**Early Communion** | **28 November 2021** | **Advent Sunday**

The Gathering of God’s People

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.

Penitence - saying sorry

## Lord, have mercy on us, and write these your laws in our hearts.

Penitence and Absolution

## 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.

The Collect - Advent Sunday

1 Thessalonians 3:9–13 - please be seated

A reading from 1 Thessalonians chapter 3 beginning at verse 9  
How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy we have in the presence of our God because of you? Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you again and supply what is lacking in your faith.  
Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus clear the way for us to come to you. May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else, just as ours does for you. May he strengthen your hearts so that you will be blameless and holy in the presence of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus comes with all his holy ones.  
This is the word of the Lord. Thanks be to God

Luke 21:25–36 - Please stand

Hear the Gospel of our Saviour Christ, according to Luke chapter 21, beginning at verse 25 Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.  
‘There will be signs in the sun, moon and stars. On the earth, nations will be in anguish and perplexity at the roaring and tossing of the sea. People will faint from terror, apprehensive of what is coming on the world, for the heavenly bodies will be shaken. At that time they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.’  
He told them this parable: ‘Look at the fig-tree and all the trees. When they sprout leaves, you can see for yourselves and know that summer is near. Even so, when you see these things happening, you know that the kingdom of God is near.  
‘Truly I tell you, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.  
‘Be careful, or your hearts will be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness and the anxieties of life, and that day will close on you suddenly like a trap. For it will come on all those who live on the face of the whole earth. Be always on the watch, and pray that you may be able to escape all that is about to happen, and that you may be able to stand before the Son of Man.’  
This is the Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

The Sermon

The Nicene Creed

## 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.

The 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.

At the Lord’s Table

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

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.

Father, Lord of all creation, we praise you for your goodness and your love. When we turned away you did not reject us. You came to meet us in your Son, welcomed us as your children and prepared a table where we might feast with you.

In Christ you shared our life 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.

Lord Jesus Christ, our redeemer, on the night before you died you came to table with your friends. Taking bread, you gave thanks, broke it and gave it to them saying, Take, eat: this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.  
Lord Jesus, we bless you:  
you are the bread of life.

At the end of supper you took the cup of wine, gave thanks, 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 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.

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Blessed Trinity: with your whole Church throughout the world we offer you this sacrifice of thanks and praise and lift our voice to join the song of heaven, 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

Breaking the 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.

Going Out as God’s People

Father of all, we give you thanks and praise, that when we were still far off  
you met us in your Son and brought us home. Dying and living, he declared your love, gave us grace, and opened the gate of glory.

## May we who share Christ’s body live his risen life; we who drink his cup bring life to others; we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world.

## Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us, so we and all your children shall be free, and the whole earth live to praise your name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

## 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.

The Blessing and Dismissal

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