

Holy Communion - Advent



The Gathering

We **stand** as the choir and clergy enter the church.

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

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 groups.

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.**

We remain seated to **sing** the **KYRIE ELEISON**:

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

**Christ have mercy.
Christ have mercy.
Christ have mercy.**

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

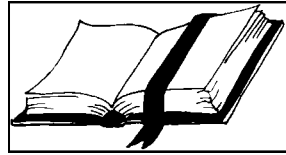
May the God of all healing and forgiveness draw you to himself and cleanse you from all your sins, that you may behold the glory of His Son, the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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* to sing our next **HYMN**.

If a **PSALM** is sung, please remain seated and join in with the choir, and then stand at the end of the Psalm when these words are sung:

**All 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.**

We remain *standing* 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.**

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, such as a handshake.

THE PREPARATION OF THE TABLE

*We remain **standing** to sing our OFFERTORY HYMN, during which a collection is taken for the work of the church, and the bread and wine are brought forward and placed on the holy table.*

At the end of the hymn the minister prays:

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 EUCHARISTIC 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 *singing*:

**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.

We join with the choir in singing:

**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.**

THE GIVING OF COMMUNION

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 he died for you,
and feed on him in your hearts
by faith with thanksgiving.

**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.**

Please come up for communion as directed. If you don't normally receive communion you are welcome to come up for a prayer of blessing—you can indicate this by holding this booklet in your hand when you come forward. You are welcome to bring children up for a prayer of blessing too.

Please do join in the hymns sung during communion.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

At the end of communion, the minister may pray a prayer, and then we all pray:

**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

We hear back from the CHILDREN.

We sing our FINAL HYMN, and turn to face the door as the cross passes.

THE BLESSING

*We remain **standing** for a final BLESSING.*

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.**

THE DISMISSAL

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.

Please do join us for refreshments in the church hall at the end of the service.

