

First Sunday of Advent

INTRODUCTION

INTROIT HYMN— **243** *Celebration Hymnal*

The ADVENT CANDLE is lit. The priest says:
Blessed are you, sovereign Lord, God of our ancestors: to you be praise and glory for ever. You called the patriarchs to live by the light of faith and to journey in the hope of your promised fulfilment. May we be obedient to your call and be ready and watchful to receive your Christ, a lamp to our feet and a light to our path; for you are our light and our salvation.
All respond: Blessed be God for ever.

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

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

The PRAYERS OF PENITENCE are introduced.

**Most merciful God,
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
we confess that we have sinned in thought,
word and deed.**

**We have not loved you with our whole heart.
We have not loved our neighbours as
ourselves.**

**In your mercy forgive what we have been,
help us to amend what we are,
and direct what we shall be;
that we may do justly, love mercy,
and walk humbly with you, our God. Amen.**

May the God of all healing and forgiveness draw you to himself, and cleanse you ✠ from all your sins, that you may behold the glory of his Son, the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

KYRIE ELEÏSON *is sung.*

Kyrie, eleïson. (× 3) *(Lord, have mercy.)*

Christe, eleïson. (× 3) *(Christ, have mercy.)*

Kyrie, eleïson. (× 3) *(Lord, have mercy.)*

All remain standing for the COLLECT.

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. **Amen.**

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Readings for Year C

FIRST READING

Jer 33.14–16

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah.

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfil the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: 'The Lord is our righteousness.'

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

from Ps 25

℟. To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

(All repeat)

Show me your ways, O Lord,
and teach me your paths.
Lead me forth in your truth,
for you are God my saviour. ℟.

Good and righteous is the Lord;
he brings back those who stray.
He guides the meek in his ways,
and shows his paths to the lowly. ℟.

All his ways are mercy and truth
for those who are faithful to his word.

To those who love him, he reveals his mind,
and shows them all his will. ℟.

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Thessalonians.

How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith. Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Ps 85.7

Alleluia.

Show us your steadfast love, O Lord: and grant us your salvation.

Alleluia.

GOSPEL READING

Lk 21.25-36

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Hear the Gospel ✠ of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said to his disciples:—

“There will be signs in sun and moon and stars, and on the earth distress of nations in perplexity because of the roaring of the sea and the waves, people fainting with fear and with foreboding of what is coming on the world. For the powers of the heavens will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

And he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree, and all the trees. As soon as they come

out in leaf, you see for yourselves and know that the summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all has taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

“But watch yourselves lest your hearts be weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and cares of this life, and that day come upon you suddenly like a trap. For it will come upon all who dwell on the face of the whole earth. But stay awake at all times, praying that you may have strength to escape all these things that are going to take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

A SERMON *may follow.*

All stand to recite the 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,

(all bow) **was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and was made man.**

(all rise) **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.

The INTERCESSIONS are introduced, and all kneel. One of these responses may be used:

∇. Lord, hear us. ℞. **Lord, graciously hear us.**
or ∇. Lord, in your mercy, ℞. **Hear our prayer.**

At the Commemoration of the Departed:

∇. Rest eternal ✠ grant unto them, O Lord;
℞. **And let light perpetual shine upon them.**

The Intercessions end:

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

LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

All *stand* as the priest introduces the PEACE.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

All may exchange a sign of peace.

OFFERTORY HYMN— **373**

The people unite their prayers with the priest, who says the PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS.

Pray, my brothers and sisters, that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands, for the praise and glory of his name, for our good, and the good of all his Church.

Father, from all you give us we present this bread and wine. As we serve you now, accept our offering and sustain us with your promise of eternal life. Grant this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

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 him thanks and praise.

The PREFACE follows.

All respond with the SANCTUS & BENEDICTUS.

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.

All kneel. After the Consecration, all acclaim:

Christ is the bread of life:

When we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim your death, Lord Jesus, until you come in glory (× 2).

The Eucharistic Prayer continues, and ends:

... for ever and ever. **Amen.**

RITE OF COMMUNION

The priest introduces the LORD'S PRAYER.

Our Father, who art in heaven,

hallowed be thy name;

thy kingdom come;

thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses,

as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation;

but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,

the power and the glory,

for ever and ever. Amen.

The priest breaks the Host; AGNUS DEI is sung.

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 priest gives the COMMUNION INVITATION.

God's holy gifts for God's holy people.

**Jesus Christ is holy, Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.**

Holy Communion is distributed.

The priest says the POST-COMMUNION prayer.

O Lord our God, make us watchful and keep us faithful as we await the coming of your Son our Lord; that, when he shall appear, he may not find us sleeping in sin but active in his service and joyful in his praise; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

CONCLUSION

The priest gives the BLESSING and DISMISSAL.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Bow your heads and pray for God's blessing.

May God the Father, judge all-merciful, make us worthy of a place in his kingdom. **Amen.**

May God the Son, coming among us in power, reveal in our midst the promise of his glory.

Amen.

May God the Holy Spirit make us steadfast in faith, joyful in hope and constant in love.

Amen.

And the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Go in the peace of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

RECESSIONAL HYMN

- Christ is surely coming,
bringing his reward,
Omega and Alpha,
First and Last and Lord,
Root and stem of David,
Brilliant Morning Star;
Meet your Judge and Saviour,
nations near and far!
Meet your Judge and Saviour,
nations near and far!**

- See the holy city!**

**There they enter in,
Men by Christ made holy,
washed from every sin,**

**Thirsty ones, desiring
all he loves to give;**

**Come for living water:
freely drink, and live!**

**Come for living water:
freely drink, and live!**

- Grace be with God's people;**

Praise his holy name:

**Father, Son and Spirit,
evermore the same;**

**Hear the certain promise
from the eternal home:**

'Surely I come quickly'

Come, Lord Jesus, come!

'Surely I come quickly'

Come, Lord Jesus, come!

The service may be followed by the ANGELUS.

∇. The angel of the Lord declared unto Mary:

℞. **And she conceived by the Holy Spirit.**

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee;

blessed art thou among women,

and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.

Holy Mary, Mother of God,

pray for us sinners, now,

and at the hour of our death.

∇. Behold the handmaid of the Lord:

℞. **Be it unto me according to thy word.**

Hail Mary ...

∇. And the Word was made flesh:

℞. **And dwelt among us.**

Hail Mary ...

∇. Pray for us, O holy Mother of God:

℞. **That we may be made worthy of the
promises of Christ.**

Let us pray. Pour forth, we beseech you, O Lord, your grace into our hearts; that we to whom the Incarnation of Christ, your Son, was made known by the message of an angel, may by his Passion and Cross ✠ be brought to the glory of his Resurrection; through the same Christ our Lord. **Amen.**