



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

The Order of Mass

The Ascension
of the Lord

Thursday 14th 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 begins.

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

Processional Hymn
NEH 130 (i)



All Hail the day that sees him rise Alleluya!
Glorious to his native skies; Alleluya!
Christ, awhile to mortals given, Alleluya!
Enters now the highest heaven! Alleluya!

There the glorious triumph waits; Alleluya!,
Lift your heads, eternal gates! Alleluya!
Christ hath vanquished death and sin; Alleluya!
Take the King of glory in. Alleluya!

*See! the heaven its Lord receives, Alleluya!
Yet he loves the earth he leaves: Alleluya!
Though returning to his throne, Alleluya!
Still he calls mankind his own. Alleluya!

Lord, though parted from our sight, Alleluya!
Far above yon azure height, Alleluya!
Grant our hearts may thither rise, Alleluya!
Seeking thee beyond the skies. Alleluya!

There we shall with thee remain, Alleluya!
Partners of thine endless reign; Alleluya!
There thy face unclouded see, Alleluya!
Find our heaven of heavens in thee. Alleluya!

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-88)

Music: Thomas Coterill (1779-1823)

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

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

Not too fast *mf*

Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and
 peace to his peo-ple on earth. Lord God, heaven-ly
 King, al-might-ty God and Fa-ther, we
 wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your
 glo-ry. *mp* Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly
 Son of the Fath-er, Lord God, Lamb of God, you
 take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on
 us; you are sea-ted at the right hand of the Fath-er:
 re-ceive our prayer. For you a-lone are the
 Ho-ly One. You a-lone are the Lord, You a-
 lone are the Most High Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spi-rit,
 In the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther. A-men.

Slightly faster

The Collect

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

Grant, we pray, almighty God, that as we believe your only-begotten Son our Lord Jesus Christ to have ascended into the heavens, so we in heart and mind may also ascend and with him continually dwell; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

We SIT for the first readings.

Acts 1:1-11

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. 'This,' he said, 'is what you have heard from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.' So when they had come together, they asked him, 'Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.' When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up towards heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, 'Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up towards heaven?

This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.'

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 47

Please listen to the choir and join in the singing of the response.



David Rooke

God goes up with shouts of Joy.

The image shows a musical staff in G major (one sharp) and 6/8 time. The melody is: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), B4-A4 (beamed eighth notes), G4 (quarter), F#4 (quarter), E4 (half). The lyrics are written below the notes: 'God goes up with shouts of Joy.'

R God goes up with shouts of joy

Clap your hands, all you peoples; shout to God with a cry of joy. For the Lord Most High is to be feared; he is the great king over all the earth. R

He subdues the peoples under us, and the nations under our feet. He chooses our inheritance for us, the pride of Jacob whom he loves. R

God has gone up with a shout, the Lord with the sound of the ram's-horn. Sing praises to God, sing praises; sing praises to our king, sing praises. R

For God is king of all the earth; sing praises with all your skill. God reigns over the nations; God sits upon his holy throne. R

The nobles of the peoples have gathered together with the people of the God of Abraham. The rulers of the earth belong to God, and he is highly exalted. R

Ephesians 1:15-end

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Ephesians.

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love towards all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ,

Luke 24:44-53

Jesus said to the disciples, 'These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you – that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.' Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, 'Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.' Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. And they worshipped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

(Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.)

The Sermon

We SIT for the sermon.

The Creed

STAND to recite 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 SIT or KNEEL for the prayers of intercession.

Let us join our prayers with those of our Saviour Christ, seeking the Father's blessing and the gifts of the Spirit. Jesus Christ, great high priest, living for ever to intercede for us, pray for the Church, your broken body in the world ...

Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

Jesus Christ, king of righteousness, enthroned at the right hand of the majesty on high, pray for the world, and make it subject to your gentle rule ...

Lord, hear us. Lord, graciously hear us.

Jesus Christ, Son of Man, drawing humanity into the life of God, pray for your brothers and sisters in need, distress or sorrow ...

Lord, hear us. Lord, graciously hear us.

Jesus Christ, pioneer of our salvation, bringing us to glory through your death and resurrection, surround with your saints and angels those who have died trusting your promises ...

Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

Jesus Christ, Lord over all things, ascended far above the heavens and filling the universe, pray for us who receive the gifts you give us for work in your service ...

Lord, hear us. Lord, graciously hear us.

Jesus Christ, keep the Church in the unity of the Spirit and in the bond of peace, and bring the whole created order to worship at your feet; for you are alive and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

The Peace

We STAND as the Celebrant introduces the Peace:

Jesus says: 'Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. If you love me, rejoice because I am going to the Father'. 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

NEH 443



All REJOICE, the Lord is King,
Your Lord and King adore;
Mortals, give thanks and sing,
And triumph evermore:
Refrain:
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice;
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice.

Jesus, the Saviour, reigns,
The God of truth and love;
When he had purged our stains,
He took his seat above: [Refrain]

His kingdom cannot fail;
He rules o'er earth and heaven;
The keys of death and hell
Are to our Jesus given: [Refrain]

He sits at God's right hand
Till all his foes submit,
And bow to his command,
And fall beneath his feet:

Refrain:

Lift up your heart, lift up your voice;

Rejoice, again I say, rejoice.

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-88)

Music: G. F. Handel, 1685-1759

The Choir sing – Coelos ascendit hodie – Stanford

The Preparation of the Altar

We 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.

We offer sacrifice now in supplication, O Lord, to honour the wondrous Ascension of your Son: grant, we pray, that through this most holy exchange we, too, may rise up to the heavenly realms. 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 and good,
our duty and our joy,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
holy Father, almighty and eternal God,
through Jesus Christ the King of glory.
Born of a woman,
he came to the rescue of our human race.
Dying for us,
he trampled death and conquered sin.
By the glory of his resurrection
he opened the way to life eternal
and by his ascension,
gave us the sure hope
that where he is we may also be.
Therefore the universe resounds with Easter joy
and with choirs of angels we sing for ever to your praise:

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:

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 – ‘God is gone up’ – *by Croft*

We remain SEATED as we sing the following hymn.

Communion Hymn

NEH 271



All Alleluya, sing to Jesus,
His the scepter, his the throne;
Alleluya, his the triumph,
His the victory alone:
Hark the songs of peaceful Sion
Thunder like a mighty flood;
Jesus out of every nation,
Hath redeemed us by his blood.

Alleluya, not as orphans
Are we left in sorrow now;
Alleluya, he is near us,
Faith believes, nor questions how;
Though the cloud from sight received him
When the forty days were o'er,
Shall our hearts forget his promise,
'I am with you evermore'?

Alleluya, Bread of Angels,
Thou on earth our food, our stay;
Alleluya, here the sinful
Flee to thee from day to day;
Intercessor, Friend of sinners,
Earth's Redeemer, plead for me,
Where the songs of all the sinless
Sweep across the crystal sea.

Alleluya, King eternal,
Thee the Lord of lords we own;
Alleluya, born of Mary,
Earth thy footstool, heaven thy throne:
Thou within the veil hast entered,
Robed in flesh, our great High Priest;
Thou on earth both Priest and Victim
In the Eucharistic Feast.

Words: W Chatterton Dix (1837-98)

Music: Richard Huw Pritchard (1811-87)

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

STAND ready for the priest to say or sing the post-communion prayer:

God our Father, you have raised our humanity in Christ and have fed us with the bread of heaven: mercifully grant that, nourished with such spiritual

blessings, we may set our hearts in the heavenly places; through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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.

Blessing and dismissal

We STAND for the final blessing and dismissal

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Bow your heads and pray for God's blessing.

God the Father, who has given to his Son the name above every name, strengthen you to proclaim Christ Jesus as Lord.

Amen.

God the Son, who is our great high priest, passed into the heavens, plead for you at the right hand of the Father.

Amen.

God the Holy Spirit, who pours out his abundant gifts upon the Church, make you faithful servants of Christ our King.

Amen.

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

NEH 613



All Christ triumphant, ever reigning,
Saviour, Master, King!
Lord of heaven, our lives sustaining,
hear us as we sing:

Refrain:

*Yours the glory and the crown,
the high renown, the eternal name.*

Word incarnate, truth revealing,
Son of Man on earth!
power and majesty concealing
by your humble birth: [Refrain]

Suffering servant, scorned, ill-treated,
victim crucified!
death is through the cross defeated,
sinners justified: [Refrain]

Priestly king, enthroned for ever
high in heaven above!
sin and death and hell shall never
stifle hymns of love: [Refrain]

So, our hearts and voices raising
through the ages long,
ceaselessly upon you gazing,
this shall be our song:

Refrain:

*Yours the glory and the crown,
the high renown, the eternal name.*

Words: Michael Saward (b.1932)

Music: John Barnard, b. 1948

Organ Voluntary: Heut' triumphher BWV 630 — J. S. Bach
(played by Alexander Evans)

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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