



Welcome to a Service of the Word

Third Sunday of Advent

15th 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,
John told the people to prepare,
for you were very near.

As Christmas grows closer day by day,
help us to be ready to welcome you now.

Amen.

Thy hand O God has guided

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 prepare for the coming of your Son:
forgive us our unreadiness to receive him.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord Jesus,
you were proclaimed by John the Baptist:
help us also to prepare your way.
Christ, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.

Holy Spirit,
you speak through the prophets:
make us attentive to hear your word.
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.

Reading(s)

Zephaniah 3.14–end or Philippians 4.4–7

At the end:
This is the Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Our God Reigns

Gospel Reading

Luke 3.1–6

At the end:

This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Sermon

O for a thousand tongues to sing

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

In the bleak midwinter

Notices

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 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.

Raise a Hallelujah

Exit Music

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