



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

All Age Mass



The Sixth Sunday of Easter

Sunday 10th 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

STAND when the bell rings. We sing the entrance hymn as the sacred ministers enter, and the altar is censed.

Processional Hymn

NEH 265



All Lord of beauty, thine the splendour
Shown in earth and sky and sea,
Burning sun and moonlight tender,
Hill and river, flower and tree:
Lest we fail our praise to render
Touch our eyes that they may see.

Lord of wisdom, whom obeying
Mighty waters ebb and flow,
While unceasing, undelaying,
Planets on their courses go:
In thy laws thyself displaying,
Teach our minds thyself to know.

Lord of life, alone sustaining
All below and all above,
Lord of love, by whose ordaining
Sun and stars sublimely move:
In our earthly spirits reigning,
Lift our hearts that we may love.

Lord of beauty, bid us own thee,
Lord of truth, our footsteps guide,
Till as Love our hearts enthrone thee,
And, with vision purified,
Lord of all, when all have known thee,
Thou in all art glorified.

Words: C. A. Alington (1872–1955)

Music: Henry Smart (1813-79)

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

Like Mary at the empty tomb,
we fail to grasp the wonder of your presence.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Like the disciples behind locked doors,
we are afraid to be seen as your followers.

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Like Thomas in the upper room,
we are slow to believe.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

May Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life. **Amen.**

Gloria in Excelsis

Cantor

1. Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo - ry to the Fa - ther.

All

Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to the Fa - ther.

Refrain
Cantor

To him be glo-ry for e - ver. *All* To him be glo - ry for e - ver.

Cantor *All*

Al - le - lu - ia, a - men, al - le - lu - ia, a - men, al - le - lu - ia, a - men, al - le - lu - ia, a - men.

2. Glory to God, glory^t to God,
Son of the Father.
Glory to God, glory to God,
Son of the Father.
To him be glory for ever.
To him be glory for ever.
Alleluia, amen.
Alleluia, amen,
alleluia, amen,
alleluia, amen.
3. Glory to God, glory to God,
glory to the Spirit.
Glory to God, glory to God,
glory to the Spirit.
To him be glory for ever.
To him be glory for ever.
Alleluia, amen.
Alleluia, amen,
alleluia, amen,
alleluia, amen.

The Collect

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

God our redeemer, you have delivered us from the power of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of your Son: grant, that as by his death he has recalled us to life, so by his continual presence in us he may raise us to eternal joy; through Jesus Christ your Son our 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 first readings.

Acts 17: 22-31

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, 'Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, "To an unknown god." What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. For "In him we live and move and have our being"; as even some of your own poets have said, "For we too are his offspring." Since we are God's offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will have

the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.’

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

1 Peter 3:13 - end

A reading from the first letter of Peter.

Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defence to anyone who demands from you an account of the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and reverence. Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God’s will, than to suffer for doing evil. For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight people, were saved through water. And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

We STAND to greet the gospel.

Gospel Reading

David Rooke adapted from Plainchant



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.

John 14: 15 - 21

‘If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you for ever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you. ‘I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.’

This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

The Sermon

We SIT for the sermon.

The Affirmation of Faith

Let us declare our faith in God.

We believe in God the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named.

We believe in God the Son, who lives in our hearts through faith, and fills us with his love.

We believe in God the Holy Spirit, who strengthens us with power from on high.

**We believe in one God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession – Universal Prayers

We SIT or KNEEL 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

The Offertory

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.

The Offertory Hymn

Here I am, Lord



All I, the Lord of sea and sky,
I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in dark and sin
my hand will save.
I, who made the stars of night,
I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them?
Whom shall I send?

*Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.*

I, the Lord of snow and rain,
I have borne my people's pain.
I have wept for love of them.
They turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone,
give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my words to them.
Whom shall I send?

Here I am, Lord.

I, the Lord of wind and flame,
I will send the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them.
My hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide
till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to them.
Whom shall I send?

Here I am, Lord.

The Preparation of the Altar

STAND 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.

May our prayers rise up to you, O Lord, together with the sacrificial offerings, so that, purified by your graciousness, we may be conformed to the mysteries of your mighty love. 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 sing the Sanctus and the Benedictus:



**Holy, most holy, all holy the Lord,
in power and wisdom for ever adored.
The earth and the heavens are full of your love;
our joyful hosannas re-echo above.**

**Blessèd, most blessèd, all blessèd is he
whose life makes us whole, and whose death sets us free:
who comes in the name of the Father of light,
let endless hosannas resound in the height.**

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:

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.**

The choir 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 – ‘Alleluia’ – by *William Boyce*

Communion

We STAND as the priest leads the post-communion prayers.

God our Father, whose Son Jesus Christ gives the water of eternal life: may we thirst for you, the spring of life and source of goodness, through him 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 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.

The Mass is ended, go in the peace of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

The sacred ministers leave during the final hymn.

Recessional Hymn

Love is his word



All **Love is his word, love is his way,
Feasting with all, fasting alone,
Living and dying, rising again;
Love, only love, is his way.**
Refrain

***Richer than gold is the love of my Lord,
Better than splendour and wealth.***

**Love is his way, love is his mark,
Sharing the last Passover feast,
Christ at the table, host to the twelve;
Love, only love, is his mark. *Refrain***

**Love is his mark, love is his sign,
Bread for our strength, wine for our joy,
'This is my body, this is my blood.'
Love, only love, is his sign. *Refrain***

**Love is his sign, love is his news,
'Do this,' he said, 'lest you forget
all my deep sorrow, all my dear blood.'
Love, only love, is his news. *Refrain***

**Love is his news, love is his name,
We are his own, chosen and called,
Sisters and brothers, parents and kin.
Love, only love, is his name. *Refrain***

**Love is his name, love is his law,
Hear his command, all who are his:
'Love one another; I have loved you.'
Love, only love, is his law. *Refrain***

**Love is his law, love is his word:
Love of the Lord, Father and Word,
Love of the Spirit, God ever one;
Love, only love, is his mark. *Refrain***

Words: Luke Connaughton (1917-79)

Music: Cresswell Anthony Milner (1925-2002)

A warm invitation to stay for refreshments after the 10.00 Sung Mass. Please make your way to the back of the church, following the directions of the sidespersons.

Organ Voluntary: Tuba Tune – *Craig Sellar Lang (1891–1971)*
(*Played by Sam Adams*)

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