

Welcome to a Service of the Word

Second Sunday of Advent

8th December 2024

The Greeting

Welcome in the name of Christ.
God's grace, mercy and peace be with you
and also with you.

Lighting the Advent Wreath

Lord Jesus, light of the world,
the prophets said you would bring peace
and save your people in trouble.
Give peace in our hearts at Christmas
and show all the world God's love.
Amen.

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

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.**

Our Lord Jesus Christ said:

The first commandment is this:

‘Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is the only Lord.

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart,
with all your soul, with all your mind,
and with all your strength.’

The second is this: ‘Love your neighbour as yourself.’

There is no other commandment greater than these.

On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

Amen. Lord, have mercy.

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.

cf 1 Corinthians 4.5

Confession

Heavenly Father,

you call us to repent of our sins:

soften our proud and stubborn hearts.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord Jesus,
you declared the forgiveness of God:
teach us to forgive one another.
Christ, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.

Holy Spirit,
you search our hearts and show us the truth:
direct us in your way of righteousness.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

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.

Readings

Malachi 3.1–4

Or

Philippians 1.3–11

At the end:

This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Refiner's Fire

Gospel Reading

Luke 3.1–6

At the end:

This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Sermon

Men of Faith

Profession of faith

Let us declare our faith in God.

**We believe in God the Father,
from whom every family
in heaven and on earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son,
who lives in our hearts through faith,
and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
who strengthens us
with power from on high.**

**We believe in one God;
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**

Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

This response may be used:

Lord in your mercy

Hear our prayer

At the end:

Merciful Father,

**Accept these prayers for the sake of your Son our Saviour,
Jesus Christ.**

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.

The Collect

The Collect is said, and the people respond:

Amen

Awesome God & Consuming Fire

Notices

The 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 upon you and remain with you, always.

Amen.

The Dismissal

As we await our coming Saviour,
go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ.

Amen.

Hope of the nations

Exit Music

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