31 October 2021 | 4th Sunday before Advent | 10:00 am

The Greeting - Hello and Welcome

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

O Lord, open our lips  
and our mouth will proclaim your praise.  
Let us worship the Lord.  
All praise to his name.

*The prayer ends with these words:*

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.  
Blessed be God for ever.

Hymn 9 - There’s a wideness in God’s mercy

There’s a wideness in God’s mercy  
like the wideness of the sea;  
there’s a kindness in his justice  
which is more than liberty.

2 There is no place where earth’s sorrows  
are more keenly felt than heaven;  
there is no place where earth’s failings  
have such gracious judgement given.

3 There is plentiful redemption  
through the blood that Christ has shed;  
there is joy for all the members  
in the sorrows of the Head.

4 For the love of God is broader  
than the measure of our mind;  
and the heart of the Eternal  
is most wonderfully kind.

5 But we make his love too narrow  
by false limits of our own;  
and we magnify his strictness  
with a zeal he will not own.

6 If our love were but more simple,  
we should take him at his word,  
and our lives would fill with gladness  
in the presence of the Lord.

Penitence - saying sorry

Let us kneel and confess our sins to God our Father.

O God, our loving Father in heaven,  
we confess that we have sinned against you;  
we have broken your commandments;  
we have often been selfish,  
and we have not loved you as we should.  
For these and all our sins, forgive us, we pray:  
through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

Forgiveness - a reminder of God’s gift

Preparing - to hear God’s word

*The minister says:*

Your word is a lantern to my feet  
and a light upon our path.  
O Lord, your word is everlasting:  
it stands firm for ever in the heavens.

Let us then receive the word of the Lord.  
So may the light of your presence shine into our hearts.

Ruth 1:1–18 - please be seated

In the days when the judges ruled there was a famine in the land, and a man of Bethlehem in Judah went to sojourn in the country of Moab, he and his wife and his two sons. The name of the man was Elimelech and the name of his wife Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Chilion. They were Ephrathites from Bethlehem in Judah. They went into the country of Moab and remained there. But Elimelech, the husband of Naomi, died, and she was left with her two sons. These took Moabite wives; the name of the one was Orpah and the name of the other Ruth. They lived there about ten years, and both Mahlon and Chilion died, so that the woman was left without her two sons and her husband.  
Then she arose with her daughters-in-law to return from the country of Moab, for she had heard in the fields of Moab that the Lord had visited his people and given them food. So she set out from the place where she was with her two daughters-in-law, and they went on the way to return to the land of Judah. But Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, “Go, return each of you to her mother’s house. May the Lord deal kindly with you, as you have dealt with the dead and with me. The Lord grant that you may find rest, each of you in the house of her husband!” Then she kissed them, and they lifted up their voices and wept. And they said to her, “No, we will return with you to your people.” But Naomi said, “Turn back, my daughters; why will you go with me? Have I yet sons in my womb that they may become your husbands? Turn back, my daughters; go your way, for I am too old to have a husband. If I should say I have hope, even if I should have a husband this night and should bear sons, would you therefore wait till they were grown? Would you therefore refrain from marrying? No, my daughters, for it is exceedingly bitter to me for your sake that the hand of the Lord has gone out against me.” Then they lifted up their voices and wept again. And Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth clung to her.  
And she said, “See, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods; return after your sister-in-law.” But Ruth said, “Do not urge me to leave you or to return from following you. For where you go I will go, and where you lodge I will lodge. Your people shall be my people, and your God my God. Where you die I will die, and there will I be buried. May the Lord do so to me and more also if anything but death parts me from you.” And when Naomi saw that she was determined to go with her, she said no more.

This is the word of the Lord.  
Thanks be to God

Hymn 515 - A new commandment

A new commandment I give unto you,  
that you love one another as I have loved you,  
that you love one another as I have loved you.  
By this shall all know that you are my disciples,   
if you have love one to another.

Word Collect - Holding On

The Sermon

Hymn 592 - O love that wilt not let me go

O Love that wilt not let me go,  
I rest my weary soul in thee;  
I give thee back the life I owe,  
that in thine ocean depths its flow  
may richer, fuller be.

2 O Light that followest all my way,  
I yield my flickering torch to thee;  
my heart restores its borrowed ray,  
that in thy sunshine’s blaze its day  
may brighter, fairer be.

3 O Joy that seekest me through pain,  
I cannot close my heart to thee;  
I trace the rainbow through the rain,  
and feel the promise is not vain,  
that morn shall tearless be.

4 O Cross that liftest up my head,  
I dare not ask to fly from thee;  
I lay in dust life’s glory dead,  
& from the ground there blossoms red  
life that shall endless be.

Declaring Faith - affirming our belief

Do you believe and trust in God the Father,  
who made the world?  
I believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in his Son Jesus Christ,  
who redeemed mankind?  
I believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit,  
who gives life to the people of God?  
I believe and trust in him.

This is the faith of the Church.  
This is our faith.  
We believe and trust in One God,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Praying Together - Intercessions

Sunday Collect - 4th Sunday before Advent

The Lord’s Prayer - we pray with Jesus

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.

A Thanksgiving - we give thanks to God

For every blessing we have received  
we give you thanks and praise

Let us say together:

We go into the world  
to walk in God’s light,  
to rejoice in God’s love  
and to reflect God’s glory.

Hymn 584 - Jesus calls us

Jesus calls us over the tumult  
Of our life’s wild, restless, sea;  
Day by day his voice is sounding,  
Saying, “Christian, follow me!”

2 As of old apostles heard it  
By the Galilean lake,  
Turned from home & toil and kindred,  
Leaving all for his dear sake.

3 Jesus calls us from the worship  
Of the vain world’s golden store,  
From each idol that would keep us,  
Saying, “Christian, love me more!”

4 In our joys and in our sorrows,  
Days of toil and hours of ease,  
Still he calls, in cares and pleasures,  
“Christian, love me more than these!”

5 Jesus calls us! By your mercies,  
Saviour may we hear your call,  
Give to you our heart’s obedience,  
Serve and love you best of all.

The Blessing - and Dismissal

We go in peace to love and serve the Lord  
In the name of Christ. Amen.