

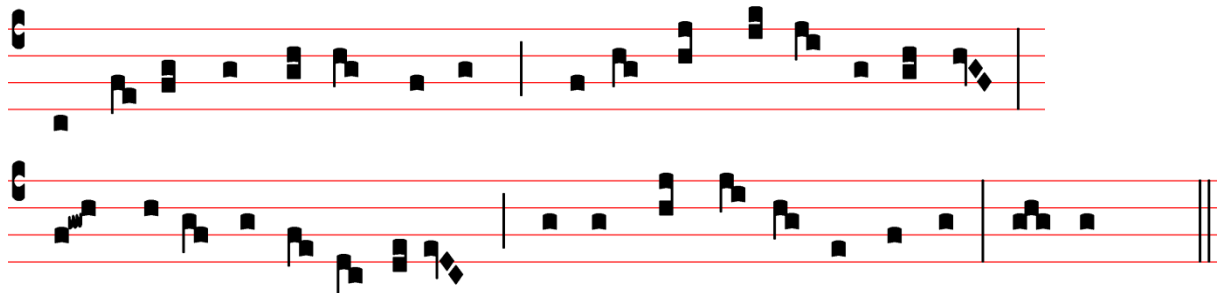
# Office Propers – 6<sup>th</sup> July – S Thomas More

*These are the proper texts for the Office on the feasts of Martyrs, which you should substitute for the seasonal texts provided in the booklet.*

## Venite Antiphon:

The Lord is the Life of the Martyrs; O come, let us adore Him.

## Office Hymn:



A-men.

O God, Thy soldiers' crown and guard,  
And their exceeding great reward,  
From bonds of evil set us free,  
Who sing Thy martyr's victory.

On this the martyr's triumph day,  
Let every voice its tribute pay  
To those who counted all things loss  
For love of Him Who bore the Cross.

Right valiantly they kept the Faith,  
And glorified Thee unto death;  
For Thee their blood they dared to pour,  
And thence have joy for evermore.

O Christ, most loving King, to Thee  
With God the Father, glory be,  
And glory to the Holy Ghost,  
From men and from the angel-host.

Look down upon us from above,  
Uplift our hearts, O God of love,  
And as our hymns to Thee we raise,  
Accept Thy people's prayer and praise.

## Psalm:

(31) IN thee, O Lord, have I put my trust : let me never be put to confusion, deliver me in thy righteousness.

2 Bow down thine ear to me : make haste to deliver me.

3 And be thou my strong rock, and house of defence : that thou mayest save me.

4 For thou art my strong rock, and my castle : be thou also my guide, and lead me for thy Name's sake.

5 Draw me out of the net that they have laid privily for me : for thou art my strength.

6 Into thy hands I commend my spirit : for thou hast redeemed me, O Lord, thou God of truth.

7 I have hated them that hold of superstitious vanities : and my trust hath been in the Lord.

8 I will be glad and rejoice in thy mercy : for thou hast considered my trouble, and hast known my soul in adversities.

9 Thou hast not shut me up into the hand of the enemy : but hast set my feet in a large room.

10 Have mercy upon me, O Lord, for I am in trouble : and mine eye is consumed for very heaviness; yea, my soul and my body.

11 For my life is waxen old with heaviness : and my years with mourning.

12 My strength faileth me, because of mine iniquity : and my bones are consumed.

13 I became a reproof among all mine enemies, but especially among my neighbours : and they of mine acquaintance were afraid of me; and they that did see me without conveyed themselves from me.

14 I am clean forgotten, as a dead man out of mind : I am become like a broken vessel.

15 For I have heard the blasphemy of the multitude : and fear is on every side, while they conspire together against me, and take their counsel to take away my life.

16 But my hope hath been in thee, O Lord : I have said, Thou art my God.

17 My time is in thy hand; deliver me from the hand of mine enemies : and from them that persecute me.

18 Shew thy servant the light of thy countenance: and save me for thy mercy's sake.

19 Let me not be confounded, O Lord, for I have called upon thee : let the ungodly be put to confusion, and be put to silence in the grave.

20 Let the lying lips be put to silence : which cruelly, disdainfully, and despitefully, speak against the righteous.

21 O how plentiful is thy goodness, which thou hast laid up for them that fear thee : and that thou hast prepared for them that put their trust in thee, even before the sons of men!

22 Thou shalt hide them privily by thine own presence from the provoking of all men : thou shalt keep them secretly in thy tabernacle from the strife of tongues.

23 Thanks be to the Lord : for he hath shewed me marvellous great kindness in a strong city.

24 And when I made haste, I said : I am cast out of the sight of thine eyes.

25 Nevertheless, thou heardest the voice of my prayer : when I cried unto thee.

26 O love the Lord, all ye his saints : for the Lord preserveth them that are faithful, and plenteously rewardeth the proud doer.

27 Be strong, and he shall establish your heart : all ye that put your trust in the Lord.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son: and to the Holy Ghost.

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be: world without end. Amen.

### **Reading:**

A Reading from the Book of Wisdom.

There was one who pleased God and was loved by him, and while living among sinners he was taken up. He was caught up lest evil change his understanding or guile deceive his soul. For the fascination of wickedness obscures what is good, and roving desire perverts the innocent mind. Being perfected in a short time, he fulfilled long years; for his soul was pleasing to the Lord, therefore he took him quickly from the midst of wickedness. Yet the peoples saw and did not understand, nor take such a thing to heart, that God's grace and mercy are with his elect, and he watches over his holy ones.

**Responsory:**

These are they who were faithful; even unto death.

These are they who were faithful; even unto death.

They have won a martyr's crown.

These are they who were faithful; even unto death.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost:

These are they who were faithful; even unto death.

**Benedictus Antiphon:**

For theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven, who despised worldly living: who have won the rewards of the Kingdom; and have washed their robes in the Blood of the Lamb.

**Magnificat Antiphon:**

This is indeed a Martyr, who for the love of Christ poured forth his/her blood; but with joy attained unto the heavenly Kingdom.

**Collect of the Day:**

Merciful God, Who, when the Church in this land wast torn apart by the ravages of sin, inspired Thomas More to place conscience above earthly honour, so that he did die the king's good servants, but Thine first: grant unto Thy Church that peace which conformeth to Thy Will; and grant that those put asunder upon earth may joyously be reunited in Heaven; through Thy Son Jesus Christ, Who liveth and reigneth with Thee in the unity of the Holy Ghost, God, throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.