

# **THE ORDER OF CHANTING THE CATHEDRAL SERVICE**

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The order of chanting the cathedral service by Edward F. Rimbault

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**EDWARD F. RIMBAULT**

**THE ORDER OF  
CHANTING THE  
CATHEDRAL SERVICE**



THE  
ORDER OF CHANTING

THE  
Cathedral Service;

WITH  
NOTATION OF THE PRECES, VERSICLES, RESPONSES,  
&c. &c.,

AS PUBLISHED BY  
EDWARD LOWE,  
(ORGANIST TO CHARLES THE SECOND)  
A.D. 1664.

EDITED BY  
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50, NEW BOND STREET.

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1843.



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STAMFORD STREET.

## INTRODUCTION.

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THE musical notation of the Liturgy is as ancient as the Liturgy itself, and the credit of adapting it is due to John Marbeck, Organist of Windsor.

Marbeck was not only eminent for his musical ability but for his learning and deep piety, which, combined with his resolute maintenance of the doctrine of the Church of England, nearly cost him his life in the reign of Queen Mary. Two of his companions of the choir of Windsor, one a priest of the name of Person, the other Testwood, a layman, suffered martyrdom, from which Marbeck was saved, not by any compromise, for he was resolute in maintaining the doctrine of the Church he had adopted, but solely through the interposition of his friend Bishop Gardiner, who appreciated his sterling

worth. "It is a fact," remarks the Rev. John Jebb,\* "too commonly forgotten, through the shameful apathy of those to whom every thing connected with our Liturgy ought to be dear, that we owe its earliest choral sustentation to martyrs and confessors. And it is an interesting reflection, that many of the Church musicians and composers have been remarkable at once for their learning, loyalty, munificence, and piety; thus approving themselves faithful ministers of that God whose worship they so eminently adorned."

Marbeck's book was published by Richard Grafton, the King's printer, in 1550, under the title of "The Booke of Common Praier, noted." It was not, as many have supposed, a new composition, but merely an adaptation to the English Liturgy of that notation which had been in use from time immemorial in the English Church. In some portions there are strong traces of the Gregorian chant, that is of the most ancient ecclesiastical music in Western

\* Three Lectures on the Cathedral Service of the Church of England, p. 8.



Europe, itself derived, in all probability, from primitive antiquity.

The work contains the music of the entire Morning and Evening Service, and of the Communion, including the Responses, Versicles, Psalms, Canticles, &c. It does not contain the Litany, which had already appeared as a separate formulary. It was published in 1544, by authority of Henry VIII., in a work entitled "An Exhortacion into Praier thought mete by the Kynge's Majestie and his Clergie, to be read, &c. Also a Litany, with Suffrages to be sayd or sung, &c. *T. Berthelet*, May 16, 1544." The plain-song, to which the Litany is adapted, is almost, note for note, the same as that still commonly performed in cathedral choirs. The remainder of the Cathedral Service as practised at the present day is given; being an outline which Church composers have since harmonized and filled up.

Edward Lowe's book was first printed at Oxford in 1661, under the title of "Some short Directions for the Performance of Cathedral Service." It was reprinted in 1664, with the

following title: "A review of some short directions formerly printed, for performance of Cathedral Service, with many usefull additions according to the Common Prayer Book, as it is now established. Published for the information of such as are ignorant in the performance of that Service, and shall be called to officiate in Cathedral or Collegiate Churches: or any other that religiously desire to beare a part in that Service. The Second Edition, with many usefull Additions relating to the New Service-Booke, &c., purposely printed so as to be bound with it. By E(dward) L(owe). Oxford, printed by W. Hall, for Richard Davis, A. Dom., 1664." This edition has a dedication to "Dr. Walter Jones, Sub-deane of His Majesties Chappell Royall and Prebend of Westminster;" and also an address "To all gentlemen that are true lovers of Cathedral Service," in which the author gives the following reasons for its publication: "My obedience to the commands of some reverend persons brought this trifle first into the world. The usefulnessse of it (in their opinion) at that time, was a sufficient apology

for its appearing abroad then. The reason of this second impression, the former being gone, (besides the importunity of divers) was the necessity of rectifying of it, according to the New Service Book, as also because I was furnished with many necessary and usefull additions; and the advantage I had by this opportunity, to tell the world that all the Versicles, Responsals, and single tunes of the reading Psalmes (as many as we retain of them) are exactly the same that were in use in the time of K. Edward the Sixt: this I can averre from the perusal I had of an ancient copy (sent me by the Reverend Dr. Jones) printed in the yeare 1550. And this I hope will be enough to procure for this small volume a kind and candid reception." The book here alluded to can be no other than Marbeck's "Booke of Common Prayer, noted" before noticed. As the formulary contained in Marbeck's book was adapted to the Common Prayer of Edward the Sixth, it differs, in many respects, from that now reprinted, which was adapted to the Liturgy established in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, and continued, with a few