

HYMNS, PRAYERS AND READINGS FOR THE 4TH SUNDAY OF LENT

**For the beauty of the earth
sung by St Martin's Voices**

For the beauty of the earth,
for the beauty of the skies,
for the love which from our birth
over and around us lies:
Lord of all, to thee we raise
this our sacrifice of praise.

For the beauty of each hour
of the day and of the night,
hill and vale, and tree and flower,
sun and moon and stars of light:

Chorus

For the joy of human love,
brother, sister, parent, child,
friends on earth, and friends above,
for all gentle thoughts and mild:

Chorus

For each perfect gift of thine
to our race so freely given,
graces human and divine,

flowers of earth and buds of heaven:
Chorus

FOLLIOTT SANDFORD PIERPOINT (1835-1917)

In the name of the Father + and of the Son
and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

INTROIT (OPENING PRAYER)

Rejoice, O Jerusalem, and gather together, all ye that love the
Lord: rejoice with joy for her, all ye that mourn for her, that ye
may rejoice and be satisfied with her consolation. I was glad
when they said unto me: we will go into the house of the Lord.
[Isa 66 / Ps 122]

INTRODUCTION

**Almighty God,
unto whom all hearts be open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hid:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love thee,
and worthily magnify thy holy name;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

The hills stand about Jerusalem: even so standeth the Lord round about his people, from this time forth for evermore. They that put their trust in the Lord shall be even as the mount Sion: which may not be removed but standeth fast for ever.

[Ps 125]

**Father eternal, giver of light and grace,
we have sinned against you and against our neighbour,
in what we have thought,
in what we have said and done,
through ignorance, through weakness,
through our own deliberate fault.
We have wounded your love,
and marred your image in us.
We are sorry and ashamed,
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 lead us out from darkness
to walk as children of light. Amen.**

Mass of St Thomas – David Thorne
sung by St Martin's Voices

*Lord have mercy.
Christ have mercy.
Lord hard mercy.*

The Lord enrich you with his grace,
and nourish you with his blessing;
the Lord defend you in trouble and keep you from all evil;
the Lord accept your prayers,
and absolve you from your offences,
for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Saviour.
Amen.

The Gloria is not customarily said during Lent.

Merciful God,
whose Son Jesus Christ, the child of Mary,
shared the life of a home in Nazareth
and on the cross drew the whole human family to himself:
strengthen us in our daily lives
that in joy and sorrow
we may know the power of thy presence
to bind together and to heal;
through Jesus Christ thy Son our Lord,
who liveth and reigneth with thee,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

2 CORINTHIANS 1.3–7

A reading from the 2nd Letter to the Corinthians

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the

Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God. For as we share abundantly in Christ's sufferings, so through Christ we share abundantly in comfort too. If we are afflicted, it is for your comfort and salvation; and if we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which you experience when you patiently endure the same sufferings that we suffer. Our hope for you is unshaken, for we know that as you share in our sufferings, you will also share in our comfort.

This is the word of the Lord, **thanks be to God.**

Ps 127:1-4

EXCEPT the Lord build the house:

their labour is but lost that build it.

Except the Lord keep the city:

the watchman waketh but in vain.

It is but lost labour that ye haste to rise up early,

and so late take rest,

and eat the bread of carefulness:

for so he giveth his beloved sleep.

Lo, children and the fruit of the womb:

are an heritage and gift that cometh of the Lord.

JOHN 19.25–27

Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.
Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.
Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St John.
Glory be to thee, O Lord.

Standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, “Woman, behold, your son!” Then he said to the disciple, “Behold, your mother!” And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise be to thee, O Christ.

SERMON

***A Gaelic Blessing – John Rutter
sung by St Martin’s Voices***

*Deep peace of the running wave to you,
Deep peace of the flowing air to you,
Deep peace of the quiet earth to you,
Deep peace of the shining stars to you,
Deep peace of the gentle night to you,*

*Moon and stars pour their healing light on you,
Deep peace of Christ, the light of the world to you,
Deep peace of Christ to you.*

*William Sharp (1855-1905)
adapted by John Rutter*

CREED

I believe in one God the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
and of all things
visible and invisible:

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of his Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation
came down from heaven,
and was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary,
and was made man,
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.

He suffered and was buried,
and the third day he rose again
according to the Scriptures,
and ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand of the Father.
And he shall come again with glory
to judge both the quick and the dead:
whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Ghost,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceedeth from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together
is worshipped and glorified,
who spake by the prophets.
And I believe one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins.
And I look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

INTERCESSIONS

Lord in thy mercy, **hear our prayer...**

...Merciful Father,
in thy love and goodness
you have taught us to come close to you in penitence

with prayer, fasting and generosity;
accept our Lenten discipline,
and when we fall by our weakness,
raise us up by thy unfailing mercy;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

**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.**

Almighty and everlasting God,
who hatest nothing that thou hast made
and dost forgive the sins of all them that are penitent:
create and make in us new and contrite hearts
that we, worthily lamenting our sins
and acknowledging our wretchedness,
may obtain of thee, the God of all mercy,
perfect remission and forgiveness;
through Jesus Christ thy Son our Lord,
who liveth and reigneth with thee,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

SOLEMN BLESSING & DISMISSAL

Christ give you grace to grow in holiness,
to deny yourselves, take up your cross, and follow him;
And the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.
Amen.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ. Amen.

Now thank we all our God sung by St Martin's Voices

Now thank we all our God,
with hearts and hands and voices,
who wondrous things hath done,
in whom his world rejoices;
who from our mothers' arms
hath blessed us on our way
with countless gifts of love,
and still is ours today.

O may this bounteous God
through all our life be near us,
with ever joyful hearts

and blessed peace to cheer us;
and keep us in his grace,
and guide us when perplexed,
and free us from all ills
in this world and the next.

All praise and thanks to God
the Father now be given,
the Son, and him who reigns
with them in highest heaven,
the one eternal God,
whom earth and heaven adore,
for thus it was, is now,
and shall be evermore.

NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT MARTIN RINKART (1586-1649)
TRANSLATED BY CATHERINE WINKWORTH (1827-1878)

ORGAN: Elegy - Sir. G. Thalben-Ball

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