

Advent Sunday Service

The Gathering

The president welcomes the congregation

INTROIT HYMN

The Greeting

The president greets the people:

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.**

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.

Prayers of Penitence

Hear the words of the angel to Joseph:
'You shall call his name Jesus,
for he will save his people from their sins.' Therefore let us seek the forgiveness of God
through Jesus the Saviour of the world.

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.

Absolution

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 Liturgy of the Word

The Collect

Almighty God,
as your kingdom dawns,
turn us from the darkness of sin
to the light of holiness,
that we may be ready to meet you
in our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

We stand for the **Gospel Reading**

When the Gospel is announced the reader says

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

Mark 13.24-37

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.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

The 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.

We remain seated for the Prayers of Intercession

+The Liturgy of the Sacrament *Preparation of the Table*

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.**

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation:
through your goodness we have this bread to set before you,
which earth has given and human hands have made.
It will become for us the bread of life.
Blessed be God for ever.

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation:
through your goodness we have this wine to set before you,
fruit of the vine and work of human hands.
It will become for us the cup of salvation.
Blessed be God for ever.

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.

Father, we give you thanks and praise
through your beloved Son Jesus Christ,
your living Word, through whom you have created all things;
who was sent by you in your great goodness to be our Saviour.

By the power of the Holy Spirit he took flesh; as your Son, born of the blessed Virgin,
he lived on earth and went about among us; he opened wide his arms for us on the cross;
he put an end to death by dying for us;

and revealed the resurrection by rising to new life;
so he fulfilled your will
and won for you a holy people.

And now we give you thanks,
because your Son, our Lord, was awaited by the prophets, announced by an angel,
conceived by a virgin, and proclaimed at last to men and women of every race.

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.**

Lord, you are holy indeed,
the source of all holiness;
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit,
and according to your holy will,
these gifts of bread and wine
may be to us the body and blood
of our Lord Jesus Christ;
who, in the same night that he was betrayed, 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.
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.
Great is the Mystery of Faith.

**Christ has died:
Christ is risen:
Christ will come again.**

And so, Father,
calling to mind his death on the cross,
his perfect sacrifice made once
for the sins of the whole world;
rejoicing in his mighty resurrection
and glorious ascension,
and looking for his coming in glory,
we celebrate this memorial of our redemption.

As we offer you this our sacrifice
of praise and thanksgiving,
we bring before you this bread and this cup and we thank you for counting us worthy to
stand in your presence and serve you.

Send the Holy Spirit on your people
and gather into one in your kingdom
all who share this one bread and one cup,
so that we, in the company of all the saints, may praise and glorify you for ever,
through 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

As our Saviour 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**

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.

Agnus Dei

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

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.

**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.**

The president and people receive communion.

Prayer after Communion

**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.**

NOTICES FINAL HYMN

+*The Dismissal Blessing*

Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you, scatter the darkness from before your path;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.

Amen.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ. Amen.