St Thomas of Canterbury, the Parish Church for Brentwood

Choral Evensong & Benediction

Christ The King

Sunday 22nd November 2026

The Order for Evening Prayer Daily throughout the year

Please stand as the sacred ministers enter:

Introit: Lift up your heads. *by William Mathias*

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:

A general Confession to be said of the whole Congregation after the Minister, all kneeling.

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.**
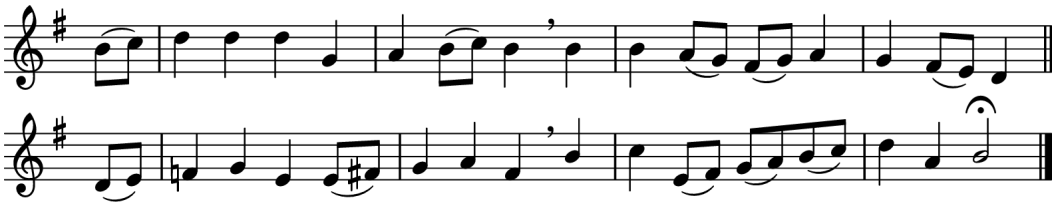
Then the Minister shall kneel, and say the Lord's Prayer: the people also kneeling, and repeating it with him.

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.**

OFFICE HYMN



The Lord is King! lift up thy voice,
O earth, and all ye heavens, rejoice;
from world to world the joy shall ring,
'The Lord omnipotent is King!'

The Lord is King! who then shall dare
resist his will, distrust his care,
or murmur at his wise decrees,
or doubt his royal promises?

He reigns! ye saints, exalt your strains;
your God is King, your Father reigns;
and he is at the Father's side,
the Man of love, the Crucified.

Alike pervaded by his eye
all parts of his dominion lie:
this world of ours and worlds unseen,
and thin the boundary between!

One Lord one empire all secures;
he reigns, and life and death are yours;
through earth and heaven one song shall ring,
'The Lord omnipotent is King!'

Words: Josiah Conder (1836)
Music: Bertram Luard-Selby (1853–1918)

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 93

The Lord is King, and hath put on glorious apparel : the Lord hath put on his apparel, and girded himself with strength.

He hath made the round world so sure : that it cannot be moved.

Ever since the world began hath thy seat been prepared : thou art from everlasting.

The floods are risen, O Lord, the floods have lift up their voice : the floods lift up their waves.

The waves of the sea are mighty, and rage horribly : but yet the Lord, who dwelleth on high, is mightier.

Thy testimonies, O Lord, are very sure : holiness becometh thine house 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.

Then a Lesson of the Old Testament, as is appointed. (Sit)

2 Samuel 23:1-7

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

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.

Then a Lesson of the New Testament, as it is appointed. (Sit)

Matthew 28:16 - end

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

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.

Then shall be said or sung the Apostles' Creed, by the Minister and the people standing.

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 Priest 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:

Eternal Father, whose Son Jesus Christ ascended to the throne of heaven that he might rule over all things as Lord and King: keep the Church in the unity of the Spirit and in the bond of peace, and bring the whole created order to worship at his feet; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **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
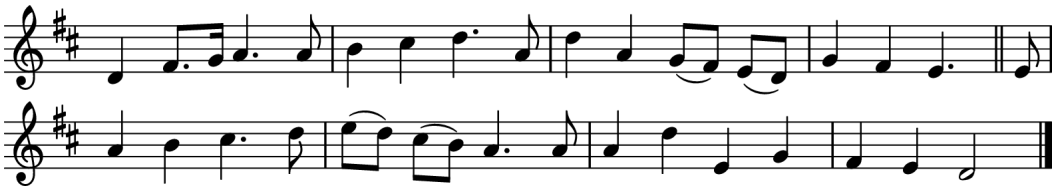
LIGHTEN our darkness, we beseech thee, O Lord; and by thy great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night; for the love of thy only Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

In Quires and Places where they sing here followeth the Anthem.

The Lord is King – *Boyce*

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.

NEH 388



Jesus shall reign where'er the sun
Does his successive journeys run;
His kingdom stretch from shore to shore,
Till moons shall wax and wane no more.

People and realms of every tongue
Dwell on his love with sweetest song,
And infant voices shall proclaim
Their early blessings on his name.
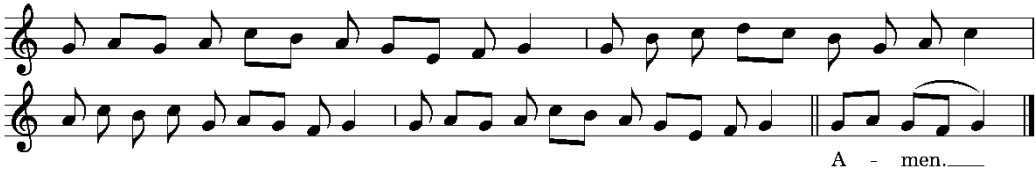
Blessings abound where'er he reigns;
The prisoner leaps to lose his chains;
The weary find eternal rest,
And all the sons of want are blest.

Let every creature rise and bring
Peculiar honours to our King;
Angels descend with songs again,
And earth repeat the long Amen.

Isaac Watts (1674-1748)

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

NEH 269a



O saving Victim, opening wide
The gate of heaven to man below;
Our foes press hard on every side,
Thine aid supply, thy strength bestow.
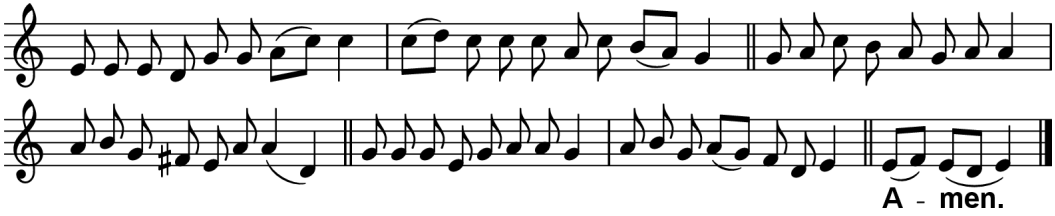
All praise and thanks to thee ascend
For evermore, blest One in Three;
O grant us life that shall not end,
In our true native land with thee. Amen.

Words: *St Thomas Aquinas, tr. J. M. Neale*

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.



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.

St Thomas Aquinas (1227-74)

The priest stands.

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

The priest then sings this collect, or another.

O God, in a wonderful sacrament, you have left us a memorial of your passion: grant that we may so venerate the sacred mysteries of your Body and Blood, that we may ever perceive within ourselves the fruit of your redemption, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. **Amen.**
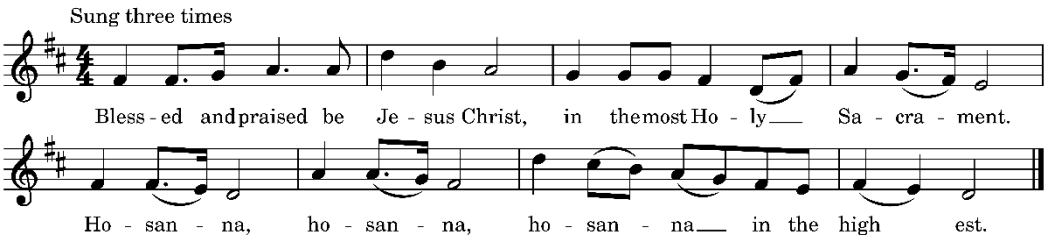
Benediction is given.

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.

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: Crown Imperial - Walton

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 o 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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