

PARISH CHURCH OF ST PETER-AD-VINCULA, ROYDON

Is not this the fast that I choose...

Isaiah 58: 6 to 9

A CELTIC EVENING SERVICE FOR LENT 2026

WEEK ONE

*Is not this the fast that I choose:
to loose the bonds of injustice,
to undo the thongs of the yoke,
to let the oppressed go free,
and to break every yoke?*

Music

*Draw on Sweet Night – John Wilbye
The Cambridge Singers, John Rutter*

*In pace in idipsum – Guillaume Bouzignac
Clemens Volkmar, David Erler, Dorothea Wagner,
Georg Finger, Matthias Jung*

*In Thy Kingdom (from the Liturgy)
Kiev Chamber Choir*

*Dominus Vobiscum – Jacob Narverud
Tallgrass Chamber Choir*

Opening Responses

This is the time
when the light fades
and shadows lengthen
and sounds are subdued –
all as God intended.

Amen.

This is the time
when bodies relax
minds unwind,
and tiredness comes –
all as God intended,

Amen.

This is the time
when others greet the morning
while we greet the night
and the world continues to sing,
in all the accents of creation,
a love-song to its Maker.

Blessed be God's Name.

In pace in idipsum

Come, brother Jesus, be our guest,
stay with us for day is ending.

Bring to this place your poverty,
for then we shall be rich.

Bring to this place your pain,

that in sharing it, we may also share your joy.

Bring to this place your understanding of us,

that we may be freed to learn more of you.

Bring to this place your Holy Spirit,

that we and all things may be made new.

With friend, with stranger,
with the unknown and well known ones
be among us tonight,
**for the doors of this house are open,
and the doors of our hearts we leave ajar.**

From Psalm 10

Why, O Lord, do you stand far off?
Why do you hide yourself in times of trouble?
**In arrogance the wicked persecute the poor –
let them be caught in the schemes they have devised.**
For the wicked boast of the desires of their heart,
those greedy for gain curse and renounce the Lord.
**In the pride of their countenance the wicked say,
‘God will not seek it out’;
all their thoughts are, ‘There is no God.’**
Their ways prosper at all times;
Your judgements are on high, out of their sight;
as for their foes, they scoff at them.
**They think in their heart, ‘We shall not be moved;
throughout all generations we shall not meet adversity.’**
But you do see! Indeed you note trouble and grief,
that you may take it into your hands;
**the helpless commit themselves to you;
you have been the helper of the orphan.**
O Lord, you will hear the desire of the meek;
you will strengthen their heart, you will incline your ear
**to do justice for the orphan and the oppressed,
so that those from earth may strike terror no more.**

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

In the world many things happen at night:
people travel, people meet,
people have secret conversations,
people lie awake restless,
people sleep through exhaustion.

And this has always been so;
holy books bear witness to it.
So let us hear a night story from the Bible.

Micah 7: 1 to 4; 7

In Thy Kingdom (from the Liturgy)

Reflection

The Scales of Justice - by Sophie Stanes, CAFOD

Prayers

What if the darkness covers us
and the day around us turns to night?
Darkness is not too dark for God
to whom dark and light are one.

Let us pray.

You never sleep, God.
You are always awake, always watching,
always willing the world and its people
to turn in the right direction.

So tonight, will you comfort those who cannot sleep
because of illness,
or worry,
or fear,
or for reasons they cannot understand.

God be near them.

God be near them.

And tonight will you be close to those who wait
patiently or impatiently
for a birth
or a death,
for a visit,
or for the pieces of their life's jigsaw to fit together.

God be near them.

God be near them.

And tonight will you be close to those who wonder,
who look for inspiration,
who long to be with the one or the ones they love,
who hope to recognise the right time
when they can say 'I'm sorry',
or 'I love you',
or even 'Enough is enough'.

God be near them.

God be near them.

And God, listen to us
as we share with you
whatever joys or sorrows,
discoveries or questions
we will take with us into the night.

God be near us,
God be near us.

Into your hands we commit ourselves –
our souls, our bodies, our minds, our futures –
for all things come from you
and are best kept in your care.

Amen.

Nunc Dimittis

**Christ died for us,
so that, whether we wake or sleep,
we might live with him.**

Now, Lord, you let your servant go in peace:

your word has been fulfilled.

My own eyes have seen the salvation

which you have prepared in the sight of every people;

A light to reveal you to the nations

and the glory of your people Israel.

Glory to the Father and to the Son,

and to the Holy Spirit;

as it was in the beginning is now

and shall be for ever. Amen.

**Christ died for us,
so that, whether we wake or sleep,
we might live with him.**

Closing Responses

For the day now done
thanks be to God.

For the rest before us
thanks be to God.

Because God never sleeps
so that we can,
thanks be to God.

But before the day is done,
let God's holy name be praised;
and let God's people say Amen.
Amen.

Dominus Vobiscum