

# Advent

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

*cf. Isaiah 40.3–5*

## The Gathering

*We stand as the ministers enter during the opening hymn.*

In the name of the Father,  
and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.

*All* **Amen.**

## The Greeting

*The president greets the people*

The Lord be with you  
*All* **and also with you.**

*(or)*

Grace, mercy and peace  
from God our Father  
and the Lord Jesus Christ  
be with you  
*All* **and also with you.**

*Words of introduction may be said.*

## Prayer of Preparation

*The following prayer may be said*

*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.**

## Prayers of Penitence

*To prepare ourselves to celebrate the presence of Christ in word and sacrament, the president invites us to call to mind and confess our sins.*

*A pause for silent reflection follows. After the silence, one of the following forms of confession is used*

*All* **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.**

*Or the **Kyrie Eleison** may be used with these or other penitential sentences*

Lord Jesus, you came to gather the nations  
into the peace of your kingdom.  
Lord, have mercy.

*All* **Lord, have mercy.**

You come in word and sacrament  
to strengthen us in holiness.  
Christ, have mercy.

*All* **Christ, have mercy.**

You will come in glory  
with salvation for your people.  
Lord, have mercy.

*All* **Lord, have mercy.**

*The president gives the absolution using these or other suitable words*

The almighty and merciful Lord  
grant you pardon and forgiveness of all your sins,  
time for amendment of life,  
and the grace and strength of the Holy Spirit.

*All* **Amen.**

*The **Kyrie Eleison**, an ancient prayer for Divine mercy, may be said or sung here if it has not already been incorporated in the prayers of penitence.*

Lord, have mercy.

*All* **Lord, have mercy.**

Christ, have mercy.

*All* **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord, have mercy.

*All* **Lord, have mercy.**

## **The Collect**

*The president introduces a period of silent prayer with the words 'let us pray' or a more specific bidding.*

*The president says the Collect, which expresses the theme of the day's celebration, and all respond*

*All* **Amen.**

# The Liturgy of the Word

## Readings

*We sit for the readings. Either one or two readings from Scripture precede the Gospel reading.*

*At the end the reader says*

This is the word of the Lord.

*All* **Thanks be to God.**

*A psalm may follow the first reading.*

*A hymn may be sung.*

## Gospel Reading

*We stand for the proclamation of the Gospel.*

*The following or another suitable **acclamation** may herald the Gospel reading*

Alleluia, alleluia.

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

*All* **Alleluia.**

*When the Gospel is announced the reader says*

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

*All* **Glory to you, O Lord.**

*At the end*

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

## The Sermon

*We sit for the sermon.*

## The Creed

*We stand to declare our faith in God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.*

*All* We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is,  
seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary  
and was made man.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory  
to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son  
is worshipped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come.  
Amen.

## Prayers of Intercession

*The president introduces the Prayers of Intercession with these or similar words*

In the power of the Spirit and in union with Christ,  
let us pray to the Father.

*We kneel or sit for the prayers.*

*The following or other suitable responses may be used*

Lord, in your mercy  
*All* **hear our prayer.**

*(or)*

Lord, hear us  
*All* **Lord, graciously hear us.**

*And at the end*

Merciful Father,  
*All* **accept these prayers  
for the sake of your Son,  
our Saviour Jesus Christ.  
Amen.**

*Alternatively, the following form of intercession may be used*

In joyful expectation of his coming to our aid  
we pray to Jesus, saying,  
Maranatha  
*All* **Come, Lord Jesus.**

Come to your Church as Lord and Judge.  
We pray for ...;  
Help us to live in the light of your coming  
and give us a longing for your rule.  
Maranatha  
*All* **Come, Lord Jesus.**

Come to your world as King of the nations.  
We pray for ...;  
Before you rulers will stand in silence.  
Maranatha

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

Come to your people with a message of victory and peace.  
We pray for ...;  
Give us victory over death, temptation, and evil.  
Maranatha

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

Come to us as Saviour and Comforter.  
We pray for ...;  
Break in to those areas of our lives  
where we live with failure and distress,  
and set us free to serve you for ever.  
Maranatha

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

Come to us from heaven with power and great glory,  
to lift us up to meet you,  
with all your saints and angels,  
to live with you for ever.  
Maranatha

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

*The term 'Maranatha' comes from 1 Corinthians 16.22. It is an Aramaic expression which means 'may our Lord come'.*



# The Liturgy of the Sacrament

## The Peace

*We stand for the Peace.*

*The president may introduce the Peace with a suitable sentence.*

The peace of the Lord be always with you  
**All and also with you.**

*These words may be added*

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

*All may exchange a sign of peace.*

## Preparation of the Altar and the Gifts

*During a **hymn** the gifts of bread and wine, which by the power of the Holy Spirit will become for us the body and blood of Christ, are brought to the altar. A collection for the work of the Church may also be taken.*

*As the gifts of bread and wine are placed on the altar the following or other suitable prayers may be used*

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation:  
through your goodness we have this bread to offer,  
which earth has given and human hands have made.  
It will become for us the bread of life.

**All Blessed be God for ever.**

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation:  
through your goodness we have this wine to offer,  
fruit of the vine and work of human hands.  
It will become for us our spiritual drink.

**All Blessed be God for ever.**

## The Eucharistic Prayer [A]

*The 'preface' [enclosed in brackets] is replaced by the preface on page 59 from 17 December until Christmas Eve.*

*All* The Lord be with you                      (or)                      The Lord is here.  
**and also with you.                                              His Spirit is with us.**

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.**

*Preface*

[It is indeed right and good to give you thanks and praise,  
almighty God and everlasting Father,  
through Jesus Christ your Son.  
For when he humbled himself  
to come among us in human flesh,  
he fulfilled the plan you formed before  
the foundation of the world  
to open for us the way of salvation.  
Confident that your promise will be fulfilled,  
we now watch for the day  
when Christ our Lord will come again in glory.  
And so we join our voices with angels and archangels  
and with all the company of heaven  
to proclaim your glory,  
for ever praising you and *saying:*]

*All* **Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

*All kneel or sit.*

Accept our praises, heavenly Father,  
through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ,  
and as we follow his example and obey his command,  
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit  
these gifts of bread and wine  
may be to us his body and his blood;

who, in the same night that he was betrayed,  
took bread and gave you thanks;  
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;  
do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper  
he took the cup and gave you thanks;  
he gave it to them, saying:  
Drink this, all of you;  
this is my blood of the new covenant,  
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.  
Do this, as often as you drink it,  
in remembrance of me.

Therefore, heavenly Father,  
we remember his offering of himself  
made once for all upon the cross;  
we proclaim his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension;  
we look for the coming of your kingdom,  
and with this bread and this cup  
we make the memorial of Christ your Son our Lord.

*One of the following acclamations is used*

Christ is the bread of life:

*All* **When we eat this bread and drink this cup,  
we proclaim your death, Lord Jesus,  
until you come in glory.**

*(or)*

Praise to you, Lord Jesus:

*All* **Dying you destroyed our death,  
rising you restored our life:  
Lord Jesus, come in glory.**

*(or)*

Great is the mystery of faith:

*All* **Christ has died:  
Christ is risen:  
Christ will come again.**

Accept through him, our great high priest,  
this our sacrifice of thanks and praise,  
and as we eat and drink these holy gifts  
in the presence of your divine majesty,  
renew us by your Spirit,  
inspire us with your love  
and unite us in the body of your Son,  
Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through him, and with him, and in him,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
with all who stand before you in earth and heaven,  
we worship you, Father almighty,  
in songs of everlasting praise:

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

## The Lord's Prayer

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us  
*All* **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.**

*(or)*

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 for ever.  
Amen.**

## Breaking of the Bread

*The president breaks the consecrated bread.*

We break this bread  
to share in the body of Christ.

*All* **Though we are many, we are one body,  
because we all share in one bread.**

*(or)*

Every time we eat this bread  
and drink this cup,

*All* **we proclaim the Lord's death  
until he comes**

*The Agnus Dei may be said or sung as the bread is broken*

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

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

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

*(or)*

*All* **Jesus, Lamb of God,  
have mercy on us.**

**Jesus, bearer of our sins,  
have mercy on us.**

**Jesus, redeemer of the world,  
grant us peace.**

## Giving of Communion

*The president invites the people to receive communion. Those who have not been confirmed are invited to come to the altar for a blessing.*

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.**

*(or)*

Draw near with faith.  
Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ  
which he gave for you, and his blood which he shed for you.  
Eat and drink in remembrance that Christ died for you,  
and feed on him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

*(or)*

God's holy gifts  
for God's holy people  
*All* **Jesus Christ is holy,  
Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.**

*The following prayer may be said*

*All* **Most merciful Lord,  
your love compels us to come in.  
Our hands were unclean,  
our hearts were unprepared;  
we were not fit  
even to eat the crumbs from under your table.  
But you, Lord, are the God of our salvation,  
and share your bread with sinners.  
So cleanse and feed us  
with the precious body and blood of your Son,  
that he may live in us and we in him;  
and that we, with the whole company of Christ,  
may sit and eat in your kingdom.  
Amen.**

*The president and people receive communion. Upon receiving  
communion the communicant replies*

**Amen.**

*During communion hymns and anthems may be sung.*



## **Prayer after Communion**

*After a period of silence, a Post Communion prayer is said. One of the following prayers of thanksgiving is then said*

*All* **Almighty God,  
we thank you for feeding us  
with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.  
Through him we offer you our souls and bodies  
to be a living sacrifice.  
Send us out in the power of your Spirit  
to live and work to your praise and glory.  
Amen.**

*(or)*

*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 we and all your children shall be free,  
and the whole earth live to praise your name;  
through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.**

## *The Dismissal*

*The president may use either of the following blessings, or another suitable blessing*

May God the Father,  
who loved the world so much that he sent his only Son,  
give you grace to prepare for eternal life.

*All* **Amen.**

May God the Son,  
who comes to us as Redeemer and Judge,  
reveal to you the path from darkness to light.

*All* **Amen.**

May God the Holy Spirit,  
by whose working the Virgin Mary conceived the Christ,  
help you bear the fruits of holiness.

*All* **Amen.**

And the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always.

*All* **Amen.**

*(or)*

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.**

*We stand for the final hymn.*

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

*All* **In the name of Christ. Amen.**

*The ministers and people depart.*