



# PARISH EUCHARIST

## IN ADVENT

## **Welcome** to Ss. Peter and Paul, Bromley

The words printed in **bold** are usually said or sung by all. Please stand or sit during the service as you feel comfortable. If you are unsure about what to do or where to be during the service, please ask someone.

**Children** – We have an area with toys and games at the back of the church for our younger worshippers. Feel free to use these at any time.

**Hearing loop** – our hearing loop works most effectively in the main body of the church. Please select the ‘T’ position.

**Toilets** – can be found through the doors at the back of the church.

**Refreshments** – after the service, we share refreshments together. You are warmly invited to have a drink and a chat - but if you’d rather slip away, that’s OK too.

### **A prayer before coming to the eucharist:**

We do not presume to come to this your table, merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in your manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table. But you are the same Lord whose nature is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ and to drink his blood, that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body and our souls washed through his most precious blood, and that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

Advent is a season of expectation and preparation, as the Church prepares to celebrate the coming (*adventus*) of Christ in his incarnation, and also looks ahead to his final advent as judge at the end of time. The readings and liturgies not only direct us towards Christ's birth, they also challenge the modern reluctance to confront the theme of divine judgement:

The Four Last Things – Death, Judgement, Heaven and Hell – have been traditional themes for Advent meditation. The characteristic note of Advent is therefore expectation, rather than penitence, although the character of the season is easily coloured by an analogy with Lent. The anticipation of Christmas under commercial pressure has also made it harder to sustain the appropriate sense of alert watchfulness, but the fundamental Advent prayer remains 'Maranatha' – 'Our Lord, come' (1 Corinthians 16.22). Church decorations are simple and spare, and purple is the traditional liturgical colour. In the northern hemisphere, the Advent season falls at the darkest time of the year, and the natural symbols of darkness and light are powerfully at work throughout Advent and Christmas. The lighting of candles on an Advent wreath was imported into Britain from northern Europe in the nineteenth century, and is now a common practice. The Third Sunday of Advent was observed in medieval times as a splash of colour in the restrained atmosphere of Advent (*Gaudete* or 'Rose Sunday'), and the last days of Advent were marked by the sequence of Great 'O' Antiphons, which continue to inspire modern Advent hymns and meditations.

# THE GATHERING

*Everyone is welcomed, and invited to stand for the* **First Hymn**

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

*All* **Amen.**

## **The Greeting**

The Lord be with you

*All* **and also with you.**

## **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.**

## **Prayers of Penitence**

*This or another introduction is said*

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.

*cf 1 Corinthians 4.5*

*Penitential sentences are read, the responses to each section being*

Lord, have mercy.

*All* **Lord, have mercy.**

Christ, have mercy.

*All* **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord, have mercy.

*All* **Lord, have mercy.**

*We listen to the Choir Sing the Kyrie, as the candles are lit on the Advent wreath.*

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.

*All* **Amen.**

## **The Collect**

*After a period of silent prayer, the prayer for the day is said.*

# THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

## Bible Readings

*At the end of each the reader may say*

This is the word of the Lord.

**All Thanks be to God.**

*As we are able, we stand for a Hymn*

## Gospel Reading

*The Gospel is processed into the centre of the church, please turn to face it.*

The Lord be with you

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

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

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

*The Gospel is read, at the end the reader says :*

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**All Praise to you, O Christ.**

## Sermon

## The Creed

*All* **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, as incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and was made man.**

**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.**

## Prayers of Intercession

*We are led in prayer for the world. After each intercession we may respond*

Lord, in your mercy,  
*All* **heard our prayer.**

*And at the end, we may say*

Merciful Father,  
*All* **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.



*We exchange a sign of peace with one another by shaking hands and saying 'peace be with you'.*

*We remain standing for a **Hymn***

## **Preparation of the Table**

*Once the table is prepared, the following prayer is said.*

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.

*All* **Amen.**

## **Eucharistic Prayer A**

The Lord is here.

*All* **His Spirit is with us.**

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.**

*(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:

*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.**

Accept our praises, heavenly Father,  
through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ,  
and as we follow his example and obey his command,  
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit  
these gifts of bread and wine  
may be to us his body and his blood;

who, in the same night that he was betrayed,  
took bread and gave you thanks;  
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
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, heavenly Father,  
we remember his offering of himself

made once for all upon the cross;  
we proclaim his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension;  
we look for the coming of your kingdom,  
and with this bread and this cup  
we make the memorial of Christ your  
Son our Lord.

Jesus Christ is Lord:

*All* **Lord, by your cross and resurrection  
you have set us free.  
You are the Saviour of the world.**

Accept through him, our great high priest,  
this our sacrifice of thanks and praise,  
and as we eat and drink these holy gifts  
in the presence of your divine majesty,  
renew us by your Spirit,  
inspire us with your love  
and unite us in the body of your Son,  
Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through him, and with him, and in him,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
with all who stand before you in earth and heaven,  
we worship you, Father almighty,  
in songs of everlasting praise:

*All* **Blessing and honour and glory and power  
be yours for ever and ever.  
Amen.**

## The Lord's Prayer

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 it is 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

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

*All* **Though we are many, we are one body,  
because we all share in one bread.**

## Agnus Dei

*All* **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

Jesus is the Lamb of God  
who takes away the sin of the world.

Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

*All* **Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,  
but only say the word, and I shall be healed.**

*(or)*

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

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

*All are invited to come to the altar to receive Holy Communion. Gluten free wafers and non-alcoholic communion wine are available, just ask at the rail. If you would prefer a blessing, come forward with your hands by your side. During the distribution of Holy Communion hymns or anthems are usually sung.*

## Prayer after Communion

*The post communion prayer is said, followed by*

*All* **Almighty God,**  
we thank you for feeding us  
with the body and blood of your **Son Jesus Christ.**  
Through him we offer you our souls and bodies to  
be a living sacrifice.  
Send us out  
in the power of your **Spirit** to live  
and work  
to your praise and glory. **Amen.**

*(or)*

*All* **Father of all,**  
we give you thanks and praise, that  
when we were still far off  
you met us in your **Son** and brought us home.  
Dying and living, he declared your love,  
gave us grace, and opened the gate of glory.  
May we who share **Christ's** body live his risen life; we  
who drink his cup bring life to others;  
we whom the **Spirit** lights give light to the world.  
Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us, so  
we and all your children shall be free,  
and the whole earth live to praise your name;  
through **Christ** our Lord. **Amen.**

**Notices for the week are given**

*We stand for a **Hymn***

## The Blessing

*This or another suitable blessing is used*

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 bear the fruits of holiness.

**Amen.**

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

*All* **Amen.**

As we await our coming Saviour, Go in peace to love and  
serve the Lord.

*All* **In the name of Christ. Amen.**



NOW IS THE TIME TO WAKE OUT OF SLEEP,  
FOR NOW OUR SALVATION IS NEARER THAN WHEN  
WE FIRST BELIEVED.

*ROMANS 13.11*

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