



Closing hymn (sung by the choir)

Hark, the glad sound! the Saviour comes,
The Saviour promised long;
Let every heart prepare a throne,
And every voice a song.

He comes, the prisoners to release,
In Satan's bondage held;
The gates of brass before Him burst,
The iron fetters yield.

He comes, the broken heart to bind,
The bleeding soul to cure;
And with the treasures of His grace
To enrich the humble poor.

Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace,
Thy welcome shall proclaim;
And heav'n's eternal arches ring
With Thy beloved Name.

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

Hills of the North, rejoice,
river and mountain-spring,
hark to the advent voice;
valley and lowland, sing.
Christ comes in righteousness and love,
he brings salvation from above.

Isles of the Southern seas,
sing to the listening earth,
carry on every breeze
hope of a world's new birth:
In Christ shall all be made anew,
his word is sure, his promise true.

Lands of the East, arise,
he is your brightest morn,
greet him with joyous eyes,
praise shall his path adorn:
your seers have longed to know their Lord;
to you he comes, the final word.

Shores of the utmost West,
lands of the setting sun,
welcome the heavenly guest
in whom the dawn has come:
he brings a never-ending light
who triumphed o'er our darkest night.

Shout, as you journey home,
songs be in every mouth,
lo, from the North they come,
from East and West and South:
in Jesus all shall find their rest,
in him the universe be blest.

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

The Lighting of the third Advent Candle

We light this candle for all God's messengers
preparing the way for change
signs pointing to a new world to come
**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

God for whom we watch and wait, you sent John the Baptist to prepare
the way of your Son: give us courage to speak the truth, to hunger for
justice, and to suffer for the cause of right, with Jesus Christ our Lord.
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.

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) "Creator of the starry height".

Prayers after Communion

We give you thanks, O Lord, for these heavenly gifts; kindle in us the fire
of your Spirit that when your Christ comes again we may shine as lights
before his face; who is alive and reigns now and for ever.
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

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.

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**

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the LORD has
anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to
bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and
release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the LORD's favour, and
the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide
for those who mourn in Zion—to give them a garland instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a
faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of
the LORD, to display his glory. They shall build up the ancient ruins, they
shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities,
the devastations of many generations. For I the LORD love justice, I hate
robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and
I will make an everlasting covenant with them. Their descendants shall
be known among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples; all
who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the Lord
has blessed. I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my whole being shall exult
in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has
covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks
himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For
as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown
in it to spring up so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise
to spring up before all the nations.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 126 (sung by members of St Mary's choir)

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5.16–24

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances;
for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the
Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold
fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil. May the God of
peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and
body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus
Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading John 1.6–8,19–28

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

Glory to you, O Lord

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, 'I am not the Messiah.' And they asked him, 'What then? Are you Elijah?' He said, 'I am not.' 'Are you the prophet?' He answered, 'No.' Then they said to him, 'Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?' He said, 'I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, "Make straight the way of the Lord" ', as the prophet Isaiah said. Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, 'Why then are you baptising if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?' John answered them, 'I baptise with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.' This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptising.

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: