LUMINARIA
from the Chapel of St Catharine’s College, Cambridge

inter quos lucetis sicut luminaria in mundo
in which you shine like lights in the world.

Philippians 2:15

The congregation and choir are asked to sit quietly before the Service begins.
All stand as the Chaplain enters the Chapel in silence.

The Chaplain says the Opening prayer:

Blessèd art thou, Sovereign God, creator of light and darkness!
As evening falls, thou dost renew thy promise to reveal among us the light of thy presence.
May thy word be a lantern to our feet and a light upon our path, that we may behold thy glory coming among us.
Strengthen us in our stumbling weakness and free our tongues to sing thy praise, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

All respond:
Blessèd be God for ever!

The Gospel Candle is lighted; the Choir sings Phos Hilaron, the Hymn to the Light

GREEK HYMN TO THE LIGHT
Phos Hilaron

Φῶς ἱλαρὸν ἁγίας δόξης ἁθανάτου Πατρός, οὐρανίου, ἁγίου, μάκαρος, Ἡσυχία Χριστέ, ἐλθόντες ἐπὶ τὴν ἡλίου δύσιν, ἰδόντες φῶς ἐσπερινόν, ὑμνοῦμεν Πατέρα, Υἱόν, καὶ ἅγιον Πνεύμα, Θεόν. ἥξιον σε ἐν πάσι καιροῖς ὑμνεῖσθαι φωναίς αἰσίαις, Υἱὲ Θεοῦ, ζωήν ὁ διδοὺς· διὸ ὁ κόσμος σὲ δοξάζει.

O joyful Light of the holy glory of the immortal, heavenly, holy, blessed Father, O Jesus Christ, having come to the setting of the sun, having beheld the evening light, we hymn the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, God. Meet it is at all times that thou be hymned with auspicious voices, O Son of God, giver of life, wherefore the whole world doth glorify thee.
The Officiant says:
Let my prayer rise before thee as incense,
the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.

All repeat:
Let my prayer rise before thee as incense,
the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.

O Lord, I call to thee, come to me quickly;
hear my voice when I cry unto thee.
Set a watch before my mouth, O Lord,
and guard the door of my lips.

Let my prayer rise before thee as incense,
the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.

Let not my heart incline to any evil thing;
let me not be occupied in wickedness.
But my eyes are turned unto thee, Lord God,
in thee do I take refuge; do not leave me defenceless.

Let my prayer rise before thee as incense,
the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.

Words from Psalm 141

As thy word, O Lord, gives light to our path, may we behold the glory of thy presence and so rejoice to sing thy praise, now and for ever. Amen.

All remain standing

THE OPENING RESPONSES

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

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

Officiant  Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.
Choir     As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Officiant  Praise ye the Lord.
Choir     The Lord’s name be praised.
All remain standing for the hymn.

THE HYMN
Sung by the Choir

After the hymn, please sit for the Psalm.

THE PSALM
Sung by the choir,
beginning and ending with a Latin Antiphon

After the psalm, please sit for the Reading.

THE READING
This term we are reading some of the parables of Jesus

At the end of the reading:

Reader: Thanks be to God.

THE GREAT SILENCE
Two minutes of silence is kept for reflection and private prayer.
Please stand for the Canticle: the Magnificat or Nunc Dimittis.

THE CANTICLE

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.

Magnificat anima mea Dominum.
Et exultavit spiritus meus:
in Deo salutari meo.
Quia respexit humilitatem
ancillae suae:
Ecce enim ex hoc beatam
me dicent omnes generationes.
Quia fecit mihi magna qui potens est:
et sanctum nomen eius.
Et misericordia eius in progenies
et progenies timentibus eum.
Fecit potentiam in brachio suo:
dispersit superbos mente cordis sui.

Deposuit potentes de sede:
et exaltavit humiles.
Esurientes implevit bonis:
et divites dimisit inanes.
Suscepit Israel puerum suum:
recordatus misericordiae suae.
Sicut locutus est ad patres nostros:
Abraham, et semini eius in saecula.

Luke 1.46-55

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.

Nunc dimittis servum tuum, Domine,
secundum verbum tuum in pace:
Quia viderunt oculi mei salutare tuum
Quod parasti ante faciem
omnium populorum:
Lumen ad revelationem gentium,
et gloriam plebis tuae Israel.

Luke 2.29-32
The Canticle concludes with the doxology:

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.


After the Canticle, please kneel or sit for the Prayers of Intercession

THE PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

At the end of each petition:
Minister Lord, in thy mercy
All hear our prayer.

At the end of the Prayers, all say together:

All 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 sit while the choir sings the Anthem

THE ANTHEM

After the Anthem, all stand as a sign of the resurrection

THE LORD’S PRAYER

Chaplain As our Saviour Jesus Christ taught us, so we pray:

All 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 FINAL RESPONSES

Officiant  Vouchsafe, O Lord:
Choir    To keep us this night without sin.

Officiant  O Lord, have mercy upon us:
Choir    Have mercy upon us.

Officiant  O Lord, let thy mercy be upon us:
Choir    As our trust is in thee.

Officiant  Turn us again, thou Lord of hosts:
Choir    Show the light of thy countenance, and we shall be whole.

Officiant  O Lord, hear our prayer:
Choir    And let our cry come unto thee.

Officiant  The Lord be with you:
Choir    And with thy spirit.
Officiant  Let us pray.
         Give us light in the night season, we beseech thee, O Lord,
         And grant that our rest may be without sin,
         And our waking to thy service;
         That we may come in peace and safety
         To the waking of the great day
         Through Jesus Christ our Lord.
         Amen.

Officiant  Let us bless the Lord.
Choir    Thanks be to God.

Officiant  The Lord Almighty grant us a quiet night and a perfect end.
Choir    Amen.

All remain standing.

The Choir and Officiant move to gather around the Gospel Candle.
...σιγάτω
μηδ’ ἄστρα φαεσφόρα λαμπέσθων,
[ἀπολειψάντων ὑπαί πνοιῶν, πηγαὶ]
pοταμῶν ὅθειον πᾶσαι.
ὑμνούντων δ’ ἕμων Πατέρα χ’Ιην χ’Ἀγιον Πνεῦμα,
pᾶσαι δυνάμεις ἐπιφανοῦστων, ἀμήν, ἀμήν·
κράτος, αῖνος ἀεὶ καὶ δόξα Θεῷ
δωτῆρι μόνῳ πάντων ἁγαθῶν· ἀμήν, ἀμήν.

...Let [everyone] be silent
and let the luminous stars not shine,
[let the rushing of the winds and] all [the sources]
of the noisy rivers [die down].
And as we hymn Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
let all the powers add: ‘Amen, Amen;
might, praise forever, and glory to God
the sole giver of good things; Amen, Amen.’

3rd Century AD

Fragment from papyrus discovered at Oxyrhynchus, Egypt
This ancient text is incomplete. Where there are gaps, phrases that would fit the grammar and the sense have been added to the text in square brackets.
These phrases are not sung, but are included in the translation.

The Gospel Candle is extinguished.
The Choir and Officiant leave the Chapel in silence.
After a few moments, the congregation depart quietly.