

First hymn:

Forty days and forty nights
thou wast fasting in the wild;
forty days and forty nights
tempted, and yet undefiled:

sunbeams scorching all the day;
chilly dew-drops nightly shed;
prowling beasts about thy way;
stones thy pillow, earth thy bed.

Let us thine endurance share,
and awhile from joys abstain,
with thee watching unto prayer,
Strong with thee to suffer pain

And if Satan, vexing sore,
flesh or spirit should assail,
thou, his vanquisher before,
grant we may not faint nor fail.

So shall we have peace divine;
holier gladness ours shall be;
round us too shall angels shine,
such as ministered to thee.

Keep, O keep us, Saviour dear,
ever constant by thy side;
that with thee we may appear
at the eternal Eastertide.

G H Smyttan 1822-7 Music: Aus der Tiefe

The Choir sing verses from Psalm 32— we all sign the response

Forgive me, O Lord, the guilt of my sin

Offertory hymn:

O Jesus I have promised to serve thee to the end;
be thou forever near me, my Master and my friend:
I shall not fear the battle if thou art by my side,
nor wander from the pathway if thou wilt be my guide.

O let me feel thee near me, the world is ever near;
I see the sights that dazzle, the tempting sounds I hear;
my foes are ever near me, around me and within;
but, Jesus, draw thou nearer, and shield my soul from sin.

O let me hear thee speaking in accents clear and still,
above the storms of passion, the murmurs of self-will;

O speak to reassure me, to hasten or control;

○ speak and make me listen, thou guardian of my soul.

○ Jesus, thou hast promised to all who follow thee,
that where thou art in glory there shall thy servant be;
and, Jesus, I have promised to serve thee to the end:

○ give me grace to follow, my Master and my friend.

○ let me see thy footmarks and in them plant mine own;
my hope to follow duly is in thy strength alone:

○ guide me, call me, draw me, uphold me to the end;
and then in heaven receive me, my Saviour and my friend.

J.E. Bode (1816-1874)

Wolvercote

Music:

Communion Hymn

○ happy band of pilgrims,
if onward ye will tread
with Jesus as your fellow,
to Jesus as your head!

○ happy if ye labour
as Jesus did for men;
○ happy if ye hunger
as Jesus hungered then!

The trials that beset you,
the sorrows ye endure,
the manifold temptations
that death alone can cure.

What are they but his jewels
of right celestial worth?
What are they but the ladder
set up to heaven on earth?

○ happy band of pilgrims,
look upward to the skies,
where such a light affliction
shall win you such a prize!

J.M. Neale 1818-66 Music: Knecht

Final Hymn

Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us
o'er the world's tempestuous sea;
guard us, guide us, keep us, feed us,
Spirit of our God, descending,
fill our hearts with heavenly joy,
love with every passion blending,
pleasure that can never cloy:
thus provided, pardoned, guided,
nothing can our peace destroy.

James Edmeston 1791-1867 Music: Mannheim

for we have no help but thee;
yet possessing every blessing,
if our God our Father be.

Saviour, breathe forgiveness o'er us:
all our weakness thou dost know;
thou didst tread this earth before us,
thou didst feel its keenest woe;
lone and dreary, faint and weary,
through the desert thou didst go.