



**Prepare the way  
of the Lord**



**Holy Communion  
during Advent**



## The Gathering

WELCOME

*We stand*

**Hymn**

*The lighting of the Advent candles*

THE GREETING

Welcome in the name of Christ.

God's grace, mercy and peace be with you

**All and also with you.**

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

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

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

*We sit*

When the Lord comes,  
he will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness,  
and will disclose the purposes of the heart.

Therefore, in the light of Christ let us confess our sins.

**All** Almighty God,  
long-suffering and of great goodness:  
we confess to you,  
we confess with our whole hearts  
our neglect and forgetfulness of your commandments,  
our wrong doing, thinking, and speaking;  
the hurts we have done to others,  
and the good we have left undone.  
O God, forgive us, for we have sinned against you;  
and raise us to newness of life;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

### **Kyries**

*We sing all, if led by the choir, or in their absence, they are spoken as directed.*

Lord, have mercy.

**All** Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

**All** Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

**All** Lord, have mercy.

## ABSOLUTION

Almighty God,  
who in Jesus Christ has given us  
a kingdom that cannot be destroyed,  
forgive you your sins,  
open your eyes to God's truth,  
strengthen you to do God's will  
and give you the joy of His kingdom,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All Amen.**

## THE COLLECT

*(The special prayer for the day, which is found on the News Sheet)*

## The Liturgy of the Word

### FIRST READING

*At the end of the reading*

This is the word of the Lord.

**All Thanks be to God.**

*We stand*

### Hymn

### THE GOSPEL READING

*We remain standing and face the Deacon or reader who says:*

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia

**All Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia**

Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,  
and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.

**All Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia**

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

**All Glory to you O Lord.**

*After the Gospel*

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

*Please sit*

SERMON

*A period of silence follows, to allow for reflection*

*We stand to affirm our faith, in the words of the Creed*

THE CREED

*We say, or sing, together in faith*

**All We believe in God the Father,  
God almighty, by whose plan  
earth and heaven sprang to being,  
all created things began.**

**We believe in Christ the Saviour,  
Son of God in human frame,  
virgin-born, the child of Mary  
upon whom the Spirit came.**

**Christ, who on the cross forsaken,  
like a lamb to slaughter led,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
he descended to the dead.**

**We believe in Jesus risen,  
heaven's king to rule and reign,  
to the Father's side ascended  
till as judge he comes again.**

**We believe in God the Spirit;  
in one Church, below, above:  
saints of God in one communion,  
one in holiness and love.**

**So by faith, our sins forgiven,  
Christ our Saviour, Lord and friend,  
we shall rise with him in glory  
to the life that knows no end.**

*We sit*

THE PRAYERS

*In these prayers we thank God for all we have and are, and hold  
before God the concerns of the world, seeking God's inspiration  
in our hearts and minds*

To the words:            Father, by your Spirit  
**We respond            Bring in your kingdom.**

*At the end we may say:*

Lord of the Church

**All** hear our prayer  
and make us one in heart and mind  
to serve you with joy forever.  
Amen.

## **The Liturgy of the Sacrament**

*We stand*

THE PEACE

Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Peace in heaven and glory in the highest.

The peace of the Lord be always with you

**All** and also with you.

Deacon: Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

## **The Offertory Hymn**

*A collection may be taken during the hymn for the use of the church  
and as a sign of our thanks to God*

THE PREPARATION OF THE TABLE

Blessed be God,  
who feeds the hungry,  
who raises the poor,  
who fills our praise.

**All** Blessed be God for ever.

*We sit*

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

The Lord be with you.

**All And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**All We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**All It is right to give thanks and praise.**

And now we give you thanks  
because your Son our Lord was awaited by the prophets,  
announced by an angel,  
conceived by a virgin,  
and proclaimed at last to men, women and children  
of every race.

**All Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest.**

Father of all, we give you thanks  
for every gift that comes from heaven.

To the darkness Jesus came as your light.  
With signs of faith and words of hope  
he touched untouchables with love and washed the guilty clean.

This is his story.

**All This is our song:  
Hosanna in the highest.**

The crowds came out to see your Son,  
yet at the end they turned on him.  
On the night he was betrayed  
he came to table with his friends  
to celebrate the freedom of your people.

This is his story.

**All This is our song:  
Hosanna in the highest.**

Jesus blessed you, Father, for the food;  
he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and said:  
This is my body, given for you all.  
Jesus then gave thanks for the wine;  
he took the cup, gave it and said:

This is my blood, shed for you all  
for the forgiveness of sins.  
Do this is remembrance of me.

This is our story.

**All This is our song:  
Hosanna in the highest.**

Therefore, Father, with this bread and this cup  
we celebrate the cross  
on which he died to set us free.  
Defying death he rose again  
and is alive with you to plead for us and all the world.

This is our story.

**All This is our song:  
Hosanna in the highest.**

Send your Spirit on us now  
that by these gifts we may feed on Christ  
with opened eyes and hearts on fire.

May we all who share this food  
offer ourselves to live for you  
and be welcomed at your feast in heaven  
where all creation worships you,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit:

**All Blessing and honour and glory and power  
be yours for ever and ever. Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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 forever.  
Amen.**

## BREAKING OF BREAD

*The priest breaks the consecrated bread*

Every time we eat this bread and drink this cup,  
**All we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.**

**Lamb of God,  
you take away the sins of the world,  
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,  
you take away the sins of the world,  
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,  
you take away the sins of the world,  
grant us peace.**

## GIVING OF COMMUNION

*The priest says the invitation to communion*

Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.  
Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

**All Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,  
but only say the word, and I shall be healed.**

*This prayer may be said.*

**All We do not presume to come to this your table, merciful Lord,  
trusting in our own righteousness,  
but in your manifold and great mercies.**

**We are not worthy  
so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table.  
But you are the same Lord  
whose nature is always to have mercy.  
Grant us therefore, gracious Lord,  
so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ  
and to drink his blood,  
that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body,  
and our souls washed through his most precious blood,  
and that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us.  
Amen.**

*All are welcome at God's table to receive communion or, if you prefer, a prayer of blessing. Indicate that you would prefer a blessing by bringing your service sheet with you.*

*During communion the choir may sing an anthem.*

## **Hymn(s)**

### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

*The president may pray*

**All Father of all, we give you thanks and praise,  
that when we were still far off  
you met us in your Son and brought us home.  
Dying and living, he declared your love,  
gave us grace, and opened the gate of glory.  
May we who share Christ's body live his risen life;  
we who drink his cup bring life to others;  
we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world.  
Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us,  
so that we and all your children shall be free,  
and the whole earth live to praise your name;  
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## THE NOTICES

### The Dismissal

*We stand*

#### Hymn

*Remain standing for*

#### THE BLESSING

Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you,  
scatter the darkness from before your path,  
and make you ready to meet him when he comes in glory;  
and the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always.

**All Amen.**

Deacon:

Our Lord says, 'I am coming soon.'

**All Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

May the Lord, when he comes,  
find us watching and waiting.

**All Amen.**

*Please stay for refreshments after the service*

*The following prayers may be said at the lighting of the Advent candles*

*Week 1:* People of God: awake!  
The day is coming soon  
when you shall see God face to face.  
Remember the ways and the works of God.  
God calls you out of darkness  
to walk in the light of his coming.  
You are God's children.  
**Lord, make us one as we walk with Christ  
today and for ever.**  
**Amen.**

*Week 2:* People of God: be glad!  
Your God delights in you,  
giving you joy for sadness  
and turning the dark to light.  
Be strong in hope therefore;  
for your God comes to save.  
You are God's children.  
**Lord, make us one in the love of Christ  
today and for ever.**  
**Amen.**

*Week 3:* People of God: return!  
You are called to be God's own.  
From the mountains announce the good news.  
God comes in justice and peace,  
to all who follow his ways.  
You are God's children.  
**Lord, make us one in the peace of Christ  
today and for ever.**  
**Amen.**

*Week 4:* People of God: prepare!  
God, above all, maker of all,  
is one with us in Christ.  
Maranatha!  
**Come, Lord Jesus!**

God, the mighty God,  
bends down in love to earth.  
Maranatha!  
**Come, Lord Jesus!**

God with us, God beside us,  
comes soon to the world he has made.  
Maranatha!  
**Come, Lord Jesus!**

We are God's children,  
we seek the coming Christ.  
Maranatha!  
**Come, Lord Jesus!**

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