



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

**Choral Evensong**

**Palm Sunday**

**Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2026**

## 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:

*We KNEEL. A general Confession to be said of the whole Congregation after the Minister.*

**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 they shall say;*

*Minister.* O Lord, open thou our lips.

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

*Minister.* O God, make speed to save us.

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

*We STAND, as the Minister sings;*

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.**

*Minister.* Praise ye the Lord.

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

## OFFICE HYMN

NEH 85



**All**    **Jesu, meek and lowly,  
Saviour pure and holy,  
On thy love relying  
Hear me humbly crying.**

**Prince of life and power,  
My salvation's tower,  
On the Cross I view thee  
Calling sinners to thee.**

**There behold me gazing  
At the sight amazing;  
Bending low before thee,  
Helpless, I adore thee.**

**By thy red wounds streaming,  
With thy life-blood gleaming,  
Blood for sinners flowing,  
Pardon free bestowing;**

**By that fount of blessing,  
Thy dear love expressing,  
All my aching sadness  
Turn thou into gladness.**

**Lord in mercy guide me,  
Be thou e'er beside me;  
In thy ways direct me,  
'Neath thy wings protect me.**

*Words: Henry Collins (1827-1919)*

*Music: C. Ett Cantica Sacra, Munich (1840)*

*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 80**

Hear, O thou Shepherd of Israel, thou that leadest Joseph like a sheep :  
shew thyself also, thou that sittest upon the cherubims.

Before Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasses : stir up thy strength, and come,  
and help us.

Turn us again, O God : shew the light of thy countenance, and we shall be  
whole.

O Lord God of hosts : how long wilt thou be angry with thy people that  
prayeth?

Thou feedest them with the bread of tears : and givest them plenteousness  
of tears to drink.

Thou hast made us a very strife unto our neighbours : and our enemies  
laugh us to scorn.

Turn us again, thou God of hosts : shew the light of thy countenance, and  
we shall be whole.

Thou hast brought a vine out of Egypt : thou hast cast out the heathen, and  
planted it.

Thou madest room for it : and when it had taken root it filled the land.

The hills were covered with the shadow of it : and the boughs thereof were  
like the goodly cedar-trees.

She stretched out her branches unto the sea : and her boughs unto the  
river.

Why hast thou then broken down her hedge : that all they that go by pluck  
off her grapes?

The wild boar out of the wood doth root it up: and the wild beasts of the  
field devour it.

Turn thee again, thou God of hosts, look down from heaven : behold, and visit this vine;

And the place of the vineyard that thy right hand hath planted : and the branch that thou madest so strong for thyself.

It is burnt with fire, and cut down : and they shall perish at the rebuke of thy countenance.

Let thy hand be upon the man of thy right hand : and upon the son of man, whom thou madest so strong for thine own self.

And so will not we go back from thee : O let us live, and we shall call upon thy Name.

Turn us again, O Lord God of hosts : shew the light of thy countenance, and we shall be whole.

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.

*We SIT. Then a Lesson of the Old Testament, as it is appointed.*

Isaiah 5:1-7

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

## **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.

*We SIT. Then a Lesson of the New Testament, as it is appointed.*

Matthew 21:33 – end

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

## **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.

*We STAND. Then shall be said or sung the Apostles' Creed, by the Minister.*

## 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.

*Choir.* **And with thy spirit.**

*Minister.* Let us pray.

*Choir.* **Lord, have mercy upon us.**

**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 Minister standing up shall say,*

*Minister.* O Lord, shew thy mercy upon us.

*Choir.* **And grant us thy salvation.**

*Minister.* O Lord, save the King.

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

*Minister.* Endue thy Ministers with righteousness.

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

*Minister.* O Lord, save thy people.

*Choir.* **And bless thine inheritance.**

*Minister.* Give peace in our time, O Lord.

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

*Minister.* O God, make clean our hearts within us.

*Choir.* **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:*

Almighty and everlasting God, who, of thy tender love towards mankind, hast sent thy Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ, to take upon him our flesh, and to suffer death upon the cross, that all mankind should follow the example of his great humility: Mercifully grant, that we may both follow the example of his patience, and also be made partakers of his resurrection; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. **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.*

The Choir sings – ‘*Adoramus te Christe*’– by Johannes Brahms

*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.*

**CLOSING HYMN**

*NEH 425*



**All    O Love, how deep, how broad, how high!  
How passing thought and fantasy  
That God, the Son of God, should take  
Our mortal form for mortals' sake.**

**He sent no angel to our race  
Of higher or of lower place,  
But wore the robe of human frame,  
And he himself to his world came.**

**For us baptized, for us he bore  
His holy fast, and hungered sore;  
For us temptations sharp he knew;  
For us the tempter overthrew.**

**For us to wicked men betrayed,  
Scourged, mocked, in crown of thorns arrayed;  
For us he bore the cross's death;  
For us at length gave up his breath.**

**For us he rose from death again,  
For us he went on high to reign,  
For us he sent his Spirit here  
To guide, to strengthen, and to cheer.**

**All honour, laud, and glory be,  
O Jesu, Virgin-born, to thee,  
All glory, as is ever meet,  
To Father and to Paraclete. Amen.**

*Words: Tr Benjamin Webb (1819-85)*

*Music: J. H. Schein (1586-1630)*

*If a priest is present, a blessing may be given.*

*Minister.* The Lord be with you.

**Answer. And with thy spirit.**

*Minister.* Let us bless the Lord.

**Answer. Thanks be to God.**

*The Minister and Choir leave during the organ voluntary.*

*A collection is not 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.*

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