

Order of Service

Please stand for the entry of the clergy.

Hymn

The Greeting

The president greets the people.

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

All **Amen.**

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

All **and also with you.**

Lighting of the Advent Candles

Candle(s) on the Advent Wreath will now be lit.

First Sunday of Advent: Expectation of Hope.

Father, during the Advent season may we be reminded of your promises to us and your fulfilment of them.

All **Help us to prepare our lives for His Advent within us. Amen.**

Second Sunday of Advent: Preparation of Peace.

Father, guide us in confession of our sins. We know that in the greatness of your love, you have promised to forgive us.

All **Cleanse us as we prepare our lives
for the coming again of Jesus. Amen.**

Third Sunday of Advent: Proclamation and Joy.

Father, we are filled with joy because we have hope and peace that you have sent your son for all that believe.

All **Help us to be the voices that proclaim grace and truth. Amen.**

Fourth Sunday of Advent: Revelation and Peace.

Father, we thank you for revealing yourself through Jesus, and we praise you for the greatness of your love.

All **Help us to share your peace with others and live
our lives more like Christ every day. Amen.**

Prayers of Penitence

Invitation to 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.

Please sit or kneel.

A short period of silence will follow.

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

All **Lord, have mercy.**

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

All **Christ, have mercy.**

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

All **Lord, have mercy.**

The president says:

May the God of all healing and forgiveness
draw *us* to himself,
and cleanse *us* from all *our* sins
that we may behold the glory of his Son,
the Word made flesh,
Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

The Collect

We say the Collect Prayer of the day.

The Liturgy of the Word

Please sit.

Readings

At the end of these the reader will say:

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Gradual Hymn

After the hymn, please remain standing.

Gospel Reading

Alleluia, alleluia.

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

All **Alleluia.**

When the Gospel is announced the reader says:

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

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

At the end:

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

Please sit.

Sermon

The Creed

Please stand.

We affirm our faith in the words of the Creed.

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,

All **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,
All **God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,**
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.
All **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.
All **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;
All **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,
All **the Lord, the giver of life,**
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
All **With the Father and the Son he is worshipped and glorified.**
He has spoken through the prophets.
All **We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.**
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
All **We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession

Please sit or kneel.

One of these responses may be used:

Either

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

or

Lord, hear us.
All **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.

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

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

All may exchange a sign of peace.

Offertory Hymn (*during which the collection is taken*).

The bread and wine are brought to the altar, and the president says the following prayer:

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.

All **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.

All **Blessed be God for ever.**

Please remain standing for the Eucharistic Prayer.

The Eucharistic Prayer (E)

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.**

From the First Sunday of Advent until 16th December:

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 17th 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:

All **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.**

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.

Jesus Christ is Lord:

All **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.

All **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Please sit or kneel.

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us:

All **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

The president breaks the consecrated bread.

We break this bread
to share in the body of Christ.

All **Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.**

The Agnus Dei follows:

Either

All **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.**

or

All **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.**

Giving of Communion

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.**

All **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.**

Please come to the altar rail to receive communion. If you wish to receive a blessing instead, keep your head bowed and your hands lowered.

Prayer after Communion

Silence is kept.

All **You have opened to us the Scriptures, O Christ,
and you have made yourself known in the breaking of the bread.
Abide with us, we pray,
that, blessed by your royal presence,
we may walk with you
all the days of our life,
and at its end behold you
in the glory of the eternal Trinity,
one God for ever and ever.
Amen.**

Notices

Hymn may be sung at this point.

The Dismissal

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 among you and remain with you always.

All **Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All **In the name of Christ. Amen.**

Hymn if not already sung.

We hope you enjoyed the service; please speak to one of the leaders if you would like personal prayer.

Advent Prayers for personal reflection

Teach us, O Lord,
to serve Thee as Thou deservest;
to give and not to count the cost;
to fight and not to heed the wounds;
to toil and not to seek for rest;
to labour and not to ask for any reward
save that of knowing that we do Thy will,
through Jesus Christ, our Lord,
Amen.

St Ignatius Loyola

Look upon us, O Lord
and let all the darkness of our souls
vanish before the beams of Thy brightness.
Fill us with Holy Love,
and open to us the treasures of Thy wisdom.
All our desire is known unto Thee,
therefore perfect what Thou hast begun,
and what Thy Spirit has awakened us to ask in prayer.
We seek Thy face,
turn thy face unto us and show us Thy Glory.
Then shall our longing be satisfied,
And our peace be perfect

St Augustine