



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

Choral Evensong and
Benediction

The Fifth Sunday
of Easter

Sunday, 3rd May 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 he shall say,

Priest. O Lord, open thou our lips.

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

Priest. O God, make speed to save us.

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

Here, all standing up, the Priest shall say,

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;

Answer. **As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.**

Priest. Praise ye the Lord.

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



All The day draws on with golden light,
 Glad songs go echoing through the height,
 The broad earth lifts an answering cheer,
 And hell makes moan with wailing fear.

For lo, he comes, the mighty King,
 To take from death his power and sting,
 To trample down his gloomy reign,
 And break the weary prisoner's chain.

Enclosed he lay in rocky cell,
 With guard of armèd sentinel;
 But thence returning, strong and free,
 He comes in might of victory.

The sad Apostles mourn him slain,
 Nor hope to see their Lord again,
 When, to their very eyes restored,
 They look upon the risen Lord.

Maker of all, to thee we pray,
 Fulfil in us thy joy today;
 When death assails, grant, Lord, that we
 May share thy Paschal victory.

To thee who, dead, again dost live,
 All glory, Lord, thy people give,
 All glory to the Father be
 And Spirit blest, eternally. *Amen.* *Words: T. A Lacey (1853-1931)*

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 147. 1-12

O praise the Lord, for it is a good thing to sing praises unto our God : yea, a joyful and pleasant thing it is to be thankful.

2 The Lord doth build up Jerusalem : and gather together the out-casts of Israel.

3 He healeth those that are broken in heart : and giveth medicine to heal their sickness.

4 He telleth the number of the stars : and calleth them all by their names.

5 Great is our Lord, and great is his power : yea, and his wisdom is infinite.

6 The Lord setteth up the meek : and bringeth the ungodly down to the ground.

7 O sing unto the Lord with thanksgiving : sing praises upon the harp unto our God;

8 Who covereth the heaven with clouds, and prepareth rain for the earth : and maketh the grass to grow upon the mountains, and herb for the use of men;

9 Who giveth fodder unto the cattle : and feedeth the young ravens that call upon him.

10 He hath no pleasure in the strength of an horse : neither delighteth he in any man's legs.

11 But the Lord's delight is in them that fear him: and put their trust in his mercy.

12 Praise the Lord, O Jerusalem : praise thy God, O Sion.

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.

Zechariah 4:1-10

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.

Revelation 21:1-14

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.

Answer: **And with thy spirit.**

Minister: Let us pray.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Answer: **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,

Priest. O Lord, shew thy mercy upon us.

Answer: **And grant us thy salvation.**

Priest. O Lord, save the King.

Answer: **And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.**

Priest. Endue thy Ministers with righteousness.

Answer: **And make thy chosen people joyful.**

Priest. O Lord, save thy people.

Answer: **And bless thine inheritance.**

Priest. Give peace in our time, O Lord.

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

Priest. O God, make clean our hearts within us.

Answer. **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

O Almighty God, who alone canst order the unruly wills and affections of sinful men; Grant unto thy people, that they may love the thing which thou commandest, and desire that which thou dost promise; that so, among the sundry and manifold changes of the world, our hearts may surely there be fixed, where true joys are to be found; through 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 - 'As water to the thirsty' – by *T. Brian Coleman* arr. *John Barnard*

Followed by this hymn, during which the Altar is prepared for Benediction. Please kneel when the Blessed Sacrament is placed upon the Altar and the bell is rung.



All Jerusalem the golden,
 With milk and honey blest,
 Beneath thy contemplation
 Sink heart and voice opprest.
 I know not, O I know not,
 What social joys are there,
 What radiancy of glory,
 What light beyond compare.

They stand, those halls of Sion,
 Conjubilant with song,
 And bright with many an angel,
 And all the martyr throng;
 The Prince is ever in them,
 The daylight is serene,
 The pastures of the blessed
 Are decked in glorious sheen.

There is the throne of David,
 And there, from care released,
 The song of them that triumph,
 The shout of them that feast;
 And they who, with their Leader,
 Have conquered in the fight,
 For ever and for ever
 Are clad in robes of white.

O sweet and blessed country,
Shall I ever see thy face?
O sweet and blessed country,
Shall I ever win thy grace?
Exult, O dust and ashes!
The Lord shall be thy part:
His only, his for ever,
Thou shalt be, and thou art!

Words: Bernard of Cluny (12th century)

Music: Alexander Ewing (1830–1895)

With the Blessed Sacrament exposed on the Altar we sing this hymn

NEH 307



All Sweet Sacrament divine,
Hid in thine earthly home,
Lo, round thy lowly shrine,
With suppliant hearts we come;
Jesu, to thee our voice we raise
In songs of love and heartfelt praise:
Sweet Sacrament divine.

Sweet Sacrament of peace,
Dear home for every heart,
Where restless yearnings cease

**And sorrows all depart;
There in thine ear all trustfully
We tell our tale of misery:
Sweet Sacrament of peace.**

**Sweet Sacrament of rest,
Ark from the ocean's roar,
Within thy shelter blest
Soon may we reach the shore;
Save us, for still the tempest raves,
Save, lest we sink beneath the waves:
Sweet Sacrament of rest.**

**Sweet Sacrament divine,
Earth's light and jubilee,
In thy far depths doth shine
Thy Godhead's majesty;
Sweet light, so shine on us, we pray
That earthly joys may fade away:
Sweet Sacrament divine.**

Words: Francis Stanfield (1835-1914)

Music: Francis Stanfield (1835-1914)

A period of exposition follows, during which there will be readings and silence, which will conclude with;

Blessed, praised and hallowed be Jesus Christ on His throne of glory.
And in the Most Holy Sacrament of the Altar.

Towards the end of exposition, we sing the following hymn.



A - men.

All Therefore we, before him bending,
This great sacrament revere:
Types and shadows have their ending,
For the newer rite is here;
Faith, our outward sense befriending,
Makes the inward vision clear.

**Glory let us give and blessing
To the Father and the Son,
Honour, might and praise addressing,
While eternal ages run;
Ever too his love confessing,
Who, from both, with both is one. Amen.**

Music: St Thomas Aquinas (1227-74)

Words: J. M. Neale (1818-66)

The priest stands.

Thou gavest them bread from heaven. (Alleluia)
Containing in itself all sweetness. (Alleluia)

Benediction is given.

After benediction, we say the Divine Praises, repeating them after the priest.

**Blessed be God.
Blessed be his Holy Name
Blessed be Jesus Christ, true God and true Man.
Blessed be the Name of Jesus
Blessed be his Most Sacred Heart.**

Blessed be his Most Precious Blood.
Blessed be Jesus in the Most Holy Sacrament of the Altar
Blessed be the Holy Spirit the Paraclete.
Blessed be the great Mother of God, Mary Most Holy.
Blessed be her Holy and Immaculate Conception.
Blessed be her Glorious Assumption.
Blessed be the Name of Mary, Virgin and Mother.
Blessed be Saint Joseph, her spouse most chaste.
Blessed be God in his Angels and in his Saints.

While the Blessed Sacrament is being replaced, we sing the following acclamation three times. STANDING as the bell rings.

Sung three times



Bless - ed and praised be Je - sus Christ, in the most Ho - ly Sa - cra - ment.
Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high est.

Blessed and praised be Jesus Christ, in the Most Holy Sacrament.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest. (x3)

The sacred ministers leave during the organ voluntary.

*Organ voluntary: Fugue in E-flat – Camille Saint-Saens
(played by Alexander Evans)*

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 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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