

# A Service of Eucharist for Advent

## The Gathering

### Opening hymn – **O come, O come Emmanuel**

*sung by St Martin's Voices*

- 1           O come, O come Emmanuel,  
          And ransom captive Israel,  
          That mourns in lonely exile here,  
          Until the Son of God appear.  
*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
          Shall come to thee, O Israel.*
  
- 2           O come, Thou Rod of Jesse, free  
          Thine own from Satan's tyranny;  
          From depths of hell Thy people save,  
          And give them victory o'er the grave.  
*Refrain*
  
- 3           O come, Thou Day-spring, come and cheer  
          Our spirits by Thine advent here;  
          Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
          And death's dark shadows put to flight.  
*Refrain*
  
- 4           O come, Thou Key of David, come,  
          And open wide our heavenly home;  
          Make safe the way that leads on high,  
          And close the path to misery.  
*Refrain*
  
- 5           O come, O come, Thou Lord of might,  
          Who to Thy tribes, on Sinai's height,  
          In ancient times didst give the law  
          In cloud and majesty and awe.  
*Refrain*

*Latin 13th century translated by John M Neale (1818-1866)*

## The Greeting

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

The Lord be with you:  
*All* **And also with you .**

### **Lighting of the Advent Wreath**

*As the candle is lit, the a prayer is said*

God of Abraham and Sarah,  
and all the patriarchs of old,  
you are our Father too.  
Your love is revealed to us in Jesus Christ,  
Son of God and Son of David.  
Help us in preparing to celebrate his birth  
to make our hearts ready for your Holy Spirit  
to make his home among us.  
We ask this through Jesus Christ,  
the light who is coming into the world.  
*All* **Amen.**

## Prayer of Preparation

All **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.**

## Confession & Absolution

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*

You bring our fear into the light of love;  
we prefer to hide in the shadows.

Lord have mercy

All **Lord have mercy**

You promise healing for the earth;  
we turn our backs on our common world  
Christ have mercy

All **Christ have mercy**

You come near in the vulnerable word made flesh;  
we worship distant idols of celebrity and power.

Lord have mercy

**All Lord have mercy**

Almighty God,  
who in Jesus Christ has given us  
a kingdom that cannot be destroyed,  
forgive you your sins,  
open your eyes to God's truth,  
strengthen you to do God's will  
and give you the joy of his kingdom,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

### **The Collect**

Let us pray

Almighty God,  
give us grace to cast away the works of darkness  
and to put on the armour of light,  
now in the time of this mortal life,  
in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility;  
that on the last day,  
when he shall come again in his glorious majesty  
to judge the living and the dead,  
we may rise to the life immortal;  
through him who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

**All Amen.**

## The Liturgy of the Word

### Readings

#### Isaiah 64:1-9

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,  
so that the mountains would quake at your presence—  
as when fire kindles brushwood  
and the fire causes water to boil—  
to make your name known to your adversaries,  
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!  
When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,  
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.  
From ages past no one has heard,  
no ear has perceived,  
no eye has seen any God besides you,  
who works for those who wait for him.  
You meet those who gladly do right,  
those who remember you in your ways.  
But you were angry, and we sinned;  
because you hid yourself we transgressed.  
We have all become like one who is unclean,  
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.  
We all fade like a leaf,  
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.  
There is no one who calls on your name,  
or attempts to take hold of you;  
for you have hidden your face from us,  
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.  
Yet, O Lord, you are our Father;  
we are the clay, and you are our potter;  
we are all the work of your hand.  
Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord,  
and do not remember iniquity forever.  
Now consider, we are all your people.

## **I Corinthians 1:3-9**

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind— just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you— so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

This is the word of the Lord.

**All Thanks be to God.**

## **Gospel Reading**

### **Acclamation**

Alleluia, alleluia.

Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight  
and all flesh shall see the salvation of God:

**All Alleluia.**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark

**All Glory to you, O Lord.**

## **Mark 13:24-37**

“But in those days, after that suffering,

the sun will be darkened,

and the moon will not give its light,

and the stars will be falling from heaven,

and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

“From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

“But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

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

**Sermon**

## Creed

We say together in faith

**All Holy, holy, holy  
is the Lord God almighty,  
who was, and is, and is to come.**

We believe in God the Father,  
who created all things:

**All for by his will they were created  
and have their being.**

We believe in God the Son,  
who was slain:

**All for with his blood,  
he purchased us for God,  
from every tribe and language,  
from every people and nation.**

We believe in God the Holy Spirit:

**All the Spirit and the Bride say, 'Come!'  
Even so come, Lord Jesus!  
Amen.**

## Prayers of Intercession

*This response, or another, may be used:*

Lord in your mercy

**All Hear our prayer**

*At the end we may say:*

**Merciful Father, accept these prayers  
for the sake of your Son,  
our Saviour Jesus Christ, Amen**

## The Liturgy of the Sacrament

### The 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  
*All* **And also with you**

Let us offer one another a sign of peace

*All may exchange a sign of peace*

### The Preparation of the Table

As the grain once scattered in the fields  
and the grapes once dispersed on the hillside  
are now reunited on this table in bread and wine,  
so, Lord, may your whole Church soon be gathered together  
from the corners of the earth  
into your kingdom.

**Amen.**

## The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you

**All And also with you**

Lift up your hearts

**All We lift them to the Lord**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

**All It is right to give thanks and praise**

It is right to praise you, Father, Lord of all creation;  
in your love you made us for yourself.

When we turned away  
you did not reject us,

but came to meet us in your Son.

**All You embraced us as your children  
and welcomed us to sit and eat with you.**

In Christ you shared our life  
that we might live in him and he in us.

**All He opened his arms of love upon the cross  
and made for all the perfect sacrifice for sin.**

On the night he was betrayed,  
at supper with his friends  
he took bread, and gave you thanks;  
he 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.

**All Father, we do this in remembrance of him:  
his body is the bread of life.**

At the end of supper, taking the cup of wine,  
he gave you thanks, and said:  
Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant,  
which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins;  
do this in remembrance of me.

**All Father, we do this in remembrance of him:  
his blood is shed for all.**

As we proclaim his death and celebrate his rising in glory,  
send your Holy Spirit that this bread and this wine  
may be to us the body and blood of your dear Son.

**All As we eat and drink these holy gifts  
make us one in Christ, our risen Lord.**

With your whole Church throughout the world  
we offer you this sacrifice of praise  
and lift our voice to join the eternal song of heaven:

**All Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of power and might,  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord,  
Hosanna in the highest.**

## The Lord's Prayer

Awaiting his coming in glory,  
as our Saviour taught us, so we pray

**All 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

Every time we eat this bread  
and drink this cup,  
**All we proclaim the Lord's death  
until he comes.**

## **Agnus Dei**

**All Jesus, Lamb of God,  
have mercy on us.**

**Jesus, bearer of our sins,  
have mercy on us.**

**Jesus, redeemer of the world,  
grant us peace.**

## **Giving of Communion**

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

*The president and people receive communion.*

## **Prayer after Communion**

*A period of silence may be kept,*

## **Prayer after Communion**

**All Eternal God,  
we thank you that in Christ  
you give yourself into our hands:  
may we who have tasted life  
proclaim the coming feast  
when many will come  
from east and west, from north and south  
to greet the Lord of all;  
we ask this in his name.  
Amen.**

## **Notices**

### **Recessional Hymn – Hills of the North, rejoice**

*sung by St Martin's Voices*

- 1 Hills of the North, rejoice,  
echoing songs arise,  
hail with united voice  
him who made earth and skies;  
he comes in righteousness and love,  
he brings salvation from above.
  
- 2 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.

- 3 Lands of the East, arise,  
he is your brightest morn,  
greet him with joyous eyes,  
praise shall his path adorn:  
the God whom you have longed to know  
in Christ draws near, and calls you now.
- 4 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.
- 5 Shout, as you journey on,  
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 sons of earth be blest.

*Editors of English Praise (1975) based on Charles E Oakley (1832-1865)*  
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## **Blessing**

May God himself, the God of peace,  
make you perfect and holy,  
and keep you safe and blameless, in spirit, soul and body,  
for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ;  
and the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,  
be with you and remain with you always  
**Amen.**

## Dismissal

Our Lord says, 'I am coming soon.'  
*All* **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

May the Lord, when he comes,  
find us watching and waiting.  
**Amen.**