-to thy hands, O Lord, I com-mend my spi-rit.

Source: An Order for Night Prayer (Compline) in Traditional Language.
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Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Almighty and Merciful Lord, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless us and keep us all. *Amen.*

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