

# A PEOPLE'S MASS BOOK

based on, and with verse prayers taken from,

*The Lay Folks' Mass Book*

British Library Royal MS 17.B.xviii

## PATER NOSTER

## AVE MARIA

## CREDO

Pater noster  
qui es in celis  
sanctificetur nomen tuum  
adveniat regnum tuum  
fiat voluntas tua  
sicut in celo et in terra  
Panem nostrum cotidianum  
    da nobis hodie  
et dimitte nobis debita nostra  
sicut et nos dimittimus  
    debitoribus nostris  
et ne nos inducas in tentationem  
sed libera nos a malo.

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.

Ave Maria gratia plena  
Dominus tecum  
Benedicta tu in mulieribus  
et benedictus fructus ventris tui  
    Jesus  
Sancta Maria, Mater Dei  
ora pro nobis peccatoribus  
nunc et in hora mortis nostre  
Amen

Hail Mary, full of grace  
the Lord is with thee  
Blessed art thou amongst women  
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb  
    Jesus  
Holy Mary, Mother of God,  
pray for us sinners  
now and at the hour of our death  
Amen

Credo in Deum Patrem  
omnipotentem  
Creatorem celi et terrae  
et in Jesum Christum  
Filius Eius unicum  
Dominum nostrum  
qui conceptus est de Spiritu Sancto  
natus ex Maria Virgine  
passus sub Pontio Pilato  
crucifixus, mortuus, et sepultus  
descendit ad íferos  
tertia die  
    resurrexit a mortuis  
ascendit ad celos  
sedet ad dexteram Patris  
omnipotentis  
inde venturus est judicare  
    vivos et mortuos  
Credo in Spiritum Sanctum  
sanctam Ecclesiam catholicam  
sanctorum communionem  
remissionem peccatorum  
carnis resurrectionem  
✚ vitam eternam  
Amen

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

# THE MASS

*The singers chant the Introit, followed by Kyrie eleison.*

*The clergy enter with their assistants.*

*KNEEL when the priest enters.*

*The priest stands to make his confession to all present, and the clergy with him confess to him. Although this is not heard, it is intended for all who are willing to confess.*

*Confess your sins therefore; and in order that you may receive the benefit, say also Pater Noster, Ave Maria and Credo.*

*Then ask for the intercessions of the Blessed Virgin Mary, all the saints, and the priest, asking that Christ, who has taken our nature, will pity you and forgive.*

I know to God, full of might,  
And to his mother maiden bright,  
And to all hallows here,  
And to the Father ghostly [i.e. the priest],  
That I have sinned largely.  
In many sins sere [i.e. severally]:  
In thought, in speech, and in delight,  
In word, and work I am to wite [i.e. blame]  
and worth to blame;  
Therefore I pray Saint Mary  
And all hallows holy,  
In God's name,  
And thou priest to pray for me,  
That God have mercy and pity,  
For his manhood,  
Of my wretched sinfulness,  
And give me grace and forgiveness  
Of my misdeeds.

Pater noster. Ave Maria. Credo.

*After confession, the clergy approach the altar. As they do so, STAND while they recite the Introit and Kyrie eleison at the altar.*

*While standing, say this prayer that all present may be well prepared.  
Pray that the priest be kept this day without sin, and complete this Mass to  
the honour of Christ, his mother, and all the saints; pray for the health of the  
souls of all who hear the Mass and their friends, and for glory everlasting  
for all.*

God, for thy goodness,  
At the beginning of this Mass,  
Grant all that it shall hear,  
Of conscience be clean and clear;  
Lord, save the priest that it shall say  
From temptations today,  
That he be clean in deed and thought,  
That cruel spirits annoy him nought,  
That he fulfil this sacrament  
With clean heart and good intent,  
First highly to thine honour,  
That sovereign is of all succour;  
And to thy mother, maiden clean,  
And to thy hallows all bidden;  
And to all that hears it, soul heal,  
Help and grace and all kinds [i.e. things] well;  
And to all that we have in mind,  
Sib[ling] or friend by any kind,  
Good Lord grant them for this Mass  
Of all their sins forgiveness;  
And rest and peace that lastest ay  
To Christian souls passed away;  
And to us all thy succour send,  
And bring us to joy without[en] end. Amen.

*The priest intones Gloria in excelsis, and the singers take up the angels' song. Pray with them, thus:*

Joy be unto God in heaven,  
With all-kinds mirth, that men may know[en];  
And peace in earth, all men unto,  
That rightwise are, and of good will.  
We love thee, Lord God Almighty,

And also we bless thee busily,  
We worship thee, as worthy is,  
And makes joy to thee more and less;  
We thank thee God of all thy grace,  
For the great joy that thou has,  
Our Lord, our God, our King heavenly,  
Our God, our Father Almighty.  
Our Lord, the Son of God of heaven,  
Jesu Christ, comely to know[en],  
Our Lord, Lamb of God, name we thee,  
And Son of God, thy Father free [i.e. bounteous].  
Thou that wastes the world's sin,  
Have mercy on us, more and min [i.e. less];  
Thou that wastes the world's wreck,  
Our prayer in this time thou take;  
Thou that sittest on thy Father right hand,  
With mercy help us here living,  
For thou art holy, made of none,  
But of thyself, and Lord alone,  
Thou art the highest, of wisdom most,  
Jesu Christ with the Holy Ghost,  
Wonand [i.e. dwelling] with the Father of heaven,  
In more joy than men may know:  
Unto that joy, Jesu, us ken  
Through prayer of thy mother. Amen.

*When the singers conclude, KNEEL down and say Pater noster all through the Collect, Epistle, Gradual, Alleluya and Sequence.*

*STAND when the deacon is led to read the Gospel.  
At the announcing of the Gospel, sign yourself with a large cross (at ✚),  
and pray in the name of the Trinity in Unity, that you may gladly receive  
God's word.*

✚ In the name of Father, and Son, and the Holy Ghost.  
A soothfast [i.e. true] God of might most;  
By God's word welcome to me;  
Joy and loving, Lord, be to thee.

*As the Gospel is read, meditate on your Redeemer, and pray for grace and strength to do his will.*

Jesu mine, grant me thy grace,  
And of amendment might and space,  
Thy word to keep and do thy will  
The good to choose and leave the ill,  
And that it so may be,  
Good Jesu, grant it me.  
Amen.

*Repeat this to yourself, and at the end of the Gospel, make a cross.*

*The priest intones Credo in unum Deum. While the Creed is chanted, say the Apostles' Creed in English, but nothing else.*

I trow [i.e. believe] in God, Father of might,  
That all has wrought,  
Heaven and earth, day and night,  
And all of nought.  
And in Jesu that God's Son is  
all-only,  
Both God and man, Lord endless,  
In him trow I;  
Through meekness of the Holy Ghost,  
That was so mild,  
He light[ed] in Mary maiden chaste,  
Become a child;  
Under Pontius Pilate pained [i.e. suffered] he was,  
Us for to save,  
Done on cross & dead he was,  
Laid in his grave;  
The soul of him went into hell,  
The sooth [i.e. truth] to say;  
Up he rose in flesh and fell [i.e. skin]  
The third day;  
He stay [i.e. ascended] to heaven with wounds wide,  
Through his poust [i.e. power];  
Now sits upon his Father right side,

In majesty;  
Thence shall he come us all to deem [i.e. judge]  
In his manhood,  
Quick and dead, all that has been  
In Adam seed.  
Well I trow in the Holy Ghost,  
And holy church that is so good;  
And so I trow that housel [i.e. communion] is  
Both flesh & blood;  
Of my sins, forgiveness,  
If I will mend;  
Uprising also of my flesh,  
✚ And life without[en] end.

*When the singing of the Creed is finished, the Offertory begins.  
Say this prayer, so that – as with the Magi – Christ may receive your  
prayers to his praise, fulfil your good desires, and be your help in time of  
need.*

Jesu, that was in Bethlem born,  
And three kings come thee before,  
They offered gold, incense and myrrh,  
And thou forsook none of these,  
But wished them well all three  
Home again to their country.  
Right so our offrandes that we offer,  
And our prayers that we proffer,  
Thou take, Lord, to thy loving,  
And be our help in all-kind thing,  
That all perils be for-done;  
Our good yearnings thou grant us soon,  
Of all our miss [i.e. fault] thou us amend,  
In all our need us succour send.  
Amen.

*Still standing, recite Pater noster, whilst the priest is washing his hands, and  
the singers are censed and then kiss the Gospel book.*

*The priest bows before the altar and turns to ask our prayers: smite your breast and pray that the Holy Ghost may come upon him and rule his heart.*

The Holy Ghost in thee light,  
And [de]scend into thee right,  
Rule thy heart and thy speaking  
To God's worship and his loving.

*KNEEL down, and with uplifted hands pray that God may receive the sacrifice of the priest and all present, for help to the living, and eternal rest to the dead.*

God receive thy service  
And this solemn sacrifice,  
For the priest and for us all  
That now are here, or here be shall,  
This Mass to hear or worship do,  
The sacring [i.e. consecrated host] to see, or pray thereto;  
And for all that live[n] in God's name,  
That they have help from sin and shame,  
And for the souls that hence are past,  
That they have rest that ay shall last.  
Amen.

Pater noster. Ave Maria. Credo.

*The priest comes to the middle of the altar.*

*STAND when the priest concludes the Secret and sings Sursum corda. Lift up heart and body. Then say this prayer, raising a thankful heart to the Lord, and praying that you may evermore praise him with the angels in the bliss of heaven.*

In world of worlds without[en] ending  
Thanked be Jesu, my King.  
All my heart I give it thee,  
Great right it is that it so be;  
With all my will I worship thee,  
Jesu, blessed must thou be.



With all my heart I thank it thee,  
The good that thou has done to me;  
Sweet Jesu, grant me now this,  
That I may come unto thy bliss,  
There with angels for to sing  
This sweet song of thy loving,  
Sanctus, sanctus, sanctus.  
Jesu grant that it be thus.  
Amen.

*The singers respond to the Preface, chanting Sanctus.  
When this is finished, KNEEL and devoutly offer your thanksgivings and  
intercessions for all estates of men.*

*Give thanks for good talents of nature, right mind, and grace in divers  
perils. All these are the gifts of our Redeemer. And he is ready to forgive our  
sins.*

*Make thanksgiving for good gifts; pray for pardon of past sins, strength in  
the future and a good will to do God's will.*

*Make intercession for Church, monarch, and government; for kinsmen,  
friends, tenants, and servants; for all of every age and station; for all living  
in sin or sorrow; for the sick and captive, the poor, banished, and  
dispossessed; for such as stand and please thee, that God may grant the  
grace of perseverance, order the course of this world for our good; send  
weather that we may receive fruits of this earth; ordain all for us as seems  
best for our everlasting glory.*

Lord, honoured must thou be,  
With all my heart I worship thee;  
I thank thee, Lord, as me well owe  
Of more good than I can know  
That I have of thee received  
Since the time I was conceived:  
My life, my limbs thou has me lent,  
My right wit thou has me sent,  
Thou has me kepted of thy grace  
From sere [i.e. several] perils in many place.

All my life and all my living  
Wholly have I of thy giving;  
Thou bought me dear with thy blood,  
And died for me upon the rood [i.e. cross].

I have done against thy will  
Sins many, great and ill;  
Thou art ready, of thy goodness,  
For to grant me forgiveness

Of these goods. and many more  
I thank thee, Lord, I pray also  
That all my guilt thou me forgive,  
And be my help whiles I shall live;  
And give me grace for to eschew  
That thing that me should rue;  
And give me will ay well to work.

Lord, think on the state of holy church,  
And the bishops, priests and clerks,  
That they be kept in all good works,  
The king, the queen, the lords of the land,  
That they be well maintaining  
Their states in all goodness,  
And rule the folk in rightwiseness;  
Our sib men [i.e. relations], and our well-willings [i.e. benefactors],  
Our friends, tenants and servants,  
Old men, children and all women,  
Merchants, men of craft, and till-men,  
I pray thee, Lord, for them all,  
That they be kept specially  
In good health and live wholly.  
To them that are in ill life,  
In slander, miscomfort, or in strife,  
Sick or prisoned, or upon the sea,  
Poor, exiled, disherited, if there be,  
To all them thou send succour,  
To thy worship and thine honour.  
All that are in good life today,

And cleanly live to thy pay,  
Keep them, Lord, from all folly,  
And from all sin for thy mercy,  
And give them grace to last and lend,  
In thy service to their last end.  
This world that turns many ways,  
Make good to us in all our days;  
The weathers great and unstable,  
Lord make good and seasonable;  
The fruits of the earth make plenteous.  
As thou sees best, ordain for us,  
Such grace to us thou send,  
That in our last day, at our end,  
When this world and we shall sever,  
Bring us to joy that lasts ever.  
Amen.

*Say Pater noster until the time of sacring [i.e. Elevation of the Host].*

*When the sacring bell rings, hold up both your hands, and the elevation behold. (The bell rings once as the clergy kneel, again as the priest raises the Host, and finally for the raising of the Cup.)*

*Do reverence to Jesus Christ now present; he who suffered for mankind and shed his blood; who died and rose again; who will come to be our judge. A prayer is here set down if no other is preferred, praising and blessing Christ for all his gifts.*

Loved be thou, King;  
And blessed be thou, King;  
Of all thy gifts good,  
And thanked be thou, King;  
Jesu, all my joying,  
That for me spilt thy blood,  
And died upon the rood,  
Thou give me grace to sing  
The song of thy loving.

Pater noster. Ave Maria. Credo.

*After the Elevation of the Host, pray for mercy – for Christ said, ‘Ask, and ye shall have’.*

Lord, as thou can, and as thou will,  
Have mercy of me, that has done ill;  
For whatso thou with me will do,  
I hold me paid to stand thereto;  
Thy mercy, Jesu, would I have,  
And I for fearedness durst it crave,  
But thou bids ask, and we shall have.  
Sweet Jesu make me safe,  
And give me wit and wisdom right,  
To love thee, Lord, with all my might.

*Then after the sacring, pray for all that are dead, that they may have a part in the Mass; especially for parents, kinsmen, well-wishers, and benefactors, and all souls in purgatory, for their release and everlasting glory.*

Lord, for thy holy grace,  
Hear our prayers in this place,  
Grant now, Lord, for our prayer,  
That Christian souls, that passed here  
From this life, that sinful is,  
That ilk [i.e. each] one have part of this Mass;  
For their souls, I pray dearly,  
That I shall know[en] surely,  
That this Mass may be their meed [i.e. reward],  
Help and heal from all-kinds dread,  
Father soul, mother soul, brother dear,  
Sisters souls, sib men and other sere, [i.e. relations and other kinsfolk]  
That us good would, or us good did,  
Or any kindness unto us kid [i.e. made known];  
And to all in purgatory pain,  
This Mass be meed and medicine;  
To all Christian souls holy  
Grant thy grace and thy mercy;  
Forgive them all their trespass,  
Loose their bonds, and let them pass,  
From all-kinds pain and from all care,

Into the joy that lasts evermore.  
Amen.

*Continue your prayers until the priest concludes the Canon of the Mass.  
Then the priest sings Pater noster aloud. Make the prayer with him.*

Father our, that is in heaven,  
Blessed be thy name to know[en]  
Come to us thy kingdom.  
In heaven and earth thy will be done,  
Our ilk day bread grant us today.  
And our misdeeds forgive us ay,  
As we do them that trespass us,  
Right so have mercy upon us.  
And lead us in no [con]founding,  
But shield us from all wicked thing.  
Amen.

*The singers chant Agnus Dei three times, asking twice for God's mercy and speaking last of peace. You cannot be at peace if you are not in charity (caritas); therefore at the Pax, pray for peace and love (caritas). There are three kinds of love: love of the Lord, love of yourself, and love of your neighbour. So, in love and charity with God and all men, by the Mass and presence of the sacrament we may obtain forgiveness and grace.*

*The priest kisses the chalice, containing the blood of Christ; then he kisses the Pax, bringing Christ's peace from the chalice on his lips. The Pax is then shared with the clergy and people.*

*While the acolyte brings the Pax to the people, then make this prayer.  
Kiss the Pax when it is offered to you.*

God's Lamb, that at best may  
Do the sin of this world away,  
Of us have mercy and pity,  
And grant us peace and charity.  
For in charity are three kinds loues,  
That to perfect peace needling [i.e. needfully] behoves.

The first love is certainly  
To love the Lord sovereignly.  
Therefore I pray thee, God of might,  
Thou make my love, both day and night,  
Securely set ever-ilk dele  
Sovereignly to love thee well,  
That by thy might and governing,  
I be ever in thy yearning,  
Sovereignly thee to pay,  
In all that ever I can or may;  
And pressed be I, early and late,  
To my degree and mine estate,  
All good deeds to fulfil,  
And to eschew all that are ill.

To second is a privy love,  
That is needful to my behove,  
The which love is properly  
Betwixt my soul and my body.  
Therefore make thou, good Lord,  
My body and my soul of one accord,  
That either part by one assent  
Serve thee with good intent.  
Let never my body do that ill,  
That it may my soul spill.

The third love is without[en]  
To love ilk neighbour me about,  
And of that love for nothing cease,  
Therefore I pray thee, prince of peace,  
That thou will make, as thou may best,  
My heart to be in peace and rest,  
And ready to love all manner of men,  
My sib-men namely, then  
Neighbours, servants, and ilk subject,  
Fellows, friends, none to forget,  
But love ilk-one, both far and near,  
As myself with heart clear,  
And turn their hearts so to me,

That we may fully friends be,  
That I of their good, and they of mine,  
Have ay joy with heart fine.

As I pray for myself here,  
Grant so to other on this manner,  
So that ilk man love well other,  
As he were his own brother.  
Such love among us be,  
That we be well loved of thee;  
That by this holy sacrament,  
That now is here in present;  
And by the virtue of this Mass,  
We must have forgiveness  
Of all our guilt and all our miss [i.e. failings]  
And by thy help come to this bliss.  
Amen.

*The priest alone makes his Communion.*

*The singers chant the Communion antiphon.*

*Then, while the priest washes the vessels, recite Pater noster.*

*When the priest turns to greet you and say the Post-Communion prayer, then say this prayer to Christ. Ask for his protection in all dangers.*

*Pray that if you are overtaken by sudden death, this Mass may serve instead of absolution and visitation of the sick.*

Jesu, my king, I pray to thee,  
Bow down thine ear[en] of pity,  
And hear my prayer in this place.  
Good Lord, for thy holy grace  
For me and all that here are,  
That thou us keep from all-kinds were,  
That may befall in any way,  
In our deeds [we] do today,  
Whether we ride, or be going,  
Lie, or sit, or if we stand  
What sudden chance that comes us to,  
Otherwise than were our will,

We pray this Mass us stand instead  
Of shrift and as of housel-bread.  
And, Jesu, for thy wounds five,  
Wish us the way of righteous life.  
Amen.

*When this is done, keep repeating Pater noster until the end of the Mass.*

*Ite missa est is sung, and the priest makes his final prayers.*

*Then he reads the last Gospel.*

*When you hear the words Verbum caro factum est, kiss the earth, stone, wood or metal. By this shall your tribulation in Purgatory be a little shortened through an indulgence.*

*Before leaving the church, say this prayer to thank God for this Mass, and pray for the acceptance of its offering. Crossing yourself (at +) in memory of Christ, as you ask the blessing of the Blessed One.*

God be thanked of all his works,  
God be thanked of priests and clerks,  
God be thanked of ilk a man,  
And I thank God as I can.  
I thank God of his goodness,  
And namely now of this Mass,  
And of all the prayers that here are prayed,  
Pray I to God that he be paid.  
In mind of God here I me bless,  
Ask thee with my blessing, God send me hence.  
+ In nomine Patris et Filii et Spiritus Sancti. Amen

Pater noster. Ave Maria. Credo.



THE  
EXPERIENCE  
OF WORSHIP  
IN LATE MEDIEVAL  
CATHEDRAL AND  
PARISH CHURCH