

# Holy Communion

## Advent



St Mark's, Longwood



The theme of Advent is a focus on the coming of Jesus:  
His first coming, born a baby in Bethlehem  
His present coming; here with us  
His final coming in glory

Welcome

*Please continue to consider others who might need greater protection from Covid.*

Drop down ye heavens from above,  
and let the skies pour down righteousness.

**All Drop down ye heavens from above,  
and let the skies pour down righteousness.**

Be not wroth very sore, O Lord,  
neither remember iniquity for ever:  
thy holy cities are a wilderness,  
Sion is a wilderness,  
Jerusalem a desolation:  
our holy and our beautiful house,  
where our fathers praised thee.

### **The Gathering**

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

**All Amen.**

*The president greets the people with the words:*

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

**All and also with you.**

*Words of welcome may be said*



*The lighting of the Advent Candles*

**All     Longing for light, we wait in darkness.  
Longing for truth, we turn to you.  
Make us your own, your holy people,  
light for the world to see.**

***Christ be our light! Shine in our hearts.  
Shine through the darkness.  
Christ be our light!  
Shine in your church gathered today.***

Our help is in the name of the Lord.

**Who made heaven and earth.**

*The candle is lit:*

### **On the first Sunday of Advent**

Everlasting God, increase our strength of will for doing good that Christ may find an eager welcome at his coming and call us to his side in the kingdom of heaven.

**All    To you, O God, I lift up my soul.**

### **On the second Sunday of Advent**

~~God of mercy open our hearts in welcome. Remove the things that hinder us from receiving Christ with joy, so that we may share his wisdom and become one with him when he comes in glory.~~

~~**All — The Lord will come to save his people.**~~

### **On the Third Sunday of Advent**

~~Lord God, may all people experience the joy of salvation and celebrate with thanksgiving.~~

~~**All — Rejoice in the Lord, for he comes!**~~

## **On the Fourth Sunday of Advent**

Father of all, who gave his Son to live among us, lift our minds in watchful hope to hear the voice which announces his glory, and open our minds to receive the Spirit who prepares us for his coming.

**All — Let the earth bring forth a Saviour.**

*This prayer may be said:*

**All Faithful one, whose word is life:  
come with saving power  
to free our praise,  
inspire our prayer  
and shape our lives  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.**

**All Christ be our light! Shine in our hearts.  
Shine through the darkness.  
Christ be our light!  
Shine in your church gathered today.**

## **The Confession**

*The confession is introduced:*

Lord, have mercy

**All Lord, have mercy.**

Christ, have mercy

**All Christ, have mercy.**

Lord, have mercy

**All Lord, have mercy.**

*The president gives the absolution*



**I Baptize With Water  
But One Mightier  
Is Coming**

**The Collect** *Please remain standing when the president says,*

Let us pray [*silence*]

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,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever.

*All* **Amen.**

**The Readings** *Please sit for the bible reading*

The first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians, chapter 3, verse 9.

How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

This is the word of the Lord.

**All Thanks be to God.**

**The Gradual Hymn** *please stand*

**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 for ever,  
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.**

*Charles Wesley (1707-1788), (Public Domain)*

**The Gospel**

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

**All Alleluia.**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

**All Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus said, 'There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see "the Son of Man coming in a cloud" with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.'

Then he told them a parable: 'Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

'Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.'

*At the end of the Gospel reading:*

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**All Praise to you, O Christ.**

**The Sermon**



*Let us affirm our faith in Jesus Christ the Son of God. [Please Stand]*

**All 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.**

**The Prayers of Intercession** *please sit or kneel*

*These responses may be used:*

Lord, in your mercy  
**All hear our prayer.**

*And at the end:*

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

**The Peace** *please stand*

*The president may introduce the Peace with a suitable sentence, and then says*

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

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

*We exchange a sign of peace in a Coronavirus safe manner!*

**The Offertory Hymn** *(during which a collection is taken)*

- 1** Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart,  
be all else but naught to me, save that thou art;  
be thou my best thought in the day and the night,  
both waking and sleeping, thy presence my light.
- 2** Be thou my wisdom, be thou my true word,  
be thou ever with me, and I with thee Lord;  
be thou my great Father, and I thy true son;  
be thou in me dwelling, and I with thee one.
- 3** Be thou my breastplate, my sword for the fight;  
be thou my whole armour, be thou my true might;  
be thou my soul's shelter, be thou my strong tower:  
O raise thou me heavenward, great Power of my power.
- 4** Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise:  
be thou mine inheritance now and always;  
be thou and thou only the first in my heart;  
O Sovereign of heaven, my treasure thou art.
- 5** High King of heaven, thou heaven's bright sun,  
O grant me its joys after victory is won;  
great Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,  
still be thou my vision, O Ruler of all.

*Irish, c 8th century translated by Mary Byrne (1880-1931)  
versified by, Eleanor Hull (1860-1935) © Revived Copyright Holder Unknown*



*The president takes the bread and wine and says*

As this bread was scattered  
and then gathered and made one,  
so may your Church be gathered into your kingdom.

**Glory to you, O God, for ever.**

Wisdom has built her a house;  
she has mixed her wine; she has set her table.

**Glory to you, O God, for ever.**

### **The Eucharistic Prayer**

The Lord is here

**All His Spirit is with us.**

Lift up your hearts.

**All We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

*If an Extended Preface may be used instead*

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 singing:

**All Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of power and might,  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest**

*Remain standing if you are able*

Accept our praises, heavenly Father,  
through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ,  
and as we follow his example and obey his command,  
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit  
these gifts of bread and wine  
may be to us his body and his blood;

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.

Therefore, heavenly Father,  
we remember his offering of himself  
made once for all upon the cross;  
we proclaim his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension;  
we look for the coming of your kingdom,  
and with this bread and this cup  
we make the memorial of Christ your Son our Lord.  
Christ is the bread of life:

**All When we eat this bread and drink this cup,  
we proclaim your death, Lord Jesus,  
until you come in glory.**

Accept through him, our great high priest,  
this our sacrifice of thanks and praise,  
and as we eat and drink these holy gifts  
in the presence of your divine majesty,  
renew us by your Spirit,  
inspire us with your love  
and unite us in the body of your Son,  
Jesus Christ our Lord.



Through him, and with him, and in him,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
with all who stand before you in earth and heaven,  
we worship you, Father almighty,  
in songs of everlasting praise:

**All Blessing and honour and glory and power  
be yours for ever and ever.  
Amen.**

*Remain standing if you are able for the Lord's Prayer*

Let us pray for the coming of kingdom

**All 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.**

*The president breaks the consecrated bread saying:*

Every time we eat this bread  
and drink this cup,

**All we proclaim the Lord's death  
until he comes.**



**MARANATHA**  
*Come, Lord Jesus!*

*The president holds up the broken bread and wine and invites everyone to receive Holy Communion or a blessing with the words:*

Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

**All Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,  
but only say the word, and I shall be healed.**

The Body and blood of Christ keep you in eternal life.

**All Amen.**

*The president receives Holy Communion on behalf of all the people at home.*

*Those in church if you wish to receive communion or a blessing, please wear a face-covering.*

**Communion Hymns** *may be sung (seated) followed by a time of silence*

**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 peace.**

**1 Thy kingdom come, O God,  
thy rule, O Christ, begin;  
break with thine iron rod  
the tyrannies of sin.**

**2 Where is thy reign of peace  
and purity and love?**

**When shall all hatred cease,  
as in the realms above?**

**3 When comes the promised time  
that war shall be no more,  
and lust, oppression, crime  
shall flee thy face before?**

**4 We pray thee, Lord, arise,  
and come in thy great might;  
revive our longing eyes,  
which languish for thy sight.**

**5 Men scorn thy sacred name,  
and wolves devour thy fold;  
by many deeds of shame  
we learn that love grows cold.**

**6 O'er lands both near and far  
thick darkness broodeth yet:  
arise, O Morning Star,  
arise, and never set!**



*After Communion please stand when the priest says,*

Let us pray [*Silence*]

O Lord our God,  
make us watchful and keep us faithful  
as we await the coming of your Son our Lord;  
that, when he shall appear,  
he may not find us sleeping in sin  
but active in his service  
and joyful in his praise;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All Amen.**

**All 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.**

*Please sit for the notices*

## The Final Hymn

- 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 **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.**
  
- 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, O come quickly, O come quickly,  
alleluia! come, Lord, come!**

*Charles Wesley (1707-1788), Martin Madan (1726-1790), John Cennick (1718-1755)*

*The President gives the Blessing*

**All Amen.**

Go in the peace of Christ.

**All Thanks be to God.**

*Please join us for coffee after the service.*



Parts of this Service Booklet contain texts from:  
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