



The Order for Morning Prayer

**The Fourth Sunday after Easter
28 April 2024**

**8am Minister: The Rev. Paul Dudley
Rector: The Rev. Micky Mantle**

The (unmerited) blessing of God:

'Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing
in the heavenly places' (Ephesians 1:3)



Welcome

Thanks To God Whose Word Was Spoken

1. Thanks to God whose Word was spoken
in the deed that made the earth.
His the voice that called a nation,
his the fires that tried her worth.

*God has spoken, God has spoken:
praise him for his open Word.*

2. Thanks to God whose Word incarnate
glorified the flesh of man.
Deeds and words and death and rising
tell the grace in heaven's plan.

*God has spoken, God has spoken:
praise him for his open Word.*

*Reginald Thomas Brooks (1918–)
CCLI 25235*

3. Thanks to God whose Word was written
in the Bible's sacred page,
record of the revelation
showing God to every age.

*God has spoken, God has spoken:
praise him for his open Word.*

4. Thanks to God whose Word is answered
by the Spirit's voice within.
Here we drink of joy unmeasured,
life redeemed from death and sin.

*God is speaking, God is speaking:
praise him for his open Word.*

"Rend your heart and not your garments. Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love." – Joel 2:13

"I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you.

I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants." – Luke 15:18–19

"If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness." – 1 John 1:8–9

Exhortation

Dear friends, the Scriptures urge us to acknowledge our many sins, and not to conceal them in the presence of God our heavenly Father, but to confess them with a repentant and obedient heart, so that we may be forgiven through his boundless goodness and mercy.

We ought always humbly to admit our sins before God, but chiefly when we meet together to give thanks for the benefits we have received at his hands, to offer the praise that is due to him, to hear his holy word, and to ask what is necessary for the body as well as the soul.

Therefore, let us draw near to the throne of our gracious God, and say together:

General confession

Almighty and most merciful Father,

we have erred and strayed from your ways like lost sheep.

We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts.

We have broken your holy laws.

We have left undone what we ought to have done,

and we have done what we ought not to have done.

And there is no health in us.

But gracious Lord, have mercy on us miserable offenders

Spare those, O God, who confess their faults,

restore those who are repentant,

according to your promises declared to mankind in Jesus Christ our Lord.

And grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake,

that from now on we may live a godly, righteous and obedient life,

to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

Declaration of forgiveness

The God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ pardons and absolves all who truly repent and believe his holy gospel. For God desires, not the death of a sinner, but rather that he should turn from his wickedness and live, and has given authority and commandment to his ministers to declare to his people, when they repent, the forgiveness of their sins. Therefore let us ask him to grant us true repentance, and his Holy Spirit, that what we do now may please him, and that the rest of our life may be pure and holy, so that at the end we may come to his eternal joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

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.

Open our lips, O Lord;
And we shall declare your praise.
O God, make speed to save us.
O Lord, make haste to help us.
Glory to God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
as in the beginning, so now, and for ever.
Amen.
Let us praise the Lord.
The Lord's name be praised.

O God, Our Help In Ages Past

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| 1. O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
our shelter from the stormy blast,
and our eternal home: | 4. A thousand ages in Your sight
are like an evening gone:
short as the watch that ends the night
before the rising sun. |
| 2. Under the shadow of Your throne
Your saints have dwelt secure;
sufficient is Your arm alone,
and our defence is sure. | 5. Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
bears all its sons away;
they fly forgotten as a dream
dies with the dawning day. |
| 3. Before the hills in order stood,
or earth received her frame,
from everlasting You are God
to endless years the same. | 6. Our God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
be our defence while life shall last,
and our eternal home. |

Psalm 95

- ¹ Oh come, let us sing to the Lord;
let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!
- ² Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;
let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!
- ³ For the Lord is a great God,
and a great King above all gods.
- ⁴ In his hand are the depths of the earth;
the heights of the mountains are his also.
- ⁵ The sea is his, for he made it,
and his hands formed the dry land.
- ⁶ Oh come, let us worship and bow down;
let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!
- ⁷ For he is our God,
and we are the people of his pasture,
and the sheep of his hand.
- Today, if you hear his voice,
⁸ do not harden your hearts,
as in the rebellion,
on the day of testing in the wilderness,
⁹ when your fathers put me to the test
and put me to the proof,
though they had seen my work.
- ¹⁰ For forty years I loathed that generation
and said,
“They are a people who go astray in their heart,
and they have not known my ways.”
- ¹¹ Therefore I swore in my wrath,
“They shall not enter my rest.”

Bible readings

Genesis 11:27–12:20 (pp.8–9); Ephesians 1:1–12 (p 976)

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 Spirit,
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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from there he shall come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit;
the universal church;
the communion of saints;
the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Sermon – Unbreakable promise: to bless

May The Mind Of Christ My Saviour

1. May the mind of Christ my Saviour,
live in me from day to day,
by his love and power controlling
all I do and say.

2. May the word of God dwell richly
in my heart from hour to hour,
so that all may see I triumph
only through his power.

3. May the peace of God my Father
rule my life in everything,
that I may be calm to comfort
sick and sorrowing.

4. May the love of Jesus fill me
as the waters fill the sea;
him exalting, self abasing,
this is victory.

5. May I run the race before me
strong and brave to face the foe,
looking only unto Jesus
as I onward go.

Katie Barclay Wilkinson (1859–1928) CCLI 25235

Prayers

Collect for the day

Almighty God, you show to those who are in error the light of your truth so that they may return into the way of righteousness: grant to all who are admitted into the fellowship of Christ's service that they may renounce those things that are contrary to their profession and follow all such things as are agreeable to it; through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Collect for peace

**O God, you are the author of peace and the lover of harmony,
in the knowledge of whom stands our eternal life,
whose service is perfect freedom;
defend us your humble servants in all assaults of our enemies,
that, surely trusting in your defence,
we may not fear the power of any adversaries,
through the might of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Collect for grace

**O Lord our heavenly Father,
almighty and everlasting God,
we thank you for bringing us safely to the beginning of this day:
defend us today by your mighty power,
and grant that we fall into no sin,
neither run into any kind of danger,
but lead and govern us in all things,
that we may always do what is righteous in your sight;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

God Is Our Strength And Refuge

1. God is our strength and refuge,
our present help in trouble;
and we therefore will not fear,
though the earth should change!
Though mountains shake and tremble,
though swirling floods are raging,
God the Lord of hosts is with us evermore!

2. There is a flowing river,
within God's holy city;
God is in the midst of her –
she shall not be moved!
God's help is swiftly given,
thrones vanish at His presence –
God the Lord of hosts is with us evermore!

3. Come, see the works of our Maker,
learn of His deeds all-powerful;
wars will cease across the world
when He shatters the spear!
Be still and know your Creator,
uplift Him in the nations –
God the Lord of hosts is with us evermore!

Notices

The grace

**The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
be with us all evermore. Amen. – 2 Corinthians 13:14**

If you are able to stay please join us at the entrance to the church building as we continue to share in fellowship.

If this is your first time here please make yourself known to those on the Welcome Table and the members of staff who would be delighted to meet you and welcome you to St Thomas'.

If you don't receive church emails, paper copies are available at the back of the church.

Church News

8am Super Sunday – Sunday 2 June 2024

Lock in these dates for the 8am Super Sunday away in your diary! A day of encouragement, amazing Bible teaching from Tom Habib (Moore college lecturer) looking at 'The Word Become Flesh', and wonderful fellowship. Also an opportunity for anyone who has joined our 8am service in recent months to meet others in the congregation.

Gordon and Ruth Farewell Lunch – Sunday 28th April

Our mission partners, Gordon and Ruth, are coming to visit church on 28th April. This is their farewell visit, as they have returned from the mission field. Following the 10am service, there will be a BBQ lunch where they will present a talk on their mission work. There will be an opportunity to ask questions and pray for them. \$5 per person and \$20 per family. If you're not able to stay for lunch but want to hear from them, they will be speaking from 11.45am–12.15pm.

Prayer Meeting – Week of 29 April

If you consider yourself a member of St Thomas', please do join us to pray together for our ministry and mission at the time that is most convenient to you.

– Monday morning (men): 7–8am prayer at Parkview.

- Tuesday morning (women): 10am morning tea, 10:30–11:30am prayer at Parkview.
- Wednesday morning: 10am morning tea, 10:30–11:30am prayer at Parkview.
- Wednesday evening: 6:30–7:30pm dinner (\$10 for Paella dinner catered – preorder here – or BYO), 7:30–9pm prayer at Memorial Hall.
- Friday evening: 6:30–7:30pm dinner, 7:30–9pm prayer at Parkview.

We would love all members of our church family who can, to join together to pray for our ministry and mission. If you can't make it in person, do consider setting aside some time (perhaps with friends or family) to pray using the prayer points printed in the prayer meeting booklet.

Financial Partnership

We are so grateful to God for the gospel driven generosity of his people at St Thomas' for our ministry and mission together. Following are the details if you would like to begin to partner with us or update your giving. Please note '8am congregation' in your reference:

Westpac Bank

BSB: 032 099

Acc:250072

Name: St Thomas Anglican Church North Sydney

If you prefer to give cash, you can do so using the envelopes under the notice board and put your gift in the red letterbox at the entrance to the church.