



The Church of St Thomas of Canterbury

Wilbury, Letchworth Garden City

***A service of thanksgiving for those who
have died***

Welcome to our Sunday worship. To follow is a service of Holy Communion and Thanksgiving, as we come together today to remember those we have known and loved who have died. We come seeking to learn of God's love and to open our lives to the help and strength that he can give us as we continue on the journey of life without them. We pray for ourselves and all who mourn that they would be comforted.

Flowers

Please place your flowers in the vases.
During the service the flowers will be placed
on the Altar.

Welcome – we greet each other in the Lord's name

Hymn

Minister Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

All **And also with you.**

Opening prayer

Minister Eternal God and Father, we praise you that
you have made people to share life together
and to reflect your glory in the world. We
thank you now for those whom we come to
remember today, for all that we saw in your
goodness and love in their lives and for all that
they have meant to us. As we too journey
towards death may we do so in the company
of Jesus, who came to share our life that we
might share the life of eternity. To him be
glory with you and the Holy Spirit for ever and
ever.

All **Amen.**

Preparation – we prepare our hearts to worship

Minister We meet today to remember those we have
known and loved who have died, to renew our

trust and confidence in Christ, and to pray that together we may be one in him, through whom we offer our praises to the Father.

Minister: As a father cares for his children:

All: so the Lord cares for those who fear him.

Minister: For he himself knows whereof we are made

All: he remembers we are but dust.

Minister: Our days are like the grass:

All: we flourish like a flower of the field.

Minister: When the wind goes over it, it is gone

All: and its place shall know it no more.

Minister: But the merciful goodness of the Lord endures for ever on those who fear him:

The Collect *we keep silence as the minister prays the Collect, the prayer of the day*

The Ministry of the Word *we proclaim and respond to the word of God*

We will hear from the Bible and at the end the reader will say 'This is the word of the Lord' and we will respond **'Thanks be to God'.**

Hymn

Minister *announces the Gospel*

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to...

All **Glory to you, O Lord.**

At the end:

Minister This is the Gospel of Christ

All **Praise to you, O Christ.**

The Sermon – *A short reflection on the days readings*

Affirmation of Faith

Minister Let us affirm the good news we have received, in which we stand, through which we are saved and which we hand on to others.

All **Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures; he was buried; he was raised to life on the third day in accordance with the scriptures; afterwards he appeared to his followers, and to all the apostles: this we have received, and this we believe. Amen**

The commemoration of the departed

Minister You, Christ, are the King of Glory.

All **The eternal son of the Father.**
Minister You overcame the sting of death
All **And opened the kingdom of heaven to all**
 believers.

Minister You are seated at God's right hand in glory
All **We believe that you will come to be our**
 judge. Come then, Lord, and help your
 people, bought with the price of your own
 blood; and bring us with your saints to glory
 ever-lasting.

Minister Hear us, O merciful Father, as we remember
 in love those whom we have placed in your
 hands.

*Take a moment to remember those
known to you who are departed*

Minister Acknowledge, we pray, the sheep of your own
 fold, lambs of your own flock, sinners of your
 own redeeming. Enfold them in the arms of
 your mercy, in the blessed rest of everlasting
 peace, and in the glorious company of the
 saints in light.

All **Amen.**

Reflective music

*During this time you may wish to come forward to
light a Votive Candle and place it in the stand.*

Minister God, our Father, we thank you that you sent
 your Son Jesus Christ to die for us and rise
 again. His cross declares your love to be
 without limit; his resurrection, that death our
 last enemy is doomed. By his victory we are
 assured of the promise that you will never
 leave us or forsake us; that neither death nor
 life, nor things present nor things to come,
 can separate us from your love in Christ Jesus
 our Lord.

All **Amen.**

Prayers for the Church and the world

Minister In the power of the Spirit and in union with
 Christ, let us pray to the Father.
 Let us pray for the Church and for the world
 and let us thank God for his goodness.

The following response is used for each prayer:

Reader Lord, in your mercy,
All hear our prayer.

At the end:

Reader Merciful Father,
**All accept these prayers for the sake of your
Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Exchange the Peace – *we offer each other a sign of
God's peace.*

**All We are the body of Christ.
In the one Spirit we were all baptised into
one body. Let us then pursue all that makes
for peace and builds up our common life.**

Minister The peace of the Lord be always with you.
All and also with you.

Minister Let us offer one another a sign of Christ's
peace.

Hymn

*The table is prepared and we give thanks through our
offerings and our gifts*

**All Yours, Lord, is the greatness, the power, the
glory, the splendour, and the majesty;
For everything in heaven and on earth is
yours.
All things come from you, and of your own
do we give you.**

The Eucharistic Prayer

Minister The Lord is here.

All His Spirit is with us.

Minister Lift up your hearts.

All We lift them to the Lord.

Minister Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All It is right to give thanks and praise.

Minister It is right to praise you, Father, Lord of all
creation; in your love you made us for
yourself.
When we turned away
you did not reject us,
but came to meet us in your Son.

All **You embraced us as your children
and welcomed us to sit and eat with you.**

Minister In Christ you shared our life that we might
live in him and he in us.

All **He opened his arms of love upon the cross
and made for all the perfect sacrifice for sin.**

Minister On the night he was betrayed,
at supper with his friends
he took bread, and gave you thanks;
he broke it and gave it to them, saying:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for
you; do this in remembrance of me.

All **Father, we do this in remembrance of him:
his body is the bread of life.**

Minister At the end of supper, taking the cup of wine,
he gave you thanks, and said:
Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the
new covenant,
which is shed for you for the forgiveness of
sins; do this in remembrance of me.

All **Father, we do this in remembrance of him:**

his blood is shed for all.

Minister As we proclaim his death and celebrate his
rising in glory, send your Holy Spirit that this
bread and this wine may be to us the body
and blood of your dear Son.

All **As we eat and drink these holy gifts
make us one in Christ, our risen Lord.**

Minister With your whole Church throughout the
world we offer you this sacrifice of praise
and lift our voice to join the eternal song of
heaven:

All **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.**

Minister As our Saviour taught us, so we pray
All **Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,**

**your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever.
Amen.**

Minister We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

**All Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.**

**All Jesus, Lamb of God,
have mercy on us.
Jesus, bearer of our sins,
have mercy on us.
Jesus, redeemer of the world,
grant us peace.**

Minister God's holy gifts
for God's holy people.

**All Jesus Christ is holy,
Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.**

The minister & congregation will receive communion during which time, if you are joining us online you are invited to pray the following prayer.

**All Thanks be to you Lord Jesus Christ, for all the
benefits you have given me, for all the pains
and insults you have borne for me. Since I
cannot receive you sacramentally, I ask you
to come spiritually into my heart. O most
merciful redeemer, friend and brother, may I
know you more clearly, love you more
dearly, and follow you more nearly day by
day. Amen**

Post Communion Prayer (on news sheet)

**All Gracious Lord,
in this holy sacrament
you give substance to our hope:
bring us at the last**

**to that fullness of life for which we long;
through Jesus Christ our Saviour.**

*We pray for God's blessing on you throughout this week
– check our website or notice board for daily prayer
times in the church.*

Notices

The Blessing – we depart with God's blessing

Minister The peace of God,
 which passes all understanding,
 keep your hearts and minds
 in the knowledge and love of God,
 and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord;
 and the blessing of God almighty,
 the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
 be among you and remain with you always.

All Amen.

Hymn

The Dismissal – we are sent to live out our faith

Minister Go in peace to love and serve the Lord

All In the name of Christ. Amen.

Minister May the souls of the faithful departed this day
 rest in peace.

All And then rise in glory. Amen