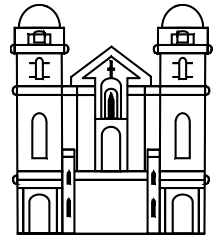


St James the Greater  
Leicester



# Sung Eucharist for Advent



*Advent is a season of expectation and preparation, for both the coming (latin Adventus) of Christ in his birth at Christmas, and as judge at the end of time. The readings and prayers point to Christ's birth, and challenge us with the theme of divine judgement. Preparation, like that in Lent before Easter, along with alert watchfulness are the moods of the season, although the anticipated joy and celebration of the coming Christmas can leak into Advent.*

*In all the busy-ness and the commercial pressures that Christmas can bring, keeping Advent well gives us the opportunity to enter a more serene time of reflection as we ensure our spiritual preparations are at least as thorough as our shopping and decorating. In the darkness of this season, we await the coming of the light.*

Please join in with the responses which are in **bold** on the Order of Service.

Please return this booklet to the back of the Church at the end of the service.

A large print version of this booklet is available, please ask a Churchwarden. It can also be downloaded from [www.stjamesthegreater.org.uk](http://www.stjamesthegreater.org.uk)

## **The Gathering**

*Stand for the Opening Hymn - see board or leaflet for the number.*

*During the hymn the choir moves to the Chancel Steps and gathers around the Advent Wreath.*

## **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 Advent Wreath Ceremony**

*Children may go to the church hall for Sunday Club and choristers process to the stalls.*

**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.**

## **Prayers of Penitence**

When the Lord comes, he will bring to light things now hidden in darkness, and will disclose the purposes of the heart. Therefore in the light of Christ let us confess our sins.

*Please sit or kneel for the Confession*

**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.**

Choir: Kyrie eleison

Lord have mercy

Christe eleison

Christ have mercy

Kyrie eleison

Lord have mercy

The Almighty and merciful Lord

grant you pardon and forgiveness of all your sins,

time for amendment of life,

and the grace and strength of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen**

## **The Collect**

Let us pray for grace to wait and watch for the coming of Christ.

*The Collect is said and we respond:*

**Amen.**

## **The Liturgy of the Word**

*Please sit for the reading.*

*At the end of the reading, the speaker says:*

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand for the Gradual Hymn – see hymn board or leaflet for number*

## Advent Litany

*Please remain Standing*

*Choir:* Word of justice,  
Come to dwell here  
Word of mercy,  
Live among us.  
Word of power,  
Live within us.  
Word of freedom,  
Save your people.

*All sing:* **Alleluia,  
Maranatha!  
Alleluia,  
Maranatha!  
Alleluia,  
Maranatha!  
Alleluia,  
Maranatha!**

## Gospel Reading

*Please face the Gospel reader*

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

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*After the Gospel:*

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## Sermon

*Sit for the Sermon.*

## The Creed

*Please stand*

We believe in God the Father who created all things:

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

We believe in God the Son, who was slain;

**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 –

**The Spirit and the bride say, “Come!”**

**Even so, come Lord Jesus! Amen.**

## Prayers of Intercession

*Please sit or kneel for the prayers  
This response may be used*

Maranatha  
**Come Lord Jesus.**

*And at the end*

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

## The Liturgy of the Sacrament

### The Peace

*Please stand.*

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.  
**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

*The Offertory Hymn is sung: see hymn board or leaflet for number.*

*A collection is taken. If you are visiting and are a UK tax payer please use one of the  
gift aid envelopes (completing the details)*

*The gifts of the people are gathered and presented.*

# The Eucharistic 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 thanks and praise.**

*(from the First Sunday of Advent until 16 December)*

It is indeed right and good to give you thanks and praise,  
almighty God and everlasting Father,  
through Jesus Christ your Son.

For when he humbled himself to come among us in human flesh,  
he fulfilled the plan you formed before the foundation of the world  
to open for us the way of salvation.

Confident that your promise will be fulfilled,  
we now watch for the day  
when Christ our Lord will come again in glory.

And so we join our voices with angels and archangels  
and with all the company of heaven  
to proclaim your glory,  
for ever praising you and *singing*:

*(from 17 December until Christmas Eve)*

It is indeed right and good to give you thanks and praise,  
almighty God and everlasting Father,  
through Jesus Christ your Son.

He is the one foretold by all the prophets,  
whom the Virgin Mother bore with love beyond all telling.  
John the Baptist was his herald  
and made him known when at last he came.

In his love Christ fills us with joy  
as we prepare to celebrate his birth,

so that when he comes again he may find us watching in prayer,  
our hearts filled with wonder and praise.  
And so, with angels and archangels,  
and with all the company of heaven,  
we proclaim your glory,  
and join in their unending hymn of praise:

*Choir:*        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.

*Sit or kneel*

We praise and bless you, loving Father,  
through Jesus Christ, our Lord;  
and as we obey his command,  
send your Holy Spirit,  
that broken bread and wine outpoured  
may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper with his friends  
and, taking bread, he praised you.  
He broke the bread, gave it to them and said:  
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;  
do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine.  
Again he praised you, gave it to them and said:  
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.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did,  
in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice  
made once for all upon the cross.



Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation,  
we proclaim his death and resurrection  
until he comes in glory.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus:

**Dying you destroyed our death,  
rising you restored our life:  
Lord Jesus, come in glory.**

Lord of all life,  
help us to work together for that day  
when your kingdom comes  
and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth.  
Look with favour on your people,  
gather us in your loving arms  
and bring us with [*N and*] all the saints  
to feast at your table in heaven.  
Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all honour and glory are yours,  
O loving Father,  
for ever and ever.  
**Amen.**

## **The Lord's Prayer**

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

**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.**

## **Breaking of the Bread**

*The Priest breaks the consecrated bread*

Every time we eat this bread and drink this cup

**We proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.**

## **The Agnus Dei**

*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.

## **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.

*Communicant members of all Christian denominations are welcome to receive. Alternatively you are welcome to come forward for a blessing – bring this service booklet to indicate that a blessing is requested. The steps to the left and right of the altar have a hand rail. Follow the Wardens' directions to go forward.*

*An Anthem may be sung by the choir.*

*See hymn board or leaflet for Communion Hymn number.*

*The post Communion Prayer is said, then the following:*

In our watching and our waiting,

**Come Lord Jesus**

In our hopes and our fears

**Come Lord Jesus**

In our homes and in our world.

**Come Lord Jesus**

Come Lord Jesus, bless us and surprise us.

**Amen**

## The Blessing and Dismissal

May God, the Father  
Who loved the world so much that he sent his only Son,  
Give you grace to prepare for life eternal.

**Amen**

May God the Son, who comes to us as Redeemer and Judge,  
Reveal to you the path from darkness to light

**Amen**

May God the Holy Spirit  
By whose working the Virgin Mary conceived the Christ,  
Help you to bear the fruits of holiness.

**Amen**

The blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among  
you and remain with you always.

**Amen.**

*Notices may follow here.*

*Please stand for the Recessional Hymn – see hymn board or leaflet for number  
ALL TURN to face the door of the church in readiness to go out as witnesses*

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord  
**In the name of Christ. Amen.**

*Organ Voluntary.*

*Please remain standing whilst the Choir departs.*

*Please return this Order of Service to the back of church before you leave.*

*Everyone is invited to remain for refreshments in the hall downstairs (please ask for  
directions if needed).*

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