

Christ Church Holy Communion 3rd Sunday of Advent

Welcome:

We meet in the presence of God

Come, Holy Spirit, kindle in us the fire of your love.

The Spirit of the Lord God is upon us, because the Lord has anointed us to bring good news to the suffering and afflicted.

He has sent us to comfort the brokenhearted, to announce liberty to captives, and to open the eyes of the blind. He has sent us to tell those who mourn that the time of God's favour to them has come.

Amen

We light the third candle of Advent.

John the Baptist, the one you sent, points us to your light. The light will come into our world and enlighten everyone.

Merciful God, we give thanks that you send messengers like John to call us to greater faith. We ask that in these days we prepare for you in prayer and acts of holy compassion. Forgive us and lead us to your light. Amen.

Prayer for Flames

Hymn:

How lovely on the mountains are the feet of Him
Who brings good news, good news,
Proclaiming peace, announcing news of happiness,
Our God reigns, our God reigns.

*Our God reigns, our God reigns,
Our God reigns, our God reigns.*

You watchmen lift your voices joyfully as one,
Shout for your King, your King.
See eye to eye the Lord restoring Zion:
Your God reigns, your God reigns!

Waste places of Jerusalem break forth with joy,
We are redeemed, redeemed.
The Lord has saved and comforted His people:
Your God reigns, your God reigns!

Ends of the earth, see the salvation of your God,
Jesus is Lord, is Lord.
Before the nations He has bared His holy arm:
Your God reigns, your God reigns!

We say sorry to God

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.

Christ came in humility to share our lives: forgive our pride.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Christ came with good news for all people: forgive our silence.

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Christ came in love to a world of suffering: forgive our self-centredness.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Absolution

Praise:

People of God: be glad! Your God delights in you, giving you joy for sadness and turning the dark to light.

Be strong in hope therefore; for your God comes to save. You are God's children.

Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid, for the LORD GOD is my strength

Song: The Lord is my salvation

The grace of God has reached for me

And pulled me from the raging sea

And I am safe on this solid ground

The Lord is my salvation

I will not fear when darkness falls

His strength will help me scale these walls

I'll see the dawn of the rising sun

The Lord is my salvation

Who is like the Lord our God?

Strong to save, faithful in love

My debt is paid and the vict'ry won

The Lord is my salvation

My hope is hidden in the Lord

He flow'rs each promise of His Word

When winter fades I know spring will come

The Lord is my salvation

In times of waiting, times of need

When I know loss, when I am weak

I know His grace will renew these days

The Lord is my salvation

Who is like the Lord our God?

Strong to save, faithful in love

My debt is paid and the vict'ry won

The Lord is my salvation

And when I reach my final day
He will not leave me in the grave
But I will rise,
He will call me home
The Lord is my salvation

*Who is like the Lord our God?
Strong to save, faithful in love
My debt is paid and the vict'ry won
The Lord is my salvation*

Glory be to God the Father
Glory be to God the Son
Glory be to God the Spirit
The Lord is our salvation

Collect

God for whom we watch and wait, you sent John the Baptist to prepare the way of your Son: give us courage to speak the truth, to hunger for justice, and to suffer for the cause of right, with Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

New Testament Reading: Philippians 4:4-7

Gospel Reading: Luke 3:7-18

Sermon

The Prayers:

concluding with: **merciful Father, accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ, Amen.**

Commissioning of Ministers of Communion

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; **And also with you.**

Hymn:

Behold the lamb who bears our sins away,
Slain for us: and we remember
The promise made that all who come in faith
Find forgiveness at the cross.
So we share in this bread of life,
And we drink of His sacrifice,
As a sign of our bonds of peace
Around the table of the King.

The body of our Saviour, Jesus Christ,
Torn for you: eat and remember
The wounds that heal, the death that brings us life,
Paid the price to make us one.
So we share in this bread of life,
And we drink of His sacrifice,
As a sign of our bonds of love
Around the table of the King.

The blood that cleanses every stain of sin
Shed for you: drink and remember
He drained death's cup that all may enter in
To receive the life of God.
So we share in this bread of life,
And we drink of His sacrifice,
As a sign of our bonds of grace
Around the table of the King.

And so with thankfulness and faith
We rise to respond and to remember
Our call to follow in the steps of Christ
As His body here on earth.
As we share in His suffering
We proclaim: Christ will come again!
And we'll join in the feast of heaven
Around the table of the King.

The Communion:

Wise and gracious God, you spread a table before us; nourish your people with the word of life and the bread of heaven.

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.

And now we give you thanks because you sent your Son Jesus Christ to redeem us from sin and death and to make us inheritors of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may with joy behold his appearing, and in confidence may stand before him.

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 saying:

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.

We praise you and bless you, loving Father...

...we proclaim his death and resurrection until he comes in glory.

Christ has died: Christ is risen: Christ will come again.

...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:

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as 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 for ever. Amen.

Breaking of the Bread:

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ. **Though we are many, we are one body, because we all share in one bread.**

We share bread and wine together.

Post Communion Prayer:

We give you thanks, O Lord, for these heavenly gifts; kindle in us the fire of your Spirit that when your Christ comes again we may shine as lights before his face; who is alive and reigns now and for ever. Amen

Notices

Closing Hymn:

The Light of the world
Made history begin,
Spoke time into being,
Caused planets to spin;
Flung galaxies wide
Through infinite space
To sing of His splendour
And fathomless grace.

The Light of the World
Now shone as a man,
And walked through the valleys
He'd carved with His hands.
A servant to those
He'd breathed into life,
He felt our injustice
And shared in our strife.

*Come, come,
Daughters and sons,
Look to the Light of the World.*

*Sing, sing praises to Him.
Simply believe,
You will receive
Mercy and love without measure.*

The Light of the World
Preached justice for all,
Defying the proud
And defending the poor;
Then humbled Himself
To death on a cross,
To crush the oppressor
And rescue the lost.

The Light of the World
Still shines on the earth,
With gifts of forgiveness,
The hope of new birth.
So open your heart,
Don't hide in the night;
Step out of the darkness
And into His light.

The Blessing:

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. **Amen.**

Our Lord says, 'I am coming soon.'

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

May the Lord, when he comes, find us watching and waiting.

Amen