

## **A Celebration of Holy Communion for Advent Sunday**

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

### **The Bidding Prayer**

Dear people of God, as we enter, eager and expectant, into this solemn season of Advent, looking forward to the birth of the Christ child, let us renew in ourselves that vision of God's perfect kingdom which is the end of all our strivings and the consummation of God's loving purposes for us.

In sorrow and penitence we confess our failures and shortcomings, and seek pardon for those sins which frustrate his redemptive purposes and hinder the advent of his reign of love.

So in prayer, praise, and song we give voice to the hope set forth in the scriptures, that his kingdom shall come; and, as we prepare for that day to dawn upon us from on high, so we commend ourselves and the whole human family to his keeping.

May he guide us into the way of peace, give light to those who sit in darkness, and the shadow of death, and kindle in us the fire of his love. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

### **Opening Hymn 134: Make Way, Make Way**

**1. Make way, make way for Christ the King in splendour arrives.  
Fling wide the gates and welcome him into your lives.**

*Make way, make way, for the King of Kings;  
Make way, make way, and let his kingdom in.*

**2. He comes the broken hearts to heal, the prisoners to free.  
The deaf shall hear, the lame shall dance, the blind shall see.**

**3. And those who mourn with heavy hearts, who weep and sigh;  
With laughter, joy and royal crown he'll beautify.**

**4. We call you now to worship him as Lord of all,  
To have no gods before him - their thrones must fall!**

## **The Lighting of the Advent Candle**

**Youth** Today is the first Sunday in the season of Advent. Advent means "coming," and in this season we prepare for the coming of Christ. Week by week we will light candles to remind us of the gifts Christ brings to the world.

**Adult** The candles tell us of the light which came into the world with Jesus Christ. The traditional colours of the Advent candles, three violet and one rose, are penitential colours, reminding us that we need God's help to be the people we are meant to be. The white candle which we light at Christmas signifies the coming of Christ.

**Youth** Today we light the first candle, the candle of hope.

**Adult** The people of Israel heard God's promises through the prophets. The prophet Isaiah spoke words of hope to Israel. He spoke of the coming of God's realm of Shalom when all nations will walk in God's light. We too hope and pray for a world of peace and harmony.

**Youth** Hope is like a light shining in a dark place. With the lighting of this candle, we celebrate the hope of Israel, and the hope that we have in Jesus Christ.

**Adult:** We continue to hope in God's promise that Christ will come again to fill our lives and the life of the world with love and joy and peace. Thank you, God, for the light of hope. As we prepare for Christ's coming, help us to share our hope with others.

### ***The Collect for Purity***

**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.**

Hear what our Lord Jesus Christ says:

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it. You shall love your neighbour as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the law and the prophets.

*Matthew 22: 37-39*

**Lord, have mercy on us,  
and write these your laws in our hearts.**

### ***Confession***

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son Jesus Christ, to save us from our sins, to intercede for us in heaven, and to bring us to eternal life. Let us then confess our sins in penitence and faith, firmly resolved to keep God's commandments and to live in love and peace:

### ***Silence***

**Almighty God, our heavenly Father, we have sinned in thought and word and deed, and in what we have left undone. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us, that we may walk in newness of life to the glory of your name. Amen.**

### ***The presiding minister pronounces the Absolution:***

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

### ***Collect of the Day, the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent***

Almighty God,

Give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and to put on the armour of light now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility; that on the last day when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

### **A Reading from the Prophecy of Isaiah:**

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence— as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil— to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence! When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him. You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways.

But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed. We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity. Yet, O LORD, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD, and do not remember iniquity for ever. Now consider, we are all your people. (*Isaiah 64: 1-9*)

This is the Word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

### **Psalm 80:1-8, 18-29**

- 1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, ♦  
you that led Joseph like a flock;
- 2 Shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim, ♦  
before Ephraim, Benjamin and Manasseh.
- 3 Stir up your mighty strength ♦  
and come to our salvation.
- 4 Turn us again, O God; ♦  
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
- 5 O Lord God of hosts, ♦  
how long will you be angry at your people's prayer?
- 6 You feed them with the bread of tears; ♦  
you give them abundance of tears to drink.

- 7 You have made us the derision of our neighbours, ♦  
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.
- 8 Turn us again, O God of hosts; ♦  
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
- 18 Let your hand be upon the man at your right hand, ♦  
the son of man you made so strong for yourself.
- 19 And so will we not go back from you; ♦  
give us life, and we shall call upon your name.
- 20 Turn us again, O Lord God of hosts; ♦  
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

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

**A Reading from Paul's 1<sup>st</sup> Letter to the the Corinthians:**

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind— just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you— so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

*(1 Corinthians 1: 3-9)*

This is the Word of the Lord  
**Thanks be to God**

**Hymn 119: Come, Thou Long-expected Jesus**

1. Come, thou long expected Jesus,  
born to set thy people free;  
from our fears and sins release us,  
let us find our rest in thee.

2. Israel's strength and consolation,  
hope of all the earth thou art;  
dear desire of every nation,  
joy of every longing heart.

3. Born thy people to deliver,  
born a child and yet a King,  
born to reign in us forever,  
now thy gracious kingdom bring.

4. By thine own eternal Spirit  
rule in all our hearts alone;  
by thine all sufficient merit,  
raise us to thy glorious throne.

Hear the Gospel of our Saviour Christ according to Mark:  
**Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

‘But in those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see “the Son of Man coming in clouds” with great power and glory. 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.

‘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. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

‘But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. 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. 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, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.’

*(Mark 13: 24-37)*

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

## *Thought for the Day*

### *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 by the Holy Spirit of 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.**

### **The Prayers of the People**

Everlasting God, as we come before you at the start of the Season of Advent we ask you to prepare us for the coming of your son Jesus Christ and to hear us when we pray in faith for the needs of the Church and the world and to thank you for your goodness.

### **Lord in your mercy: hear our prayer**

Mighty God, we pray for your church today, gathering worldwide in churches, chapels, cathedrals, and homes to praise you and to hear your holy word. Give us a sense of expectation as we come and inspiration as we go.

We pray for your blessing on all those who lead, preach and teach as they seek to do your will and guide their flocks through their spiritual and worldly journeys through Advent, until the day when we celebrate together the birth of your Son on Christmas Day.

**Lord in your mercy: hear our prayer**

Creator God, we pray for the world: drive away despair and division from politics, revive our dreams of justice and truth, and restore our passion for what is good and right. Establish your just and gentle rule throughout the world especially where there is conflict; where peace seems so far away and so many have lost everything, even the faint hope of a peaceful future. Govern the hearts and minds of all world leaders and those in authority that they may act justly, honestly and according to your will especially at this time of the global pandemic.

**Lord in your mercy: hear our prayer**

Merciful God, we pray for those for whom this day will be long and painful, for those in hospital or ill at home, those struggling with despair or depression and for all who care for them. Comfort and heal all who suffer, especially at this time of the Covid 19 pandemic, give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation.

**Lord in your mercy: hear our prayer**

Loving God, we remember those who have recently died and pray for those for whom this day will be their last. Be near to all who mourn and comfort them with the knowledge that in the coming of your son Jesus the gates of heaven will be opened wide for all who accept him as Lord and Saviour.

**Lord in your mercy: hear our prayer**

Advent Lord, as we move into the new liturgical year, draw near to us, strengthen our faith, deepen our love for you and for our neighbours and open our eyes to the wonder of your creation, so that when our Saviour comes he may find our hearts ready to receive him.

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

### ***The Peace***

*The presiding minister says*

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.**

### ***Celebrating at the Lord's Table***

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

### ***The Taking of the Bread and Wine***

Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us  
**therefore let us celebrate the feast.**

### ***The Great Thanksgiving***

#### ***Eucharistic Prayer 3***

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 our thanks and praise.**

Father, Lord of all creation,  
We praise you for your goodness and your love.  
When we turned away you did not reject us.  
You came to meet us in your Son,  
welcomed us as your children  
and prepared a table where we might feast with you.  
In Christ you shared our life  
that we might live in him and he in us.

**He opened wide his arms upon the cross  
and, with love stronger than death,  
he made the perfect sacrifice for sin.**

Lord Jesus Christ, our redeemer,  
on the night before you died  
you came to table with your friends.  
Taking bread, you gave thanks, broke it  
and gave it to them saying,  
Take, eat: this is my body which is given for you;  
do this in remembrance of me.  
**Lord Jesus, we bless you:  
you are the bread of life.**

At the end of supper  
you took the cup of wine, gave thanks, 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 in remembrance of me.

**Lord Jesus, we bless you:  
you are the true vine.**

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ:  
**dying, you destroyed our death,  
rising, you restored our life;  
Lord Jesus, come in glory.**

Holy Spirit, giver of life,  
come upon us now;  
may this bread and wine be to us  
the body and blood of our Saviour Jesus Christ.

**As we eat and drink these holy gifts  
make us, who know our need of grace,  
one in Christ, our risen Lord.**

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Blessed Trinity:  
with your whole Church throughout the world  
we offer you this sacrifice of thanks and praise  
and lift our voice to join the song of heaven,  
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.**

Thanks be to you, our God, for your gift beyond words.  
**Amen. Amen. Amen.**

### *The Lord's Prayer*

As our Saviour Christ has taught us, so we pray  
**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.**

### *The Breaking of the Bread*

The bread which we break is a sharing in the body of Christ.  
**We being many are one body, for we all share in the 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 peace.**

### *A Prayer to be said at Home*

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

### *Going Out as God's People*

#### *Post Communion Prayer*

God our deliverer, Awaken our hearts to prepare the way for the advent of your Son, that, with minds purified by the grace of his coming, we may serve you faithfully all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

#### *The 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 with you all evermore. **Amen.**

### **Hymn 132: 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:  
alleluia! alleluia! alleluia!  
God appears on earth to reign.**

**2. Every eye shall now behold him  
robed in dreadful majesty;  
we who set at naught and sold him,  
pierced and nailed him to the tree,  
Lord, have mercy, Lord, have mercy, Lord, have mercy,  
let us all thine Advent see.**

**3. Those dear tokens of his Passion  
still his dazzling body bears,  
cause of endless exultation  
to his ransomed worshippers:  
with what rapture, with what rapture, with what rapture  
gaze we on those glorious scars!**

**4. 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, O Come quickly, O Come quickly,  
Everlasting God come down !**