



*St. Thomas of
Canterbury, the
Parish Church for
Brentwood*

Choral Evensong

**The Seventeenth Sunday
After Trinity**

Sunday, 12th October 2025

The Order for Evening Prayer Daily throughout the year

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:

A general Confession to be said of the whole Congregation after the Minister, all kneeling.

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.

The Absolution or Remission of sins to be pronounced by the Priest alone, standing: the people still kneeling.

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. **Amen.**

Then the Minister shall kneel, and say the Lord's Prayer: the people also kneeling, and repeating it 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.

Then likewise he shall say,

Priest. O Lord, open thou our lips.

Answer. **And our mouth shall shew forth thy praise.**

Priest. O God, make speed to save us.

Answer. **O Lord, make haste to help us.**

Here, all standing up, the Priest shall say,

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;

Answer. **As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.**

Priest. Praise ye the Lord.

Answer. **The Lord's Name be praised.**

**Christ is our corner-stone,
On him alone we build;
With his true saints alone
The courts of heaven are filled:
On his great love
Our hopes we place
Of present grace
And joys above.**

**Oh, then with hymns of praise
These hallowed courts shall ring;
Our voices we will raise
The Three in One to sing;
And thus proclaim
In joyful song,
Both loud and long,
That glorious Name.**

**Here may we gain from heaven
The grace which we implore;
And may that grace, once given,
Be with us evermore,
Until that day
When all the blest
To endless rest
Are called away.**

S. S. Wesley, 1810-76

Then shall be said or sung the Psalms in order as they be appointed. We sit for the psalm and stand for the doxology.

Psalm 144

Blessed be the Lord my strength : who teacheth my hands to war, and my fingers to fight;

My hope and my fortress, my castle and deliverer, my defender in whom I trust : who subdueth my people that is under me.

Lord, what is man, that thou hast such respect unto him : or the son of man, that thou so regardest him?

Man is like a thing of nought : his time passeth away like a shadow.

Bow thy heavens, O Lord, and come down : touch the mountains, and they shall smoke.

Cast forth thy lightning, and tear them : shoot out thine arrows, and consume them.

Send down thine hand from above : deliver me, and take me out of the great waters, from the hand of strange children;

Whose mouth talketh of vanity : and their right hand is a right hand of wickedness.

I will sing a new song unto thee, O God : and sing praises unto thee upon a ten-stringed lute.

Thou hast given victory unto kings : and hast delivered David thy servant from the peril of the sword.

Save me, and deliver me from the hand of strange children : whose mouth talketh of vanity, and their right hand is a right hand of iniquity.

That our sons may grow up as the young plants : and that our daughters may be as the polished corners of the temple.

That our garners may be full and plenteous with all manner of store : that our sheep may bring forth thousands and ten thousands in our streets.

That our oxen may be strong to labour, that there be no decay : no leading into captivity, and no complaining in our streets.

Happy are the people that are in such a case : yea, blessed are the people who have the Lord for their God.

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.

Then a Lesson of the Old Testament, as is appointed. (Sit)

Nehemiah 6: 1-16

And after that Magnificat (or the Song of the Blessed Virgin Mary) in English, as followeth. (Stand)

MAGNIFICAT

Luke 1

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.

Then a Lesson of the New Testament, as it is appointed. (Sit)

John 15: 12-end

And after that Nunc dimittis (or the Song of Simeon) in English, as followeth. (Stand)

NUNC DIMITTIS

Luke 2.29

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.

Then shall be said or sung the Apostles' Creed, by the Minister and the people standing.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

**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.

And after that these Prayers following, all devoutly kneeling: the Minister first pronouncing with a loud voice,

Minister. The Lord be with you.

Answer. **And with thy spirit.**

Minister. Let us pray.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Answer. **Christ, have mercy upon us.**

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Then the Minister, Clerks, and people shall say the Lord's Prayer with a loud voice.

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.

Then the Priest standing up shall say,

Priest. O Lord, shew thy mercy upon us.

Answer. **And grant us thy salvation.**

Priest. O Lord, save the King.

Answer. **And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.**

Priest. Endue thy Ministers with righteousness.

Answer. **And make thy chosen people joyful.**

Priest. O Lord, save thy people.

Answer. **And bless thine inheritance.**

Priest. Give peace in our time, O Lord.

Answer. **Because there is none other that fighteth for us, but only thou, O God.**

Priest. O God, make clean our hearts within us.

Answer. **And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.**

Then shall follow three Collects: The first of the day: The second for Peace: The third for Aid against all Perils, as hereafter followeth: which two last Collects shall be daily said at Evening Prayer without alteration.

Collect of the Day

Eternal God, you crown the year with your goodness and you give us the fruits of the earth in their season: grant that we may use them to your glory, for the relief of those in need and for own well-being; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Second Collect at Evening Prayer

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 Third 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.**

In Quires and Places where they sing here followeth the Anthem.

Lord, make me an instrument' - *Jonathan Willcocks'*

The Prayers follow which might include some of the following.

A Prayer for the King's Majesty.

O LORD, our heavenly Father, high and mighty, King of kings, Lord of lords, the only Ruler of princes, who dost from thy throne behold all the dwellers upon earth: Most heartily we beseech thee with thy favour to behold our most gracious Sovereign Lord, King *CHARLES*; and so replenish him with the grace of thy Holy Spirit, that he may always incline to thy will, and walk in thy way. Endue him plenteously with heavenly gifts; grant him in health and wealth long to live; strengthen him that he may vanquish and overcome all his enemies; and finally after this life he may attain everlasting joy and felicity; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

A Prayer for the Royal Family.

Almighty God, the fountain of all goodness, we humbly beseech thee to bless Camilla the Queen, William Prince of Wales, the Princess of Wales, and all the Royal Family: Endue them with thy holy Spirit; enrich them with thy heavenly grace; prosper them with all happiness; and bring them to thine everlasting kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

A Prayer for the Clergy and People.

ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, who alone workest great marvels: Send down upon our Bishops, and Curates, and all Congregations committed to their charge, the healthful Spirit of thy grace; and that they may truly please thee, pour upon them the continual dew of thy blessing. Grant this, O Lord, for the honour of our Advocate and Mediator, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

A Prayer of Saint Chrysostom.

ALMIGHTY God, who hast given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplications unto thee; and dost promise that when two or three are gathered together in thy Name thou wilt grant their requests: Fulfil now, O

Lord, the desires and petitions of thy servants, as may be most expedient for them; granting us in this world knowledge of thy truth, and in the world to come life everlasting. **Amen.**

2 Corinthians 13.

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.

Here endeth the Order of Evening Prayer throughout the Year.

A sermon is usually preached and is followed by this hymn.

**Happy are they, they that love God,
Whose hearts have Christ confest,
Who by his Cross have found their life,
And 'neath his yoke their rest.**

**Glad is the praise, sweet are the songs,
When they together sing;
And strong the prayers that bow the ear
Of heaven's eternal King.**

**Christ to their homes giveth his peace,
And makes their loves his own:
But ah, what tares the evil one
Hath in his garden sown!**

**Sad were our lot, evil this earth,
Did not its sorrows prove
The path whereby the sheep may find
The fold of Jesu's love.**

**Then shall they know, they that love him,
How all their pain is good;
And death itself cannot unbind
Their happy brotherhood.**

Charles Coffin, 1676-1749

If a priest is present a blessing maybe given.

Minister. The Lord be with you.

Answer. And with thy spirit.

Minister. Let us bless the Lord.

Answer. Thanks be to God.

The sacred ministers leave during the organ voluntary.



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