**Early Communion | 12 December 2021 | Advent 3**

**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.**

**Penitence.**

Blessed are the poor in spirit,  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.  
**Jesus, remember me  
when you come into your kingdom.**  
Blessed are the meek,  
for they shall inherit the earth.  
**Jesus, remember me  
when you come into your kingdom.**  
Blessed are those who weep  
for they shall be consoled.  
**Jesus, remember me  
when you come into your kingdom.**  
Blessed are those who hunger and thirst after justice,  
for they shall be satisfied.  
**Jesus, remember me  
when you come into your kingdom.**

Blessed are the merciful,  
for they shall obtain mercy.  
**Jesus, remember me  
when you come into your kingdom.**  
Blessed are the pure in heart,  
for they shall see God.  
**Jesus, remember me  
when you come into your kingdom.**  
Blessed are the peacemakers,  
for they shall be called the children of God.  
**Jesus, remember me  
when you come into your kingdom.**  
Blessed are those who suffer persecution for the sake of justice,  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.  
**Jesus, remember me  
when you come into your kingdom**

**Confession and Absolution**

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**  
Christ, have mercy **Christ, have mercy.**  
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

**Collect of the Day**

**Epistle Philippians 4:4–7**

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.  
This is the word of the Lord **Thanks be to God**

**Gospel Luke 3:17–18**

Hear the Gospel of our Saviour Christ, according to Luke chapter 3 beginning at verse 17 **Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

John said to the crowds coming out to be baptised by him, ‘You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, “We have Abraham as our father.” For I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. The axe has been laid to the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.’   
‘What should we do then?’ the crowd asked.   
John answered, ‘Anyone who has two shirts should share with the one who has none, and anyone who has food should do the same.’   
Even tax collectors came to be baptised. ‘Teacher,’ they asked, ‘what should we do?’   
‘Don’t collect any more than you are required to,’ he told them.   
Then some soldiers asked him, ‘And what should we do?’   
He replied, ‘Don’t extort money and don’t accuse people falsely – be content with your pay.’   
The people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their hearts if John might possibly be the Messiah. John answered them all, ‘I baptise you with water. But one who is more powerful than I will come, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.’ And with many other words John exhorted the people and proclaimed the good news to them.

This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

**Sermon**

**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.**

**Prayers of the People**

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

Merciful God, you look with compassion on all who turn to you.  
Hear the prayers of your people.  
**Grant that what we have asked in faith**  
**we may by your grace receive;**  
**through Jesus Christ our Lord.   Amen.**

**The Peace**

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

**Taking the Bread & Wine and Great Thanksgiving**

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.**

. . . 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.**

**Invitation**

Jesus Christ is the Lamb of God, who has taken away the sin of the world.  
Happy are those who are called to his supper.  
**Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,  
But only say the word and I shall be healed.**

**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.**