

ST MARY'S CHURCH, CHARTHAM  
**HOLY COMMUNION IN ADVENT**

**THE GATHERING**

Leader: Grace, mercy, and peace  
from God our Father,  
and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

**Lighting the advent candle, and the Advent Wreath Prayer**

**THE OPENING HYMN**

*Please remain standing*

*Leader:*

Brothers and sisters in Christ, as we gather at the Lord's table  
we must recall the promises and warnings given to us in the scriptures.

Let us therefore examine ourselves and repent of our sins.

Let us give thanks to God for His redemption of the world  
through His Son Jesus Christ,

and as we remember Christ's death for us,  
and receive this pledge of His love,

let us resolve to serve Him in holiness and righteousness  
all the days of our life.

**Invitation to confession**

*Leader:* 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.

*(1 Corinthians 4:5)*

*We say the confession together:*

**Lord God, we have sinned against You;**

**we have done evil in Your sight.**

**We are sorry and repent.**

**Have mercy on us according to Your love,**

**wash away our wrongdoing, and cleanse us from our sin.**

**Renew a right spirit within us, and restore us to the joy of Your salvation.**

**Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

## **Absolution**

*Leader:* May the Father of all mercies cleanse us from our sins,  
and restore us in His image, to the praise and glory of His name.  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*All:* **Amen**

## **The Collect for the day**

*Please sit*

## **THE LITURGY OF THE WORD**

*The Bible readings*

*After the first reading*

*the reader says:* This is the word of the Lord

*We respond:* **Thanks be to God**

## **THE GRADUAL HYMN**

*Please remain standing for the Gospel.*

*Reader:* Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to .....

*All:* **Glory to You, O Lord.**

*After the Gospel reading*

*Reader:* This is the Gospel of the Lord

*All:* **Praise to You, O Christ**

## **THE SERMON**

### **The Creed**

*We say together:*

**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,  
was 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**

*Responses:*

*Leader:* Lord, in your mercy...

**All: Hear our prayer.**

*To end the time of prayer:*

*Prayer Leader:* Merciful Father...

**All: Accept these prayers,  
for the sake of Your Son,  
our Saviour, Jesus Christ.  
Amen**

## THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

### The Peace

*Leader:* 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 ways of peace.

*(Luke 1:78-79)*

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**All: And also with you.**

*Leader:* Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

### THE OFFERTORY HYMN

***We say together:* Yours, Lord, is the greatness, the power,  
the glory, the splendour, and the majesty.  
All things come from you,  
and of Your own do we give You. Amen**

### The Communion

*Leader:* With this bread that we bring

**All: We shall remember Jesus.**

*Leader:* With this wine that we bring

**All: We shall remember Jesus.**

*Leader:* Bread for His body,  
wine for His blood,  
gifts from God to His table we bring.

**All: We shall remember Jesus.**

*Please remain standing*

### The Eucharistic Prayer

*Leader:* The Lord is here.

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

*Leader:* Lift up your hearts.

**All: We lift them to the Lord.**

*Leader:* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**All: It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

*Leader:* You are worthy of our thanks and praise, Lord God of truth, for by the breath of Your mouth You have spoken Your word, and all things have come into being.

You fashioned us in Your image and placed us in the garden of Your delight. Though we chose the path of rebellion You would not abandon Your own.

Again and again, you drew us into Your covenant of grace. You gave Your people the law and taught us, by Your prophets, to look for Your reign of justice, mercy, and peace.

As we watch for the signs of Your kingdom on earth, we echo the song of the angels in heaven, evermore praising You and singing:

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

*Please sit or kneel*

*Leader:* Lord God, You are the most holy one,  
enthroned in splendour and light.  
Yet in the coming of Your Son, Jesus Christ,  
You reveal the power of Your love  
made perfect in our human weakness.

*All:* **Amen. Lord we believe.**

*Leader:* Embracing our humanity, Jesus showed us the way of salvation;  
Loving us to the end, He gave Himself to death for us;  
Dying for His own, He set us free from the bonds of sin,  
that we might rise and reign with Him in glory.

*All:* **Amen. Lord we believe.**

*Leader:* On the night He gave up Himself for us all,  
He 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.”*

*Leader:* 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.”*

**All:** **Amen. Lord we believe.**

*Leader:* Therefore, we proclaim the death that He suffered on the cross; We celebrate His resurrection, His bursting from the tomb; We rejoice that He reigns at Your right hand on high, and we long for His coming in glory.

**All:** **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

*Leader:* As we recall the one perfect sacrifice of our redemption, Father, by Your Holy Spirit let these gifts of Your creation be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ; Form us into the likeness of Christ, and make us a perfect offering in Your sight.

**All:** **Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.**

*Leader:* Look with favour on Your people and, in Your mercy, hear the cry of our hearts. Bless the earth, heal the sick, let the oppressed go free, and fill Your church with power from on high.

**All:** **Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.**

*Leader:* Gather Your people from the ends of the earth to feast with Mary and all Your saints at the table in Your kingdom, where the new creation is brought to perfection in Jesus Christ our Lord; by whom and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory be Yours, almighty Father, forever and ever.

**All:** **Amen.**

*We keep a moment of silence before the Lord's Prayer*

*Leader:* Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us.

***All:* 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;  
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,  
forever and ever. Amen**

### **Breaking the bread**

*Leader:* Every time we eat this bread and drink this cup...

***All:* we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.**

*As the bread is broken we sing the **Agnus Dei** together:*

**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.**

### **Sharing Communion**

*Leader:* 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.**

## **After Communion**

*The Post Communion Prayer*

*A Prayer after Communion*

**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**

## **THE CLOSING HYMN**

### **THE DISMISSAL**

*Leader:* Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you,  
scatter the darkness from before your path,  
and make you ready to meet Him when He comes in glory.  
  
And the blessing of God Almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit be among you,  
and remain with you always.

**All: Amen**

*Leader:* Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

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