

Morning Prayer Advent 2021

Gathering

The sign of the cross may be made in remembrance of our Baptism.

O Lord, ✚ open my lips,
and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

The Spirit and the church cry out: **Come, Lord Jesus.**

All those who await his appearance pray: **Come, Lord Jesus.**

The whole creation pleads: **Come, Lord Jesus.**

Venite : O Come

O come, let us sing unto the Lord;
let us heartily rejoice in the rock of our salvation.
**Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving
and raise our joyful praise to God with psalms.**

For our God is a great God
and a ruler great above all gods.
**In God's hand are all the depths of the earth,
and the heights of the hills are his also.**

The sea is our God's for he made it,
and God's hands prepared the dry land.
**O come, let us worship and fall down,
and kneel before the Lord our Maker.**

For God is our God,
**and we are the people of God's pasture,
and the sheep of his hand.**

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit
As it was in the beginning, is now and will be forever. Amen.

Additional Psalms may be said. Then...

We join our hearts in prayer because we long for you to come to us, to save us, to comfort us, to bring us peace. As we approach the day when we celebrate the birth of Jesus, we grow in our awareness that we need you. We bring our grief, our pains, our disappointments, our fears and the chaos of our world, and we lay all that before you in this time of worship. As Jesus embodied your love for the world and became "God-with-us," so now we pray that you would enter into our lives again. Come, Lord Jesus. **Amen.**

Silence for reflection

The Word

One or more readings from scripture are proclaimed.

Isaiah 12:2-6

12:2 Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid, for the LORD GOD is my strength and my might; he has become my salvation. With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. And you will say in that day: Give thanks to the LORD, call on his name; make known his deeds among the nations; proclaim that his name is exalted.

Philippians 4:4-7

4:4 Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Hearing the Word is followed by a time for reflection and meditation.

Gospel Canticle: *The Benedictus, the Song of Zachariah is read responsively*

Blessed are you, Adonai, God of Israel;
you have come to your people and set us free.

**You have raised up for us a mighty Savior,
born of the house of your servant David.**

Through your holy prophets, you promised of old
to save us from our enemies, from the hands of all who hate us,
to show mercy to our forebears, and to remember your holy covenant.

**This was the oath you swore to our ancestors Sarah and Abraham:
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,
free to worship you without fear,
holy and righteous in your sight, all the days of our lives.**

In the tender compassion of our God
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,
**to shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death,
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.**

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning
and will be forever, world without end. Amen.**

Prayers of the Church

We join in prayers of intercession and thanksgiving. A time of silence follows each petition for our own prayers. The prayers conclude with the Morning Collect and the Lord's Prayer.

Mighty God of mercy, we thank you for the coming of Jesus, our Emmanuel, whose incarnation makes every day new. In this new day we thank you...

for sustaining us, and bringing us to this season of hope;

for our assembly, gathered in person and by heart...

for generous hearts and hands reaching out to feed and cloth and shelter those in need...

Hear the prayers of our hearts, Wonderful Counselor, as we pray...

for those in power over the nations, that they may govern with justice;

for all who are weary of illness of any kind, and long for healing and wholeness...

for those facing financial insecurity, unemployment and underemployment...

for the people who dwell in darkness, in the shadow of injustice, conflict and war...

for those working to alleviate suffering of body, mind and spirit,

especially as we continue in pandemic...

for all who strive to care for creation . . .

for those who feel lost or excluded or estranged from community or family,

that they may find a welcome...

Merciful God renew this weary world, heal the hurts of all your children, and bring about your Dominion in the name of Jesus, our Prince of Peace, in whose name we pray. **Amen.**

Almighty and everlasting God, you have brought us in safety to this new day. Preserve us with your mighty power, that we may not fall into sin nor be overcome in adversity. In all we do, direct us to the fulfilling of your purpose; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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, and the power,

and the glory, forever and ever. Amen

Blessing and Benediction

With love and justice, **come, Lord Jesus.**

In power and peace, **come, Lord Jesus.**

In wisdom and truth, **come, Lord Jesus.**

Almighty and merciful God, the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit,
bless and preserve us. **Amen.**