

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

The Holy Communion

29 November 2020

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

Hymn O come, O come, Emmanuel

1 O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.

Refrain

Rejoice! rejoice!

*Emmanuel shall come to
you, O Israel.*

2 O come, O come, great Lord of might
who to the tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times did give the law
in cloud and majesty and awe.

Refrain

3 O come, O key of David, come,
and open wide our heavenly home;
make safe the way that leads on high
and close the path to misery.

Refrain

4 O come, O branch of Jesse, free
your own from Satan's tyranny;
from depths of hell your people save
and give them victory o'er the grave.

Refrain

5 O come, O dayspring, come and cheer
our spirits by your advent here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night
and death's dark shadows put to flight.

O come, O come, Emmanuel

Refrain

Acclamation

Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.
whose mercy endures for ever.

Greeting

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

And also with you.

Sentence

‘Heaven and earth will pass away,’ says the Lord, ‘but my words will not pass away.’ *Mark 13.31*

Prayer of Preparation

**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.**

CONFESSION

The Lord comes, bringing to light things now hidden in darkness, and disclosing the purposes of the heart.

Silence may be kept

Let us open our hearts and prepare for his coming, confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

Confession and Absolution

**Merciful God,
our maker and our judge,
we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
and in what we have failed to do:
we have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves;
we repent, and are sorry for all our sins.
Father, forgive us.
Strengthen us to love and obey you
in newness of life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Almighty God,
who has promised forgiveness to all who turn to him in faith:
pardon you and set you free from all your sins,
strengthen you in all goodness
and keep you in eternal life,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Kyrie eleison
Christe eleison
Kyrie eleison**

**Trisagion
Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,
have mercy on us.**

THE COLLECT

Eternal God,
through long generations you prepared a way
for the coming of your Son,
and by your Spirit
you still bring light to illumine our paths:
renew us in faith and hope
that we may welcome Christ to rule our thoughts
and claim our love;
to whom be glory for ever. Amen.
Let us pray

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

Gospel Reading

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark
[13.24-37]

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

²⁴ 'But in those days, after that suffering,
the sun will be darkened,
and the moon will not give its light,

²⁵ and the stars will be falling from heaven,
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

²⁶ Then they will see "the Son of Man coming in clouds" with
great power and glory.

²⁷ Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the
four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

²⁸ 'From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near.

²⁹ So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates.

³⁰ Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place.

³¹ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³² 'But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.

³³ Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come.

³⁴ It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch.

³⁵ Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn,

³⁶ or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly.

³⁷ And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.'

For the Gospel of the Lord,
praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

Sermon

Silence

Introduction to Prayers

Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ has promised that you will hear us when we ask in faith receive the prayers we offer.

Prayer Response

Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Prayers may conclude

Almighty God, you have promised to hear our prayers.

**Grant that what we have asked in faith
we may by your grace receive,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

THE GREETING OF PEACE

Christ has reconciled us to God in one body by the cross.

We meet in his name and share his peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

Hymn O thou who camest from above

1 O thou who camest from above
the pure celestial fire to impart,
kindle a flame of sacred love
on the mean altar of my heart.

2 There let it for thy glory burn
with inextinguishable blaze
and trembling to its source return,
in humble prayer and fervent praise.

3 Jesus, confirm my heart's desire
to work, and speak, and think for thee;
still let me guard the holy fire,
and still stir up thy gift in me,

4 ready for all thy perfect will,
my acts of faith and love repeat,
till death thy endless mercies seal,
and make the sacrifice complete.

OFFERTORY

Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation.

Through your goodness we have these gifts to share.

Accept and use our offerings for your glory
and for the service of your kingdom.

Blessed be God for ever.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

All glory and honour be yours always and everywhere,
mighty Creator, everliving God.

We give you thanks and praise for your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ,

who by the power of your Spirit was born of Mary
and lived as one of us.

By his death on the cross
and rising to new life,

he offered the one true sacrifice for sin
and obtained an eternal deliverance for his people.

We thank you that when he shall come again
in power and great triumph to judge the world,

we may with joy behold his appearing,
and in confidence stand before him

who redeems us from sin and death
and makes us heirs of everlasting life.

Therefore with angels and archangels,
and with all the company of heaven,

we proclaim your great and glorious name,
for ever praising you and saying:

**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.

Merciful God, we thank you
for these gifts of your creation,
this bread and wine,
and we pray that by your Word and Holy Spirit,
we who eat and drink them
may be partakers of Christ's body and blood.
On the night he was betrayed Jesus took bread;
and when he had given you thanks
he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying,
'Take, eat. This is my body given for you.

Do this in remembrance of me.'

After supper, he took the cup,
and again giving you thanks
he gave it to his disciples, saying,
'Drink from this, all of you.

This is my blood of the new covenant
shed for you and for many
for the forgiveness of sins.

Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.'

In faith we acclaim you, O Christ:

We remember his death on the cross.

We proclaim the resurrection to new life.

We await Christ's coming in glory.

Therefore we do as our Saviour has commanded:
proclaiming his offering of himself

made once for all upon the cross,
his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension,
and looking for his coming again,
we celebrate, with this bread and this cup,
his one perfect and sufficient sacrifice
for the sins of the whole world.
Renew us by your Holy Spirit,
unite us in the body of your Son
and bring us with all your people
into the joy of your eternal kingdom;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
with whom, and in whom,
in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
we worship you, Father,
in songs of never-ending praise:
**Blessing and honour and glory and power
are yours for ever and ever. Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Accept our prayers through Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught us
to pray,
**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.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD AND THE COMMUNION

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

We who are many are one body,
for we all share in the one bread.

Invitation to Communion

Jesus is the Lamb of God
who takes away the sins of the world.
Happy are those who are called to his supper.
**Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,
but only say the word, and I shall be healed.**

Lamb of God,

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 your peace.

THE SENDING OUT OF GOD'S PEOPLE

Prayer after Communion

God for whom we wait,
we thank you that you have fed us
with the bread of life
and the cup of salvation.

As we joyfully await your Son,
keep us ever watchful
that we may be ready to stand before him
on the day of his coming.

**Most loving God,
you send us into the world you love.
Give us grace to go thankfully and with courage
in the power of your Spirit.**

Hymn Lo, he comes with clouds descending

1. Lo! he comes with clouds descending,
once for favoured sinners slain;
thousand thousand saints attending,
swell the triumph of his train!
Hallelujah!
God appears on earth to reign.

2. Every eye shall now behold him
robed in awesome majesty;
those who set at nought and sold him,
pierced and nailed him to the tree,
deeply wailing
shall the true Messiah see.

3. Yea, amen! let all adore thee,
high on thine eternal throne;
Saviour, take the power and glory
claim the kingdom for thine own;
O come quickly;
Hallelujah! Come, Lord, come.

Blessing

Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you, 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.**

Dismissal

Go in the peace of Christ.

Thanks be to God.