



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

The Order of Mass

The Fifth Sunday  
of Easter

Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 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*

*Please STAND when the bell rings. At 08.00, the sacred minister STANDS before the image of Our Lady to greet her in the words of the Regina Coeli.*

**Joy to thee, O Queen of Heaven, alleluia.  
He whom thou wast meet to bear, alleluia.  
As he promised, hath arisen, alleluia.  
Pour for us to God thy prayer, alleluia.**

Rejoice and be glad, O Virgin Mary, alleluia.  
**For the Lord has risen indeed, alleluia.**

O God, by the Resurrection of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, you have brought joy to the whole world: grant that, by the help of his mother, the Virgin Mary, we may obtain the joys of everlasting life; through Christ the Lord. **Amen**

*At 10.00 we sing the entrance hymn as the sacred ministers enter and the altar is censed.*

## **Processional Hymns**

*NEH 103*



**All Alleluya! Alleluya!  
Hearts to heaven and voices raise;  
Sing to God a hymn of gladness,  
Sing to God a hymn of praise;  
He who on the Cross a victim  
For the world's salvation bled,  
Jesus Christ, the King of glory,  
Now is risen from the dead.**

**Christ is risen, Christ the first-fruits  
Of the holy harvest field,  
Which will all its full abundance  
At his second coming yield;  
Then the golden ears of harvest  
Will their heads before him wave,  
Ripened by his glorious sunshine  
From the furrows of the grave.**

**Christ is risen, we are risen;  
Shed upon us heavenly grace,  
Rain, and dew, and gleams of glory  
From the brightness of thy face;  
That we, Lord, with hearts in heaven  
Here on earth may fruitful be,  
And by angel-hands be gathered,  
And be ever safe with thee.**

**Alleluya! Alleluya!  
Glory be to God on high;  
To the Father, and the Saviour,  
Who has gained the victory;  
Glory to the Holy Spirit,  
Fount of love and sanctity;  
Alleluya! Alleluya!  
To the Triune Majesty.**

*Words: Christopher Wordsworth (1807-85)*

*Music: Arthur Sullivan (1842-1900)*

## **The Gathering**

*We stay **STANDING** for the gathering, prayers of penitence, Gloria and collect.*

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

**Amen.**

## The Greeting

The Lord be with you  
**and also with you.**

Alleluia. Christ is risen.  
**He is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

*The priest welcomes us and introduces the service.*

## Prayers of Penitence

*The priest introduces the prayers of penitence.*

**Almighty God, our heavenly Father, we have sinned against you and against our neighbour in thought and word and deed, through negligence, through weakness, through our own deliberate fault. We are truly sorry and repent of all our sins. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, who died for us, forgive us all that is past and grant that we may serve you in newness of life to the glory of your name. Amen.**

## Absolution

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy upon you ✠ pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in life eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy**

Christ, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy**

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy**

Kyrie eleison

**Kyrie eleison**

Christe eleison

**Christe eleison**

Kyrie eleison

**Kyrie eleison**

## Gloria in Excelsis

**Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth. Lord God, heavenly King, Almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord, Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father, receive our prayer.**

**For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

## The Collect

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

Almighty God, who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ have overcome death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life: grant that, as by your grace going before us you put into our minds good desires, so by your continual help we may bring them to good effect; through Jesus Christ our risen 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 readings.*

*Acts 7:55 - end*

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

But filled with the Holy Spirit, he gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. 'Look,' he said, 'I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!' But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the



God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in scripture: 'See, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious; and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.' To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe, 'The stone that the builders rejected has become the very head of the corner', and 'A stone that makes them stumble, and a rock that makes them fall.' They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvellous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Gospel Reading

*We STAND to greet the gospel. At 10.00, the choir leads the acclamation.*

David Rooke adapted from Plainchant



Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia.

Alleluia, alleluia, (alleluia. **Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**)

I am the first and the last, says the Lord, and the living one; I was dead, and behold I am alive for evermore. **Alleluia, (alleluia, alleluia.)**

The Lord be with you

**And also with you.**

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

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

‘Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father’s house there are many dwelling-places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going.’ Thomas said to him, ‘Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?’ Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.’ Philip said to him, ‘Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.’ Jesus said to him, ‘Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, “Show us the Father”? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**The Sermon**

*We SIT as the sermon is preached.*

*We STAND to proclaim the Creed.*

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,**

*We BOW as we proclaim the Mystery of the Incarnation.*

**WAS INCARNATE FROM THE HOLY SPIRIT  
AND THE VIRGIN MARY AND WAS MADE MAN.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come.**

**Amen.**

## Prayers of Intercession – Universal Prayers

*We KNEEL or sit for the prayers of intercession, after each petition, we respond:*

Lord in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

*Or*

Lord hear us,  
**Lord graciously hear us.**

*The intercessor may conclude the prayer for the faithful departed with;*

Rest eternal grant to them O Lord  
**And let light perpetual shine upon them.**

May they rest in peace.  
**Amen.**

The prayers may conclude with a collect to which all respond:  
**Amen.**

Or, by us saying together.

Merciful Father, **accept these prayers for the sake of your Son,  
our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

## The Peace

*We STAND as the Celebrant introduces the Peace:*

The risen Christ came and stood among his disciples and said, 'Peace be with you.' Then were they glad when they saw the Lord. Alleluia.

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

*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 333



**All    All my hope on God is founded;  
He doth still my trust renew.  
Me through change and chance he guideth,  
Only good and only true.  
God unknown,  
He alone  
Calls my heart to be his own.**

**Pride of man and earthly glory,  
Sword and crown betray his trust;  
What with care and toil he buildeth,  
Tower and temple, fall to dust  
But God's power,  
Hour by hour,  
Is my temple and my tower.**

**God's great goodness aye endureth,  
Deep his wisdom, passing thought:  
Splendour, light and life attend him,  
Beauty springeth out of naught.  
Evermore  
From his store  
New-born worlds rise and adore.**

**Daily doth th'Almighty giver  
Bounteous gifts on us bestow;  
His desire our soul delighteth,  
Pleasure leads us where we go.  
Love doth stand  
At his hand;  
Joy doth wait on his command.**

**Still from man to God eternal  
Sacrifice of praise be done,  
High above all praises praising  
For the gift of Christ his Son.  
Christ doth call  
One and all:  
Ye who follow shall not fall.**

*Words: J. Neander, (1650-80)*

*Music: Herbert Howells, (1892-1983)*

## **The Preparation of the Altar**

*At 08.00, as the celebrant takes the bread and the wine, we pray;*

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation: through your goodness we have this bread to offer, which earth has given and human hands have made. It will become for us the bread of life. **Blessed be God for ever.**

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation: through your goodness we have this wine to offer, fruit of the vine and work of human hands. It will become our spiritual drink. **Blessed be God for ever.**

*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.**

O God, who by the wonderful exchange effected in this sacrifice have made us partakers of the one supreme Godhead, grant, we pray, that, as we have come to know your truth, we may make it ours by a worthy way of life. 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, our duty and our joy,  
always and everywhere to give you thanks,  
almighty and eternal Father,  
and in these days of Easter  
to celebrate with joyful hearts  
the memory of your wonderful works.

For by the mystery of his passion  
Jesus Christ, your risen Son,  
has conquered the powers of death and hell  
and restored in men and women the image of your glory.

He has placed them once more in paradise  
and opened to them the gate of life eternal.  
And so, in the joy of this Passover,  
earth and heaven resound with gladness,  
while angels and archangels and the powers of all creation  
sing for ever the hymn of your glory.

*We remain STANDING as we say the Sanctus and the Benedictus:*

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and  
earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.**

**✠ Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in  
the highest**

*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:*

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died:**

**Christ is risen:**

**Christ will come again.**

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 pray:

**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. The response after receiving a blessing is **Amen.***

## **Anthem**

The Choir sing – ‘How lovely are thy dwellings’ – *by Johannes Brahms (1833–1897)*

*After the anthem, we remain SEATED to sing the communion hymn.*

## Communion Hymn

NEH 477



**All**    **Ye that know the Lord is gracious,**  
**Ye for whom a Corner-stone**  
**Stands, of God elect and precious,**  
**Laid that ye may build thereon,**  
**See that on that sure foundation**  
**Ye a living temple raise,**  
**Towers that may tell forth salvation,**  
**Walls that may re-echo praise.**

**Living stones, by God appointed**  
**Each to his allotted place,**  
**Kings and priests, by God anointed,**  
**Shall ye not declare his grace?**  
**Ye, a royal generation,**  
**Tell the tidings of your birth,**  
**Tidings of a new creation**  
**To an old and weary earth.**

**Tell the praise of him who called you**  
**Out of darkness into light,**  
**Broke the fetters that enthralled you,**  
**Gave you freedom, peace and sight:**  
**Tell the tale of sins forgiven,**

**Strength renewed and hope restored,  
Till the earth, in tune with heaven,  
Praise and magnify the Lord.**

*Words: C A Alington (1872-1955)*

*Music: C Hubert H. Parry (1848-1918)*

### **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:*

Eternal God, whose Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life: grant us to walk in his way, to rejoice in his truth, and to share his risen life; who is alive and reigns, now and for ever. **Amen**

**Almighty God, we thank you for feeding us with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ. Through him we offer you our souls and bodies to be a living sacrifice. Send us out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory. 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.**

The God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, make you perfect in every good work to do his will; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, ✠ the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Go in the peace of Christ.

**Thanks be to God.**

*At 08.00, the sacred ministers leave in silence.*

*At 10.00, the sacred ministers gather before the image of Our Lady as we greet her in the words of the Regina Coeli*



**Joy to thee, O Queen of Heaven, alleluia.  
He whom thou wast meet to bear, alleluia.  
As he promised, hath arisen, alleluia.  
Pour for us to God thy prayer, alleluia.**

Rejoice and be glad, O Virgin Mary, alleluia.

**For the Lord has risen indeed, alleluia.**

O God, by the Resurrection of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, you have brought joy to the whole world: grant that, by the help of his mother, the Virgin Mary, we may obtain the joys of everlasting life; through Christ the Lord. **Amen**

*The sacred ministers leave during the final hymn.*

## Recessional Hymn

NEH 485



**All Thy hand, O God, has guided  
Thy flock, from age to age;  
The wondrous tale is written,  
Full clear, on every page;  
Our fathers owned thy goodness,  
And we their deeds record;  
And both of this bear witness,  
One Church, one Faith, one Lord.**

**Thy heralds brought glad tidings  
To greatest, as to least;  
They bade men rise, and hasten  
To share the great King's feast;  
And this was all their teaching,  
In every deed and word,  
To all alike proclaiming  
One Church, one Faith, one Lord.**

**Through many a day of darkness,  
Through many a scene of strife,  
The faithful few fought bravely  
To guard the nation's life.  
Their gospel of redemption,**

**Sin pardoned, man restored,  
Was all in this enfolded,  
One Church, one Faith, one Lord.**

**And we, shall we be faithless?  
Shall hearts fail, hands hang down?  
Shall we evade the conflict,  
And cast away our crown?  
Not so: in God's deep counsels  
Some better thing is stored;  
We will maintain, unflinching,  
One church, one Faith, one Lord.**

**Thy mercy will not fail us,  
Nor leave thy work undone;  
With thy right hand to help us,  
The victory shall be won;  
And then, by men and angels,  
Thy name shall be adored,  
And this shall be their anthem,  
One Church, one Faith, one Lord.**

*Words: Edward Plumptre (1821-91)*

*Music: Basil Harwood (1869-1949)*

Organ voluntary: - A Thornbury Fanfare – *Malcolm Archer*  
(played by *Sam Adams*)

*After the organ voluntary, please make your way through to the hall  
for refreshments*

## 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*

ALMIGHTY God, Father of all mercies, we thine unworthy servants do give thee most humble and hearty thanks for all thy goodness and loving-kindness to us and to all men; [\*particularly to those who desire now to offer up their praises and thanksgivings for thy late mercies vouchsafed unto them.] We bless thee for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all for thine inestimable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ, for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory. And we beseech thee, give us that due sense of all thy mercies, that our hearts may be unfeignedly thankful, and that we shew forth thy praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives; by giving up ourselves to thy service, and by walking before thee in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with thee and the Holy Ghost be all honour and glory, world without end. Amen.

*\*This to be said when any that have been prayed for desire to return praise.*

*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 forever 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*

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