

## *We gather in worship*

*Before we begin, the priest will welcome everyone and invite us to join in prayer as we prepare ourselves for worship.*

**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.**

*After praying, please remain quiet until the bell rings and we stand to sing:*

**O come, O come, Emmanuel!  
Redeem thy captive Israel,  
that into exile drear is gone,  
far from the face of God's dear Son.  
*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to thee, O Israel.***

**O come, o come Adonai,  
Who in thy glorious majesty  
From Sinai's mountain, clothed with awe,  
gavest thy folk the ancient law.**

**O come, thou Root of Jesse! Draw  
the quarry from the lion's claw;  
from those dread caverns of the grave,  
from nether hell, thy people save.**

**O come, thou Lord of David's Key!  
The royal door fling wide and free;  
safeguard for us  
the heavenward road,  
and bar the way to death's abode.**

**O come, Desire of nations, show  
Thy kingly reign on earth below;  
Thou Corner-stone, uniting all,  
Restore the ruin of our fall.**

*Cologne 1710, TA Lacey et al (1853-1931)*

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.**

We light this candle for all God's  
people, struggling to be bearers of  
hope in a troubled world.  
**God, as we wait for your promise,  
give light, give hope.**

*A child carries the candle to the advent  
wreath as the choir sing the antiphon.*

O Wisdom coming forth from the mouth of the Most High, reaching from one end to the other, mightily and sweetly ordering all things. Come and teach us the way of prudence.

*The deacon invites us to confession;*

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.

**Almighty God, our heavenly Father, we have sinned against you and against our neighbour in thought and word and deed, through negligence, through weakness, through our own deliberate fault. We are truly sorry and repent of all our sins. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, who died for us, forgive us all that is past and grant that we may serve you in newness of life to the glory of your name. Amen.**

♪ **Lord, have mercy.**                      *Each line*  
**Christ, have mercy.**                      *repeated.*  
**Lord, have mercy.**

*The priest declares the forgiveness of our sin, then invites us to pray in silence, and says the prayer set for today,*

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and to put on the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility; that on the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

### ***We listen for God's Word***

*We sit for the*

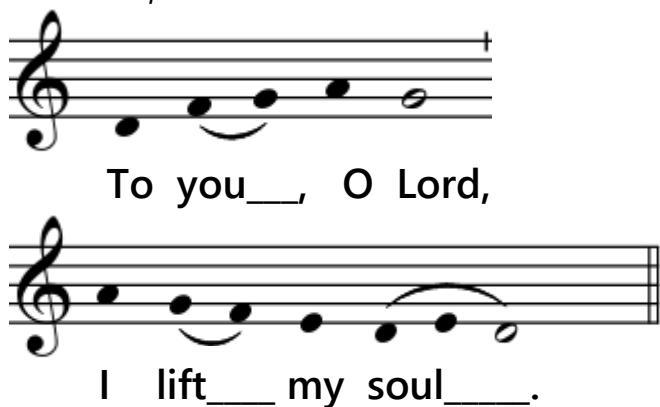
#### ***First Reading: Jeremiah 33.14-16***

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfil the promise, I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved, and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: 'The Lord is our righteousness.'

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

The cantor leads **Psalm 25** and we join in the refrain.



♪ **To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.**

Your ways, O Lord, make known to me; teach me your paths, Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my saviour.

♪ **To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.**

Good and upright is the Lord; thus he shows sinners the way. He guides the humble to justice, and teaches the humble his way.

♪ **To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.**

All the paths of the Lord are kindness and constancy toward those who keep his covenant and his decrees. The friendship of the Lord is with those who fear him, and his covenant, for their instruction.

♪ **To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.**

The earth is the Lord's and its fulness, the world and all its peoples. It is God who set it on the seas; who made it firm upon the waters.

♪ **To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.**

**Gospel Reading: Luke 21.25-36**

*We stand, facing the gospel.*

♪ **Praise to you, O Christ,  
King of eternal glory.**

The Lord is a great God, O that today you would listen to his voice. Harden not your hearts.

♪ **Praise to you, O Christ,  
King of eternal glory.**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

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

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus said, 'There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see "the Son of Man coming in a cloud" with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.'

Then he told them a parable: 'Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near.

So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

'Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*We sit for the **Sermon**, then we keep silence together.*

### ***The Creed***

**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.**

### ***The Prayers of Intercession***

*The response in the prayers is*  
Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**  
*and, at the end,*  
Merciful Father, **accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

## ***We celebrate and receive Jesus in Bread and Wine***

*The priest introduces the Peace,  
The peace of the Lord be always with  
you; and also with you.*

*The deacon says,  
Let us offer one another a sign of peace.*

*We offer one another a sign of peace with  
a handshake, warm smile, nod, or bow,  
and the words, 'Peace be with you.'*

### ***The Offering***

*We stand to sing as a collection is taken.  
Please indicate if you wish to make an  
offering, cash or contactless.*

**Hark, the glad sound!**

**the Saviour comes,  
the Saviour promised long:  
let every heart prepare a throne,  
and every voice a song.**

**He comes the prisoners to release,  
in satan's bondage held;  
the gates of brass before him burst,  
the iron fetters yield.**

**He comes, the broken heart to bind,  
the bleeding soul to cure,  
and with the treasures of his grace,  
to enrich the humble poor.**

**Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace,  
thy welcome shall proclaim;  
and heaven's eternal arches ring  
with thy beloved name.**

*Philip Doddridge (1702-1751)*

*The priest takes the bread and wine  
and says the prayers of preparation:  
we respond to each part of the prayer:  
**Blessed be God forever.***

### ***The Eucharistic Prayer***

*Please remain standing if it is  
comfortable for you.*

*The Lord is here;  
**God's Spirit is with us.***

*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.***

*The priest praises God and we sing,*

♪ **Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of power and might,  
heaven and earth  
are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessèd is he who comes  
in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

*The priest continues, recalling the Last  
Supper, then the deacon says,*

*Great is the mystery of faith*  
♪ **Christ has died; Christ is risen;  
Christ will come again.**

*The priest continues ending with  
...forever and ever. **Amen.***

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 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.

♪ 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.

### ***We share in Communion***

*The people receive communion  
or a blessing. Gluten free is available.*

People, look east to see at last  
hopes fulfilled from ages past:  
now in the promise of the morning,  
see, a brighter day is dawning,  
rich with the visions long foretold,  
prophets' dreams from days of old.

God reaffirms the gracious call:  
words of welcome meant for all;  
comfort enough for all our sorrows;  
justice shaping new tomorrows.  
Mercy bears fruit in lives restored,  
freed to praise and serve the Lord.

Now, with the coming of the light,  
darkest fears are put to flight;  
see how the clouds of gloom  
are clearing,  
blown aside by hope's appearing.  
Jesus, the Light of all our days,  
comes and sets our hearts ablaze.

Born of our race, a child so small —  
hail the promised Lord of all!  
Nailed to a cross for our salvation,  
he shall rule God's new creation.  
Lift up your eyes, and look again:  
see, he comes in power to reign!

*Martin Leckebusch (b. 1962)*

*The choir sings the anthem,  
Sleepers, wake  
by J.S. Bach (1685 – 1750)*

*We keep silence together.*

*The priest says this prayer,*

O Lord our God, make us watchful and keep us faithful as we await the coming of your Son our Lord; that, when he shall appear, he may not find us sleeping in sin but active in his service and joyful in his praise; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**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 may be given.*

*We may hear from the children.*

***We go into the world  
to share God's love***

**Longing for light,  
we wait in darkness.  
Longing for truth, we turn to you.  
Make us your own, your holy people,  
light for the world to see.**

***Christ, be our light!  
Shine in our hearts.  
Shine through the darkness.  
Christ, be our light!  
Shine in your church gathered today.***

**Longing for peace,  
our world is troubled.  
Longing for hope, many despair.  
Your word alone  
has power to save us.  
Make us your living voice. *Refrain***

**Longing for food, many are hungry.  
Longing for water, many still thirst.  
Make us your bread,  
broken for others,  
shared until all are fed. *Refrain***

**Longing for shelter,  
many are homeless.  
Longing for warmth, many are cold.  
Make us your building,  
sheltering others,  
walls made of living stone. *Refrain***

**Many the gifts, many the people,  
many the hearts  
that yearn to belong.  
Let us be servants to one another,  
making your kingdom come. *Refrain***

*Bernadette Farrell (b.1957)*

## ***The Blessing***

*We bow our heads  
and pray for God's blessing:*

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

God, who from the death of sin raised you to new life in Christ, keep you from falling and set you in the presence of his glory; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

*The deacon says,*

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

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

*Please remain standing until the  
Ministers have left.*

*Please take this Service Sheet home with  
you. Refreshments are served after the  
service. Please stay and join us, and  
make yourself known if you are a  
newcomer or visitor.*