

Preparation

A time of quiet and prayer before the service will help you to enter into the worship.

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.

Advent is a time of expectant waiting

Maranatha - Come Lord

Here, among our everyday places,
here, among our ordinary lives,
is the emerging of grace.
Watch, watch, for the signs of the Holy.
In this time, in every time,
we hold our breath in awe
for the wonder of the Christ.

Dorothy McRae-McMahon, Liturgies for the Journey of Life

Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.

Matthew 24: 44

The Gathering

Hymn

Please stand

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

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

Welcome and Introduction

The Lighting of the Advent Candle

(Words on a sheet)

Prayer of Penitence

Please sit or kneel

When the Lord comes,
he will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness,
and will disclose the purposes of the heart. *(1 Corinthians 4.5)*

Silence for reflection

Therefore in the light of Christ let us confess our sins.

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

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

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

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.

Kyrie

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

Christ, have mercy,
Christ, have mercy,
Christ, have mercy,
Christ, have mercy.

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

The Collect

Please respond

Amen

The Liturgy of the Word

Readings

At the end of each the reader may say

For the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Hymn

Please stand

Gospel Reading

When the Gospel is announced the reader says

Alleluia, alleluia.

Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,
and all flesh shall see the salvation of God. *cf Isaiah 40.3-5*

Alleluia.

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

At the end

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Please sit

The Creed
Please stand

**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

Please sit or kneel

These responses may be used

Lord, in your mercy

hear our prayer.

(or)

Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

And at the end

Merciful Father,

accept these prayers

for the sake of your Son,

our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Amen.

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

The Peace

Please stand

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. *(Luke 1.78,79)*

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

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Hymn

Remain standing

The Offertory

Blessed be God,
who feeds the hungry,
who raises the poor,
who fills our praise.
Blessed by God for ever.

or

Yours, Lord, is the greatness, the power,
the glory, the splendour, and the majesty;
for everything in heaven and on earth is yours.
**All things come from you,
and of your own do we give you.**

Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

(or) 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.

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*:

(from 17 December until Christmas Eve)

It is indeed right and good to give you thanks and praise,
almighty God and everlasting Father, through Jesus Christ your Son.
He is the one foretold by all the prophets,
whom the Virgin Mother bore with love beyond all telling.
John the Baptist was his herald and made him known
when at last he came.

In his love Christ fills us with joy as we prepare to celebrate his birth,
so that when he comes again he may find us watching in prayer,
our hearts filled with wonder and praise.

And so, with angels and archangels, and with all the company of
heaven, we proclaim your glory, and join in their unending hymn of
praise:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of pow'r and God of might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest;
hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest;
hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.**

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

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.

Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died:

Christ is risen:

Christ will come again.

or

Jesus Christ is Lord:

**Lord, by your cross and resurrection
you have set us free.**

You are the Saviour of the world.

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 [*N and*] 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.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour taught us, so we 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.

**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

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.**

(or)

Every time we eat this bread
and drink this cup,
**we proclaim the Lord's death
until he comes.**

The Agnus Dei may be used as the bread is broken

**Jesus, Lamb of God, Jesus, Lamb of God
you take away the sins of the world:
have mercy on us.**

**Jesus, Lamb of God, Jesus, Lamb of God,
you take away the sins of the world:
have mercy on us.**

**Jesus, Lamb of God, Jesus, Lamb of God,
you take away the sins of the world:
grant us your peace, grant us your peace.**

Giving of Communion

The president says one of these invitations to 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.

(or)

God's holy gifts

for God's holy people.

Jesus Christ is holy,

Jesus Christ is Lord,

to the glory of God the Father.

Prayer after Communion

Silence is kept.

The Post Communion or another suitable prayer is said.

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)

**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.

Notices

The Dismissal

Please stand

The president may use these words or another suitable blessing

May God the Father, judge all-merciful,
make us worthy of a place in his kingdom.

Amen

May god the Son, coming among us in power,
reveal in our midst the promise of his glory.

Amen.

May God the Holy Spirit make us steadfast in faith,
joyful in hope and constant in love.

Amen.

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

Hymn

Please stand

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ. Amen.

(or)

Go in the peace of Christ.
Thanks be to God.

*Common Worship: Services and Prayers for the Church of England, (c) The Archbishops' Council
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Mass of the Bread of Life (c) Margaret Rizza