



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

Choral Evensong

**The Fourth Sunday
of Lent**

Sunday 15th 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 Minister shall read the following collect:

GRANT, we beseech thee, merciful Lord, to thy faithful people pardon and peace; that they may be cleansed from all their sins, and serve thee with a quiet mind; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Then the Minister shall say the Lord's Prayer: the people repeating it with them.

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 69



**All Lord, in this thy mercy's day,
Ere it pass for ay away,
On our knees we fall and pray.**

**Lord, on us thy Spirit pour,
Kneeling lowly at the door,
Lest it close for evermore.**

**By thy night of agony,
By thy supplicating cry,
By thy willingness to die.**

**By thy tears of bitter woe,
For Jerusalem below,
Let us not thy love forgo.**

**Grant us 'neath thy wings a place,
Lest we lose the day of grace,
Ere we shall behold thy face.**

Words: Isaac Williams (1802-65)

Music: W. H. Monk (1823-89)

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 31:1–16

In thee, O Lord, have I put my trust : let me never be put to confusion,
deliver me in thy righteousness.

Bow down thine ear to me : make haste to deliver me.

And be thou my strong rock, and house of defence : that thou mayest save me.

For thou art my strong rock, and my castle : be thou also my guide, and lead me for thy Name's sake.

Draw me out of the net that they have laid privily for me : for thou art my strength.

Into thy hands I commend my spirit : for thou hast redeemed me, O Lord, thou God of truth.

I have hated them that hold of superstitious vanities : and my trust hath been in the Lord.

I will be glad and rejoice in thy mercy : for thou hast considered my trouble, and hast known my soul in adversities.

Thou hast not shut me up into the hand of the enemy : but hast set my feet in a large room.

Have mercy upon me, O Lord, for I am in trouble : and mine eye is consumed for very heaviness; yea, my soul and my body.

For my life is waxen old with heaviness : and my years with mourning.

My strength faileth me, because of mine iniquity : and my bones are consumed.

I became a reproof among all mine enemies, but especially among my neighbours : and they of mine acquaintance were afraid of me; and they that did see me without conveyed themselves from me.

I am clean forgotten, as a dead man out of mind : I am become like a broken vessel.

For I have heard the blasphemy of the multitude : and fear is on every side, while they conspire together against me, and take their counsel to take away my life.

But my hope hath been in thee, O Lord : I have said, Thou art my 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.

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

Micah 7

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

MAGNIFICAT

Music by John Bertalot arr. Brian Lynn

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.

James 5

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

NUNC DIMITTIS

Music by John Bertalot arr. Brian Lynn

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:

Grant, we beseech thee, Almighty God, that we, who for our evil deeds do worthily deserve to be punished, by the comfort of thy grace may mercifully be relieved; through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. **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 – ‘*Let my complaint*’ – by Thomas Morley

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.**

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 251



**All Sun of my soul, thou Saviour dear,
It is not night if thou be near:
O may no earth-born cloud arise
To hide thee from thy servant's eyes.**

**When the soft dews of kindly sleep
My weary eyelids gently steep,
Be my last thought, how sweet to rest
For ever on my Saviour's breast.**

**Abide with me from morn till eve,
For without thee I cannot live;
Abide with me when night is nigh,
For without thee I dare not die.**

**If some poor wand'ring child of thine
Have spurned to-day the voice divine,
Now, Lord, the gracious work begin;
Let him no more lie down in sin.**

**Watch by the sick; enrich the poor
With blessings from thy boundless store;
Be every mourner's sleep to-night
Like infant's slumbers, pure and light.**

**Come near and bless us when we wake,
Ere through the world our way we take;
Till in the ocean of thy love
We lose ourselves in heaven above.**

Words: John Keble (1792-1866)
Music: Herbert Oakley (1830-1903)

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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