

Holy Communion - Advent

The Gathering

We *sit* for the **NOTICES** and the **INTRODUCTION** to the service.

THE GREETING

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

All Amen.

The Lord be with you.

All And also with you.

We *stand* to sing our **OPENING HYMN**.

We *sit* or *kneel* as we pray a **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.

LIGHTING the ADVENT CANDLES

As the Advent candles are lit a prayer is said, and then we all pray:

All Watching, waiting, help us to be ready for you Jesus.
Amen.

We pray for the **CHILDREN** as they go out to their group.

We have a time of **CONFESSION**, a time when we acknowledge our failings before God and ask and receive his forgiveness.

When the Lord comes, he will bring to light 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 Most merciful God,
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
we confess that we have sinned
in thought, word and deed.
We have not loved you with our whole heart.
We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.
In your mercy
forgive what we have been,
help us to amend what we are,
and direct what we shall be;
that we may do justly,
love mercy,
and walk humbly with you, our God.
Amen.

May the God of all healing and forgiveness draw *you* to himself and cleanse *you* from all *your* sins, that *you* may behold the glory of His Son, the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

THE COLLECT

The **COLLECT**, the church's special prayer for the day, is prayed.

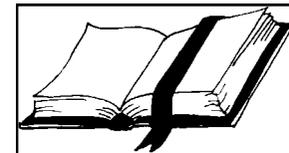
The Word of God

We *sit* to hear our first **BIBLE READING**.

At the end of the reading:

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.



We **stand** for our **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.

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

All Glory to you, O Lord.

At the end of the reading:

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All Praise to you, O Christ.

We **sit** to hear the **SERMON**.

THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We **stand** to declare our faith in God.

**All We believe in God the Father,
from whom every family
in heaven and on earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son,
who lives in our hearts through faith,
and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
who strengthens us
with power from on high.**

**We believe in one God;
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Amen.**

We **stand** to sing our next **HYMN**.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

We **sit** or **kneel** for our PRAYERS.

Our response to the prayers may be:

Lord in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

At the conclusion of our prayers, we may pray:

Merciful Father,

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

The Eucharist

THE PEACE

We **stand** to share the PEACE.

In the tender mercy of our God,
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,
to give light to those who dwell in darkness
and in the shadow of death,
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.
The peace of the Lord be always with you

All and also with you.

We share with one another a sign of peace.

THE PREPARATION OF THE TABLE

As the grain once scattered in the fields
and the grapes once dispersed on the hillside
are now reunited on this table in bread and wine,
so, Lord, may your whole Church soon be gathered together
from the corners of the earth into your kingdom.

All Amen.



We remain **standing** for the **EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER**.

The Lord is here.

All 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.

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.**

Please sit or kneel.

We praise and bless you, loving Father,
through Jesus Christ, our Lord;
and as we obey his command,
send your Holy Spirit,
that broken bread and wine outpoured

may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper with his friends
and, taking bread, he praised you.
He broke the bread, gave it to them and said:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine.
Again he praised you, gave it to them and said:
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.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did,
in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice made once for all
upon the cross.
Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation,
we proclaim his death and resurrection
until he comes in glory.

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.**

Lord of all life,
help us to work together for that day
when your kingdom comes
and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth.

Look with favour on your people,
gather us in your loving arms
and bring us with all the saints
to feast at your table in heaven.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father,
for ever and ever.

All Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Awaiting his coming in glory, 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 BREAD, and says:

Every time we eat this bread and drink this cup

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

**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.**

The body and blood of Christ given for you.

All Amen.

The bread is shared.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**All God, you have fed us at your heavenly table.
Set us on fire with your Spirit
that when Christ comes again
we may shine like lights before his face,
who with you and the Spirit lives for ever.
Amen.**

The Sending Out

THE BLESSING and DISMISSAL

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.

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. **Amen.**

To a troubled world

All Peace from Christ.

To a searching world

All Love from Christ.

To a waiting world

All Hope from Christ.

As we await our coming Saviour, go in peace to love and
serve the Lord.

All In the name of Christ. Amen.