

## Giving of Communion

### Prayer After Communion

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.

### We Ask For God's 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 among you and remain with you always.  
Amen

Hymn: 369 O happy day that fixed my choice

### We Go In God's Strength

As we await our coming Saviour,  
go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
In the name of Christ. Amen.



## Holy Communion - 4th December 2022 Second Sunday of Advent - The Prophets

Hymn - 358 O come, o come Emmanuel

### We gather to worship God

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

**And also with you.**

Jesus said, 'Do not think that I have come to abolish the law and  
the prophets: I have not come to abolish them but to fulfil them.'  
**Amen. Come soon, Lord Jesus!**

*The second candle is lit and this response is used*

Jesus is the light of the world.

**A light no darkness can ever put out.**

*We sing: (Tune: 33 Angels voices ever singing)*

**Advent candles tell their story  
as we watch and pray,  
longing for the Day of Glory,  
'Come, Lord, soon,' we say.  
Pain and sorrow, tears and sadness  
changed for gladness on that Day.**

**Prophet voices loudly crying,  
making pathways clear;  
glimpsing glory, self-denying,  
calling all to hear.  
Through their message - challenged, shaken -  
hearts awaken:  
God is near!**

### We Say Sorry to God

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.

*We share a moment of quiet to recall our need for forgiveness.*

**Almighty God, our heavenly Father,  
we have sinned against you and against our neighbour  
in thought and word and deed,  
through negligence, through weakness,  
through our own deliberate fault.  
We are truly sorry and repent of all our sins.  
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, who died for us,  
forgive us all that is past and grant that we may serve you  
in newness of life to the glory of your name.  
Amen.**

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.**

### We Listen to God's Word

**O Lord, raise up, we pray, your power and come among us,  
and with great might succour us;  
that whereas, through our sins and wickedness  
we are grievously hindered  
in running the race that is set before us,  
your bountiful grace and mercy  
may speedily help and deliver us;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
to whom with you and the Holy Spirit,  
be honour and glory, now and for ever.  
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**

### Breaking of the Bread

*The president breaks the consecrated bread.*

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

**Though we are many, we are one body,**

**because we all share in one bread.**

Draw near with faith. Receive the body of our lord Jesus Christ which he gave for you, and his blood which is shed for you. Eat and drink in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

As we come to receive these holy gifts, we pray together:

**Most merciful Lord, your love compels us to come in.**

**Our hands were unclean, our hearts were unprepared;  
we were not fit even to eat the crumbs from under your table.**

**But you, Lord, are the God of our salvation,  
and share your bread with sinners.**

**So cleanse and feed us**

**with the precious body and blood of your Son,**

**that he may live in us and we in him;**

**and that we, with the whole company of Christ,  
may sit and eat in your kingdom. Amen.**

Jesus then gave thanks for the wine;  
he took the cup, gave it and said:  
This is my blood, shed for you all  
for the forgiveness of sins.  
Do this in remembrance of me.  
This is our story.

**This is our song: Hosanna in the highest.**

Therefore, Father, with this bread and this cup  
we celebrate the cross  
on which he died to set us free.  
Defying death he rose again  
and is alive with you to plead for us and all the world.  
This is our story.

**This is our song: Hosanna in the highest.**

Send your Spirit on us now  
that by these gifts we may feed on Christ  
with opened eyes and hearts on fire.  
May we and all who share this food  
offer ourselves to live for you  
and be welcomed at your feast in heaven  
where all creation worships you, Father, Son and Holy Spirit:  
**Blessing and honour and glory and power  
be yours for ever and ever.**  
**Amen.**

#### **Readings:**

**Esther 4:1-17**

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

**Matthew 5:13-16**

*at the end, the reader says:*

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

#### **Sermon**

**HYMN - 193 Hail to the Lord's anointed**

#### **The 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;  
by the power of the Holy Spirit  
he became incarnate from 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 for Ourselves and Others

#### We Share God's Peace

In the tender mercy of our God, the dayspring from on high shall  
break upon us, to give light to those who dwell in darkness and in  
the shadow of death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace.  
The Peace of the Lord be always with you  
**And also with you**

### Hymn: MP651 The kingdom of God is Justice and Joy

#### We Celebrate Holy Communion

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.**

Almighty God, good Father to us all,  
your face is turned towards your world.  
In love you gave us Jesus your Son  
to rescue us from sin and death.  
Your Word goes out to call us home  
to the city where angels sing your praise.  
We join with them in heaven's song:  
**Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of power and might,  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

Father of all, we give you thanks for every gift that comes from  
heaven. To the darkness Jesus came as your light.  
With signs of faith and words of hope he touched untouchables  
with love and washed the guilty clean. This is his story.

**This is our song: Hosanna in the highest.**

The crowds came out to see your Son, yet at the end they turned  
on him. On the night he was betrayed he came to table with his  
friends to celebrate the freedom of your people. This is his story.  
**This is our song: Hosanna in the highest.**

Jesus blessed you, Father, for the food;  
he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and said:  
This is my body, given for you all.