



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

The Order of Mass with the
blessing of Palms, Procession
and reading of the Passion
Gospel

Palm Sunday

Sunday, 29th March 2026

These prayers are suitable as preparation for Mass

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name; through Christ our Lord. Amen

From the Book of Common Prayer

Almighty and ever-living God, I approach the sacrament of Your only-begotten Son Our Lord Jesus Christ, I come sick to the doctor of life, unclean to the fountain of mercy, blind to the radiance of eternal light, and poor and needy to the Lord of heaven and earth. Lord, in your great generosity, heal my sickness, wash away my defilement, enlighten my blindness, enrich my poverty, and clothe my nakedness. May I receive the bread of angels, the King of kings and Lord of lords, with humble reverence, with the purity and faith, the repentance and love, and the determined purpose that will help to bring me to salvation. May I receive the sacrament of the Lord's Body and Blood, and its reality and power.

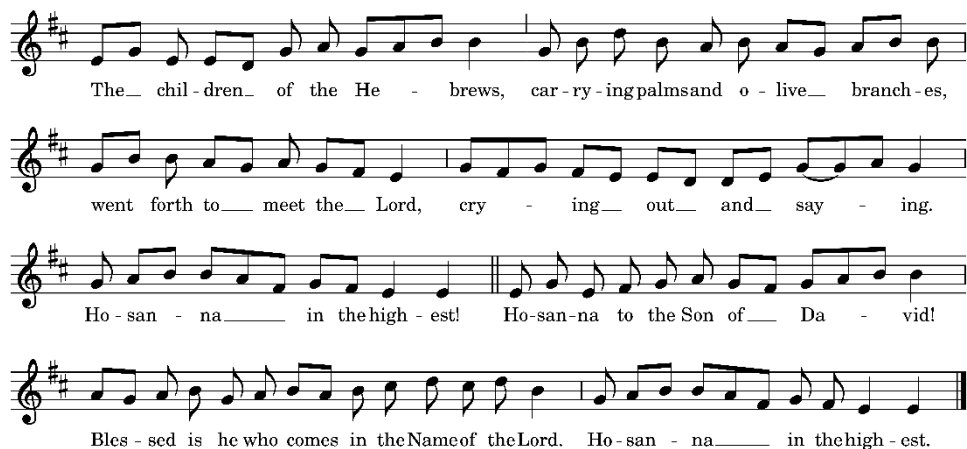
Kind God, may I receive the Body of Your only-begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, born from the womb of the Virgin Mary, and so be received into His mystical body and numbered among His members. Loving Father, as on my earthly pilgrimage I now receive Your beloved Son under the veil of a sacrament, may I one day see him face to face in glory, who lives and reigns with You for ever. Amen

St Thomas Aquinas

It is our custom to keep a prayerful silence before Mass

We gather in the Chapel Ruins in the High Street. Please turn to face the ruins as the sacred ministers assume their places. You will need to have a palm cross in your hand.

The choir sings the introit, 'The children of the Hebrews'



The chil-dren of the He-brews, car-ry-ing palms and o-live branch-es,
went forth to meet the Lord, cry-ing out and say-ing.
Ho-san-na in the high-est! Ho-san-na to the Son of Da-vid!
Bles-sed is he who comes in the Name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high-est.

✠ In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, during Lent, we have been preparing by works of love and self-sacrifice for the celebration of our Lord's death and resurrection. Today, we come together to begin this solemn celebration in union with the Church throughout the world. Christ enters his own city to complete his work as our Saviour, to suffer, to die, and to rise again. Let us go with him in faith and love, so that, united with him in his sufferings, we may share his risen life.

The people hold up palms or branches while they are blessed.

God our Saviour, whose Son Jesus Christ entered Jerusalem as Messiah to suffer and to die; bless ✠ these branches and let them be for us signs of his

victory and grant that we who bear them in his name may ever hail him as our King, and follow him in the way that leads to eternal life; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The branches are sprinkled and censed, then the Palm Gospel is announced.

✠ Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Matthew 21:1 – 11

When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, ‘Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, just say this, “The Lord needs them.” And he will send them immediately.’ This took place to fulfil what had been spoken through the prophet, saying, ‘Tell the daughter of Zion, Look, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.’ The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting, ‘Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!’ When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, ‘Who is this?’ The crowds were saying, ‘This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.’

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Let us go forth praising Jesus our Messiah as did the crowds who welcomed him to Jerusalem.

Processional Hymns

NEH 509



All *All glory, laud and honour
To thee, Redeemer, King,
To whom the lips of children
Made sweet hosannas ring.*

**Thou art the King of Israel,
Thou David's royal Son,
Who in the Lord's name comest,
The King and blessèd One.**

**The company of angels
Are praising thee on high,
And mortal men and all things
Created make reply.**

**The people of the Hebrews
With palms before thee went;
Our praise and prayer and anthems
Before thee we present.**

**To thee before thy passion
They sang their hymns of praise;
To thee, now high exalted,
Our melody we raise.**

**Thou didst accept their praises,
Accept the prayers we bring,**

**Who in all good delightest,
Thou good and gracious King.**

***Do thou direct our footsteps
Upon our earthly way,
And bring us by thy mercy
To heaven's eternal day.**

***Within that blessed City
Thy praises may we sing,
And ever raise hosannas
To our most loving King.**

Words: St Theodulph of Orleans (d. 821)

Music: M. Teschner (c.1613)

We will repeat this hymn until the majority of the procession is within the Church building, when we begin to sing this hymn.

NEH 511



**All Ride on, ride on in majesty!
Hark, all the tribes hosanna cry,
Thy humble beast pursues his road
With palms and scattered garments strowed.**

**Ride on, ride on in majesty!
In lowly pomp ride on to die:
O Christ, thy triumphs now begin
O'er captive death and conquered sin.**

**Ride on, ride on in majesty!
The wingèd squadrons of the sky**

**Look down with sad and wondering eyes
To see the approaching sacrifice.**

**Ride on, ride on in majesty!
Thy last and fiercest strife is nigh;
The Father on his sapphire throne
Awaits his own anointed Son.**

**Ride on, ride on in majesty!
In lowly pomp ride on to die;
Bow thy meek head to mortal pain,
Then take, O God, thy power, and reign.**

Words: Henry Milman (1791-1868)

Music: Adapted from chorale in Musicalisches Hand-Buch, Hamburg (1690)

The Collect

The Celebrant introduces a period of silent prayer with the words 'Let us pray':

Almighty and everlasting God, who in your tender love towards the human race sent your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ to take upon him our flesh and to suffer death upon the cross: grant that we may follow the example of his patience and humility, and also be made partakers of his resurrection; 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 LITURGY OF THE WORD

We SIT for the first readings.

Isaiah 50:4–9a

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

The Lord GOD has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word. Morning by morning he wakens – wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught. The Lord GOD has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backwards. I gave my back to those who struck me, and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians.


Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death – even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Passion Gospel

We STAND to greet the gospel.



David Rooke

Praise to you,— O Christ, King of e - ter - nal glo - ry.

Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.

Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.

Christ humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even death on a cross. Therefore, God has highly exalted him and given him the name that is above every name.

Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.

The Passion Gospel is not announced with the usual dialogue and no lights or incense are used. Please follow the gospel in the separate booklet and join in the parts marked for the crowd. We try to stand for the whole reading if we can.

Let us declare our faith in God.

We believe in God the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named.

We believe in God the Son, who lives in our hearts through faith, and fills us with his love.

We believe in God the Holy Spirit, who strengthens us with power from on high.

We believe in one God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen

Prayers of Intercession – Universal Prayers

We KNEEL.

In peace and in trust let us pray to the Lord

For forgiveness for the many times we have denied Jesus, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For grace to seek out those habits of sin which mean spiritual death, and by prayer and self-discipline to overcome them, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For Christian people, that through the suffering of disunity there may grow a rich union in Christ, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For those who make laws, interpret them, and administer them, that our common life may be ordered in justice and mercy, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For those who still make Jerusalem a battleground, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For those who have the courage and honesty to work openly for justice and peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For those in the darkness and agony of isolation, that they may find support and encouragement, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For those who, weighed down with hardship, failure, or sorrow, feel that God is far from them, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For those who are tempted to give up the way of the cross, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

That we, with those who have died in faith, may find mercy in the day of Christ, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Holy God, **holy and strong, holy and immortal, have mercy upon us.**

The Peace

We STAND as the Celebrant introduces the Peace:

Once we were far off, but now in union with Christ Jesus we have been brought near through the shedding of Christ's blood, for he is our peace.

The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

Let us offer one another the sign of peace.

THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

The Offertory

A collection is taken at this celebration. If you don't have cash or are not part of our planned giving scheme and would like to support the ministry costs of St Thomas' please scan the QR code on the back of the chair in front of you, to be taken to the online donations page where you can easily donate to support the work of St Thomas' and complete the details allowing the reclamation of Gift Aid on your donation. At 10.00, we sing this hymn while the altar is prepared.

The Offertory Hymn

NEH 86



All My song is love unknown,
My Saviour's love to me,
Love to the loveless shown,
That they might lovely be.
O, who am I, That for my sake
My Lord should take Frail flesh, and die?

He came from his blest throne,
Salvation to bestow:
But men made strange, and none
The longed-for Christ would know.
But O, my Friend, My Friend indeed,
Who at my need His life did spend!

Sometimes they strew his way,
And his sweet praises sing;
Resounding all the day
Hosannas to their King.
Then 'Crucify!' Is all their breath,
And for his death They thirst and cry.

***Why, what hath my Lord done?
What makes this rage and spite?
He made the lame to run,
He gave the blind their sight.
Sweet injuries! Yet they at these
Themselves displease, and 'gainst him rise.**

**They rise, and needs will have
My dear Lord made away;
A murderer they save,
The Prince of Life they slay.
Yet cheerful he to suffering goes,
That he his foes from thence might free.**

***In life no house, no home,
My Lord on earth might have;
In death no friendly tomb,
But what a stranger gave.
What may I say? Heav'n was his home;
But mine the tomb Wherein he lay.**

**Here might I stay and sing,
No story so divine;
Never was love, dear King,
Never was grief like thine!
This is my Friend, In whose sweet praise
I all my days Could gladly spend.**

Words: Samuel Crossman (1624-83)

Music: John Ireland (1879-1962)

The Preparation of the Altar

At 10.00, after all have been censed, the Priest says:

Pray, my brothers and sisters, that this my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God the almighty Father.

May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands, for the praise and glory of his name, for our good, and the good of all his Church.

Through the Passion of your Only Begotten Son, O Lord, may our reconciliation with you be near at hand, so that, though we do not merit it by our own deeds, yet by this sacrifice made once for all, we may feel already the effects of your mercy. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Preface

The Lord be with you

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is indeed right and just,
our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
holy Father, almighty and eternal God,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

For as the time of his passion and resurrection draws near
the whole world is called to acknowledge his hidden majesty.

The power of the life-giving cross
reveals the judgement that has come upon the world
and the triumph of Christ crucified.

He is the victim who dies no more,
the Lamb once slain, who lives for ever,
our advocate in heaven to plead our cause,
exalting us there to join with angels and archangels,
for ever praising you and saying:

We remain STANDING as we say/sing the Sanctus and the Benedictus:

Repeat each line after choir

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord:
God of power and God of might.
Heaven and earth are full of thy glo - ry,
Ho - sa - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord most high.
Ho - san - na,
Ho - san - na,
ho - san - na in the high - est.

We KNEEL after the Sanctus and Benedictus.

Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness; grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit, and according to your holy will, these gifts of bread and wine may be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;

who, in the same night that he was betrayed, took bread and gave you thanks; he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me. ✠

In the same way, after supper, he took the cup and gave you thanks; he gave it to them, saying:

Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me. ✠

After the consecration, the following acclamation is said/sung:

Jesus Christ is Lord:

**Lord, by your cross and resurrection,
you have set us free.**

You are the Saviour of the world.

And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the cross, his perfect sacrifice made once for the sins of the whole world; rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension, and looking for his coming in glory, we celebrate this memorial of our redemption.

As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, we bring before you this bread and this cup and we thank you for counting us worthy to stand in your presence and serve you.

Send the Holy Spirit on your people and gather into one in your kingdom all who share this one bread and one cup, so that we, in the company of the Blessed Virgin Mary, St Joseph her spouse, St Thomas of Canterbury

and all the saints, may praise and glorify you for ever, through Jesus Christ our Lord;

by whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father, for ever and ever.

Amen.

COMMUNION RITE

As our Saviour taught and commanded us, we are bold to say:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who 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.

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

**Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.**

We sing the Agnus Dei:

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,
grant us peace.**

The Celebrant invites the people to communion.

Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

Lord, I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word, and I shall be healed.

Please follow the direction of the celebrant and sidespersons to come forward and receive communion. Those who are confirmed are welcome to make their communion at our celebration today. Otherwise please come forward for a blessing with your hands crossed across your chest. We have returned to receiving communion in both kinds. The response after receiving a blessing is Amen.

Anthem

The Choir sings 'Hosanna to the Son of David' – Sam Adams

We SIT or KNEEL to sing the following hymn.

Communion Hymn

NEH 92



All **There is a green hill far away,
Without a city wall,
Where the dear Lord was crucified
Who died to save us all.**

**We may not know, we cannot tell
What pains he had to bear,
But we believe it was for us
He hung and suffered there.**

**He died that we might be forgiven,
He died to make us good;
That we might go at last to heaven,
Saved by his precious blood.**

**There was no other good enough
To pay the price of sin;
He only could unlock the gate
Of heaven, and let us in.**

**O dearly, dearly has he loved,
And we must love him too,
And trust in his redeeming blood,
And try his works to do.**

Words: C.F. Alexander 1818-95

Music: W. Horsley(1774-1858)

Act of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Most Blessed Sacrament. I love you above all things, and I desire to receive you into my soul. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace you as if you were already there, and I unite myself wholly to you. Never permit me to be separated from you. **Amen.**

St Alphonsus Liguori

Post Communion

We STAND ready for the priest to say/sing the post communion prayer:

Lord Jesus Christ, you humbled yourself in taking the form of a servant, and in obedience died on the cross for our salvation: give us the mind to follow you and to proclaim you as Lord and King, to the glory of God the Father. **Amen.**

Father of all, we give you thanks and praise, that when we were still far off you met us in your Son and brought us home. Dying and living, he declared your love, gave us grace, and opened the gate of glory. May we who share Christ's body live his risen life; we who drink his cup bring life to others; we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world. Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us, so we and all your children shall be free, and the whole earth live to praise your name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Banns and Notices

We SIT while any Banns of Marriage are published, and brief notices are given out. We STAND for the final blessing and dismissal.

Blessing and dismissal

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Bow your heads and pray for God's blessing.

May the Father, who so loved the world that he gave his only Son, bring you by faith to his eternal life. **Amen.**

May Christ, who accepted the cup of sacrifice in obedience to the Father's will, keep you steadfast as you walk with him the way of his cross. **Amen.**

May the Spirit, who strengthens us to suffer with Christ that we may share his glory, set your minds on life and peace. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God almighty, ☩ the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

The Mass is ended, go in the peace of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

The Angelus

The sacred ministers gather before the image of Our Lady for the Angelus.

The Angel of the Lord brought tidings to Mary,

And she conceived by the Holy Spirit.

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee; Blessed art thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb Jesus.

Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death.

Behold the handmaid of the Lord.

Be it unto me according to thy Word.

Hail Mary, etc...

And the Word was made flesh,
And dwelt among us.

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee; Blessed art thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb Jesus.

Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death.

Pray for us, O holy Mother of God.

That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us pray:

We beseech thee, O Lord, pour thy grace into our hearts; that as we have known the Incarnation of thy Son, Jesus Christ, by the message of an angel, so by his ✠ Cross and Passion we may be brought to the glory of his resurrection; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The sacred ministers then leave during the final hymn.

Recessional Hymn

NEH 391



**All King of glory, King of peace,
I will love thee;
And that love may never cease,
I will move thee.
Thou hast granted my request,
Thou hast heard me;
Thou didst note my working breast,
Thou hast spared me.**

**Wherefore with my utmost art
I will sing thee,
And the cream of all my heart
I will bring thee.
Though my sins against me cried,
Thou didst clear me;
And alone, when they replied,
Thou didst hear me.**

**Seven whole days, not one in seven,
I will praise thee;
In my heart, though not in heaven,
I can raise thee.
Small it is, in this poor sort
To enrol thee:
E'en eternity's too short
To extol thee.**

Words: George Herbert (1593-1633)

Music: John David Jones (1827-70)

A warm invitation is extended to all to stay for refreshments after the 10.00 Sung Mass. Please make your way through into the hall following the directions of the sidespersons.

Please return the booklets for the Passion Gospel as they are intended for future use.

Private Devotions during Communion or after Mass

We do not presume to come to this thy table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy table. But thou art the same Lord, whose property is always to have mercy: grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body, and our souls washed through his most precious blood, and that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

From the Book of Common Prayer

Soul of Christ, sanctify me
body of Christ, save me
blood of Christ, inebriate me
water from Christ's side, wash me
passion of Christ, strengthen me.

O good Jesus, hear me
within thy wounds hide me.
Suffer me not to be separated from thee.
From the malicious enemy defend me.

In the hour of my death call me and bid me come unto thee that I may praise thee with thy saints and with thy angels for ever and ever. Amen

Hail holy Queen, Mother of Mercy, our life, our sweetness and our hope!
To thee do we cry, poor banished children of Eve; to thee do we send up
our sighs, mourning and weeping in this vale of tears. Turn then, O most
gracious advocate, thine eyes of mercy towards us, and after this our
exile, show unto us the blessed fruit of thy womb, Jesus. O clement, O
loving, O sweet Virgin Mary.

The Salve Regina

ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY, BRENTWOOD

SERVICES & EVENTS

HOLY WEEK 2026

Palm Sunday: 29th March

8am - Mass

10am - Mass & Procession
(starting at Chapel Ruins)

6pm - Choral Evensong

Monday 30th March

Chrism Mass - 12pm at

Chelmsford Cathedral

8pm - Mass

Tuesday 31st March

9:30am - Mass

8pm - Mass

Wednesday 1st April

12:15pm - Mass

8pm - Mass

9pm - Compline

Maundy Thursday: 2nd April

8pm - Sung Mass of the Lord's

Supper

Good Friday: 3rd April

9am - Morning Prayer

10am - Stations of the Cross

3pm - Liturgy of the Passion

5pm - Maria Desolata

Holy Saturday: 4th April

9am - Morning Prayer

8pm - Easter Vigil

Followed by our Easter Party

Easter Sunday: 5th April

8am - Mass

10am - Sung Mass & Holy Baptism

6pm - Choral Evensong &

Benediction

HE IS RISEN INDEED - ALLELUIA!



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