

# **A Service of Holy Communion for Advent**

## **The Watershed Benefice at Home**

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



### **Welcome**

### **Lighting the Advent Wreath**

In this season of Advent, we are here to watch and wait and pray for the coming of the light into the world. We long for the day when the things of darkness – selfishness and greed, suffering and oppression, shall be no more.

**Lord, by your presence,  
light up the past, that we might learn from it with thankfulness  
light up the present, that we might live in it with love  
light up the future, that we might prepare for it in hope**

**As we watch and wait and pray, may we be always ready to  
encounter the Lord, who is already and always with us. Amen.**

*The words for the week are spoken, and the candles lit. Then all respond*  
**Lord, as we wait for your promise, give light, give hope.**

### **Opening Hymn**

### **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**

### **The Comfortable Words**

## **Confession**

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

**Almighty God, our heavenly Father,  
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.**

## **Kyrie Eleison**

Lord, have mercy.	<b>Lord, have mercy.</b>
Christ, have mercy.	<b>Christ, have mercy.</b>
Lord, have mercy.	<b>Lord, have mercy.</b>

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent,  
have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins,  
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in life eternal;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**The Collect** *We take a moment of silence then say the prayer for today*

## **Psalm and Reading**

*At the end of the Psalm, we say together*

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and shall be for ever. Amen**

## **Gospel Reading**

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

**Alleluia.**

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

*And, at the end*

This is the Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **Sermon**

### **The Nicene Creed**

**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**

Lord, in your mercy

**Hear our prayer.**

*And at the end*

Merciful Father,

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

## **The Peace**

In the tender mercy of our God, the dayspring 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 **and also with you.**

## **Preparation of the Table and thanksgiving for the offering**

*The minister gives thanks for the gifts given for the work of the church,  
then says*

Be present, be present, Lord Jesus Christ, our risen high priest;  
make yourself known in the breaking of bread. **Amen**

## **The Eucharistic Prayer**

The Lord is here.

**His Spirit is with us.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

You are worthy of our thanks and praise....

.....evermore 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.**

Lord God, you are the most holy one, enthroned in splendour and light, yet in the coming of your son Jesus Christ you reveal the power of your love made perfect in our human weakness.

**Amen, Lord we believe**

Embracing our humanity, Jesus showed us the way of salvation; loving us to the end, he gave himself to death for us; dying for his own, he set us free from the bonds of sin, that we might rise and reign with him in glory.

**Amen, Lord, we believe.**

On the night he gave himself up for us all he 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.

**Amen, Lord, we believe.**

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.

**Amen. Lord, we believe.**

Therefore we proclaim the death that he suffered on the cross, we celebrate his resurrection, his bursting from the tomb, we rejoice that he reigns at your right hand on high and we long for his coming in glory.

**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

As we recall the one, perfect sacrifice of our redemption, Father, by your Holy Spirit let these gifts of your creation be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ; form us into the likeness of Christ and make us a perfect offering in your sight.

**Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.**

Look with favour on your people and in your mercy hear the cry of our hearts. Bless the earth, heal the sick, let the oppressed go free and fill your Church with power from on high.

**Amen, Come, Holy Spirit.**

Gather your people from the ends of the earth to feast with St Andrew, St Mary and all your saints at the table in your kingdom, where the new creation is brought to perfection in Jesus Christ our Lord; by whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

### The Lord's Prayer

**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.**

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ  
**Though we are many, we are one body,  
because we all share in one bread.**

### Agnus Dei

**Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us.  
Jesus, bearer of our sins, have mercy on us.  
Jesus, redeemer of the world, grant us your peace.**

### Giving of Communion

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

**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.**

*Whilst we are unable to share physically in the bread and wine, you may wish to pray this prayer of Spiritual Communion quietly to yourself*

Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ, for all the benefits you have given me, for all the pains and insults you have borne for me. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, I ask you to come spiritually into my heart. O most merciful redeemer, friend and brother, may I know you more clearly, love you more dearly, and follow you more nearly, day by day. Amen.

### **Prayer after Communion**

*The prayer for the day is read, then we pray together*

#### **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.**

### **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. **Amen.**

### **Closing Hymn**

### **Dismissal**

As we await our coming Saviour, go in peace to love and serve the Lord  
**In the name of Christ. Amen.**

*Common Worship: Main Volume (2000) and Times and Seasons (*  
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