**Early Communion | 4th before Advent | 31 October 2021 8:30 am**

**Greeting**

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

**Collect for Purity**

**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.**

**Confession**

**Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
we have sinned in thought and word and deed,
and in what we have left undone.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us,
that we may walk in newness of life
to the glory of your name. Amen.**

**Absolution**

**Glory to God *page 203***

**Glory to God in the highest,**
**and peace to God’s people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,
receive our prayer.
For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

**Collect of The Fourth Sunday before Advent**

**Epistle Hebrews 9: 11–14**

A Reading from Hebrews Chapter 9: beginning to read at verse 11:
But when Christ came as high priest of the good things that are now already here, he went through the greater and more perfect tabernacle that is not made with human hands, that is to say, is not a part of this creation. He did not enter by means of the blood of goats and calves; but he entered the Most Holy Place once for all by his own blood, so obtaining eternal redemption. The blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer sprinkled on those who are ceremonially unclean sanctify them so that they are outwardly clean. How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God!
This is the Word of the Lord **Thanks be to God**

**Gospel Mark 12: 28–34**

Hear the Gospel of our Saviour Christ according to Mark Chapter 12 beginning at verse 28:
**Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ**
One of the teachers of the law came and heard them debating. Noticing that Jesus had given them a good answer, he asked him, ‘Of all the commandments, which is the most important?’ ‘The most important one,’ answered Jesus, ‘is this: “Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.” The second is this: “Love your neighbour as yourself.” There is no commandment greater than these.’ ‘Well said, teacher,’ the man replied. ‘You are right in saying that God is one and there is no other but him. To love him with all your heart, with all your understanding and with all your strength, and to love your neighbour as yourself is more important than all burnt offerings and sacrifices.’ When Jesus saw that he had answered wisely, he said to him, ‘You are not far from the kingdom of God.’ And from then on no one dared ask him any more questions.
This is the Gospel of the Lord **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ**

**Sermon**

**Nicene Creed *page 205***

**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 by the Holy Spirit of 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.**

**Prayers of the People**

Lord, in your mercy
**Hear our prayer.**

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

**The Peace**

The Peace of the Lord be always with you **and also with you**

**Taking the Bread & Wine**

Christ our passover has been sacrificed for us
**therefore let us celebrate the feast.**

**Great Thanksgiving (3) page 216**

The Lord is here. **His Spirit is with us.**
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

… that we might live in him and he in us.
**He opened wide his arms upon the cross
and, with love stronger than death,
he made the perfect sacrifice for sin.**

. . . do this in remembrance of me.
**Lord Jesus, we bless you: you are the bread of life.**

… do this in remembrance of me.
**Lord Jesus, we bless you: you are the true vine.**

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ: **dying, you destroyed our death,
rising, you restored our life; Lord Jesus, come in glory.**

Holy Spirit, giver of life, come upon us now; may this bread and wine be to us the body and blood of our Saviour Jesus Christ.

**As we eat and drink these holy gifts** **make us, who know our need of grace, one in Christ, our risen Lord.**

… for ever praising you and saying:
**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord,
God of power and might.
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Thanks be to you, our God, for your gift beyond words **Amen. Amen. Amen.**

**The Lord’s Prayer**

**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.**

**Breaking Bread**

The bread which we break is a sharing in the body of Christ.
**We being many are one body, for we all share in the one bread.**

**Receiving Communion**

Please come forward to receive the Bread and Wine.

**Prayer after Communion**

**Almighty God,
we thank you for feeding us
with the spiritual food
of the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.
Through him we offer you our souls and bodies to be a living sacrifice.
Send us out in the power of your Spirit
to live and work to your praise and glory. Amen.**

**Blessing** **and Dismissal**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord
**in the name of Christ. Amen.**