



Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim
One more light the bowl shall brim,
Shining beyond the frosty weather,
Bright as sun and moon together.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the star, is on the way.

Angels, announce with shouts of mirth
Christ who brings new life to earth.
Set every peak and valley humming
With the word, the Lord is coming.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the Lord, is on the way.

The 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.**

Dismissal

Go in the peace of Christ.
Thanks be to God.

Welcome

A churchwarden welcomes us

Opening Hymn

On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry
Announces that the Lord is nigh;
Awake, and hearken, for he brings
Glad tidings from the King of kings!

Then cleansed be every breast from sin;
Make straight the way for God within;
Prepare we in our hearts a home,
Where such a mighty guest may come.

For thou art our salvation, Lord,
Our refuge, and our great reward.
Without Thy grace we waste away
Like flowers that wither and decay.

To heal the sick stretch out Thine hand,
And bid the fallen sinner stand;
Shine forth, and let thy light restore
Earth's own true loveliness once more.

All praise, eternal Son, to Thee
Whose advent sets Thy people free,
Whom, with the Father, we adore,
And Holy Ghost, forevermore.

The Greeting

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

The Lord be with you
And also with you

Informal words of welcome are said.

The Lighting of the second Advent Candle

We light this candle for all God's prophets
confronting injustice and restoring the dream
of a world of freedom and peace
God, as we wait for your promise
Give light, give hope

The Prayers of Penitence

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.

Silence is kept

**Father eternal, giver of light and grace,
we have sinned against you and against our neighbour,
in what we have thought, in what we have said and done,
through ignorance, through weakness,
through our own deliberate fault.**

**We have wounded your love,
and marred your image in us.**

We are sorry and ashamed, 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 lead us out from darkness

to walk as children of light.

Amen.

The Kyries (sung by the choir)

Lord Have Mercy , Lord Have Mercy
Christ Have Mercy , Christ Have Mercy
Lord Have Mercy , Lord Have Mercy

Absolution

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.

The Collect

Almighty God, purify our hearts and minds, that when your Son Jesus Christ comes again as judge and saviour we may be ready to receive him, who is our Lord and our God. **Amen**

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 40:1-11

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins. A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground

The Giving of Communion

Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Blessed 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.**

During Communion

Anthem (sung by the choir) Come, Thou Redeemer of the Earth,
arr. David Willcocks.

Prayers after Communion

Father in heaven, who sent your Son to redeem the world and will send him again to be our judge: give us grace so to imitate him in the humility and purity of his first coming that, when he comes again, we may be ready to greet him with joyful love and firm faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

We pray together

**God of hope, be with us in our Advent journey;
be with us in our worship and our praying together
be with us in our homes and workplaces this week;
shine your light in our darkness;
fill us with your hope
and make us bringers of hope to others,
in the name of Christ the light of the world.
Amen.**

Notices

Closing hymn (sung by the choir)

People, look east. The time is near
Of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able,
Trim the hearth and set the table.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the guest, is on the way.

Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare,
One more seed is planted there:
Give up your strength the seed to nourish,
That in course the flower may flourish.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the rose, is on the way.

As we recall the one, perfect sacrifice of our redemption,
Father, by your Holy Spirit let these gifts of your creation
be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;
form us into the likeness of Christ
and make us a perfect offering in your sight.

Look with favour on your people
and in your mercy hear the cry of our hearts.
Bless the earth, heal the sick, let the oppressed go free
and fill your Church with power from on high.

Gather your people from the ends of the earth
to feast with Mary, the mother of our Lord, and all your saints
at the table in your kingdom,
where the new creation is brought to perfection
in Jesus Christ our Lord;
by whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father, for ever and ever.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer (we sit or kneel)

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 forever. Amen**

Breaking of the 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.**

Agnus Dei (sung by the choir)

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
grant us peace.

shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of
the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the
mouth of the Lord has spoken." A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What
shall I cry?" All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the
field. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord
blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower
fades; but the word of our God will stand forever. Get you up to a high
mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength,
O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities
of Judah, "Here is your God!" See, the Lord God comes with might, and
his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before
him. He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his
arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 85 (sung by members of St Mary's choir)

Second Reading: 2 Peter 3:8-15

But do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like
a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. The Lord is not
slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with
you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. But the day
of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away
with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the
earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed. Since all these
things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to
be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening
the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set
ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? But, in
accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth,
where righteousness is at home. Therefore, beloved, while you are wait-
ing for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or
blemish; and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation. So also our
beloved brother Paul wrote to you according to the wisdom given him.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading Mark 1:1-8

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Matthew

Glory to you, O Lord

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.
As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, "See, I am sending my messenger

ahead of you, who will prepare your way; the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,'" John the baptiser appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptised by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptised you with water; but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit."

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

Sermon

Prayers of Intercession

The prayers conclude with

Merciful Father,

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

The Peace

To crown all things there must be love, to bind all together and complete the whole. Let the peace of Christ rule in our hearts.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Taking of the Bread and Wine

Blessed be God, who feeds the hungry,
who raises the poor, who fills our praise.

Blessed be God for ever

Eucharistic Prayer F

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give thanks and praise.

You are worthy of our thanks and praise, Lord God of truth,
for by the breath of your mouth you have spoken your word,
and all things have come into being.

You fashioned us in your image

and placed us in the garden of your delight.

Though we chose the path of rebellion you would not abandon your own.

Again and again you drew us into your covenant of grace.

You gave your people the law and taught us by your prophets
to look for your reign of justice, mercy and peace.

As we watch for the signs of your kingdom on earth,

we echo the song of the angels in heaven,

evermore praising you and singing:

Holy, holy, holy Lord,

God of power and might.

Heaven and earth are full of your glory,

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he, Oh blessed is he,

Who comes in the name of the Lord

Hosanna in the highest, Hosanna in the highest.

Lord God, you are the most holy one, enthroned in splendour and light,
yet in the coming of your Son Jesus Christ
you reveal the power of your love made perfect in our human weakness.

Embracing our humanity, Jesus showed us the way of salvation;

loving us to the end, he gave himself to death for us;

dying for his own, he set us free from the bonds of sin,

that we might rise and reign with him in glory.

On the night he gave up himself for us all

he took bread and gave you thanks;

he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;

do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper

he took the cup and gave you thanks;

he gave it to them, saying: 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, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

Therefore we proclaim the death that he suffered on the cross,

we celebrate his resurrection, his bursting from the tomb,

we rejoice that he reigns at your right hand on high

and we long for his coming in glory.