

SERVICE ORDER
Sunday, 27th November
First Sunday of Advent

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

**Stir up your power, Lord, and come.
Protect us, so that we may be rescued
from the threatening dangers of our sins,
and saved by your deliverance.**

**For you live and reign
with the Father and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.**

Amen.

OPENING SENTENCE: Matthew 24:42

*So always be ready,
because you don't know the day your Lord will come.*

**So always be ready,
because you don't know the day your Lord will come.**

INVOCATION

*In the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.*

LHS 16 HAIL TO THE LORD'S ANOINTED

**Hail to the Lord's Anointed, great David's greater Son;
hail, in the time appointed, His reign on earth begun!
He comes to break oppression, to let the captive free,
and take away transgression, and rule in equity.**

**Kings shall bow down before Him, and gold and incense bring;
all nations shall adore Him, His praise all people sing;
to Him shall prayer unceasing and daily vows ascend;
His kingdom still increasing, a kingdom without end.**

James Montgomery (1771-1854)

LIGHTING OF THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE

*The true light was in the world,
and the world came into being through him;
yet the world did not know him.*

**The true light, who enlightens everyone,
was coming into the world.**

CONFESSION

*Let us draw near to God our Father with a true heart to confess our sins,
and ask Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to forgive us.*

Almighty God, merciful Father, I, a poor helpless sinner, confess to You all my sins, and repent of all the evil I have done. I have deeply displeased You and deserve Your punishment in time and in eternity. But I am sorry for my sins, and I ask You, for the sake of the holy innocent sufferings and death of Your dear Son Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me. Amen.

*Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy on us, and has given His only Son to die for us, and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in His name He has given the right to become children of God, and has given them His Holy Spirit. Whoever believes and is baptised will be saved.
Grant this, Lord, to us all. **Amen.***

PSALM 122

¹ I rejoiced with those who said to me,
‘Let us go to the house of the LORD.’

² Our feet are standing in your gates, Jerusalem.

I was glad when they said to me, Let us go to the house of the Lord.

³ Jerusalem is built like a city that is closely compacted together.

⁴ That is where the tribes go up –the tribes of the LORD –
to praise the name of the LORD according to the statute given to Israel.

⁵ There stand the thrones for judgment, the thrones of the house of David.

I was glad when they said to me, Let us go to the house of the Lord.

⁶ Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: ‘May those who love you be secure.

⁷ May there be peace within your walls and security within your citadels.’

⁸ For the sake of my family and friends, I will say, ‘Peace be within you.’

⁹ For the sake of the house of the LORD our God, I will seek your prosperity.

I was glad when they said to me, Let us go to the house of the Lord.

**Glory to the Father and the Son
and the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning, is now,
and will be forever.
Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray that we remain alert for the coming of the Lord.

[silence]

*Jesus, Son of God, you have promised to return
at a time that no one knows.*

*Keep us watchful in prayer and strong in faith
as we wait for you to come.*

*For you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.*

Amen.

BIBLE READING

FIRST READING: Isaiah 2:1-5 God's kingdom of peace (NIVUK)

¹This is what Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem: ²In the last days the mountain of the LORD's temple will be established as the highest of the mountains; it will be exalted above the hills, and all nations will stream to it. ³Many peoples will come and say, 'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the temple of the God of Jacob. He will teach us his ways, so that we may walk in his paths.' The law will go out from Zion, the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. ⁴He will judge between the nations and will settle disputes for many peoples. They will beat their swords into ploughshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war any more. ⁵Come, descendants of Jacob, let us walk in the light of the LORD.

After the reading

This is the Word of the LORD.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING: Romans 13:11-14 Our salvation is near (NIVUK)

¹¹And do this, understanding the present time: the hour has already come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. ¹²The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armour of light. ¹³Let us behave decently, as in the daytime, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy. ¹⁴Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the flesh.

After the reading

This is the Word of the LORD.

Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA VERSE

Alleluia!

Alleluia! Alleluia!

*So you also must be ready,
because the Son of Man will come
at an hour when you do not expect him.*

Alleluia!

GOSPEL: Matthew 24:36-44 No one knows the day or hour (NIVUK)

Before the reading

Glory be to You, O LORD.

Jesus said: ³⁶ 'But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son,^[a] but only the Father. ³⁷ As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸ For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark; ³⁹ and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away. That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. ⁴⁰ Two men will be in the field; one will be taken and the other left. ⁴¹ Two women will be grinding with a hand mill; one will be taken and the other left. ⁴² 'Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come. ⁴³ But understand this: if the owner of the house had known at what time of night the thief was coming, he would have kept watch and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴ So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.

After the reading

This is the gospel of the LORD.

Praise be to You, O Christ.

Thank you, Lord Jesus, for promising to return.

Make us always ready for your coming.

Amen.

APOSTLE'S CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

**And in Jesus Christ, His only Son,
our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried. He descended into hell.**

**The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven,
and sits at the right hand of God, the Father almighty,
from thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen**

LHS 1 HARK, A HERALD VOICE IS CALLING

**Listen to the sound of thunder, see the dark clouds rumbling near:
Christ will rouse us from our sleeping when, from heaven, He appears.**

**Now our sluggish minds are rising from the sordid dregs of sin;
now above, the New Star shining puts to flight all harmful dreams.**

**Christ the Lamb is sent from heaven, God as human here to live;
comes to hear repentant voices, full of kindness, to forgive.**

**When He comes again like lightning, and the world is gripped by fear,
safe from guilt and retribution, we will gladly greet Him here.**

Latin hymn, 6th century, Tr David Schütz, alt. 2001

SERMON

At this point you may wish to Listen to Sermon,
or Read and Discuss the Sermon
For Church YouTube Channel ([click here](#))
The Sermon online may be different to the manuscript.
For LCA Worship Resources ([click here](#))

AT 313 CHRIST BE OUR LIGHT

**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:**

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

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

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

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

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

Bernadette Farrell (1993) OCP Publications

OFFERING PRAYER

*Everliving God,
we thank you for coming to us through your Son.
Make us ready for his coming again.
Do not let us be trapped by worry or worldly concerns,
but teach us to cheerfully give of ourselves
in serving you and other people.
Amen.*

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

*Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication
with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. (Philippians 4:6)*

Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, we thank you for all your gifts to us, especially the gift of
your dear Son. Give us ears to hear Jesus' call to us, and willing hearts to
follow. Give your people grace to remain watchful, and keep your church in
the truth of your word until Jesus comes as Lord and king.
Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

We thank you for sending your Son as the Prince of Peace, to bring us pardon and peace with you. Bring your peace to the world, to our land, and to our lives. Help our elected leaders and all in positions of responsibility to build up the common good, and strengthen us to be your peace-makers.

Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

We thank you for the rich diversity of the world's cultures. Show your righteous ways to every people, and teach the nations to turn their swords into plowshares.

Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

You have dispelled the night of sin: help us to put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armour of light.

Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

Cleanse our consciences, Lord God, and enlighten our hearts, through the daily presence of your Son, Jesus Christ. Make us ready when he comes again in glory to be our judge. For he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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 forever. Amen.**

BLESSING

Let us bless the LORD.

God be praised forevermore.

The LORD bless us and keep us.

The LORD make His face shine on us and be gracious to us.

The LORD look upon us with favour, and give us peace.

Amen!

GROWING FAITH AT HOME BLESSING

May you wait and watch for Jesus.

May your faith burn bright each and every day.

May you wait and watch for Jesus.

May your faith burn bright each and every day.

WORDS OF SENDING

Go in peace. Be ready for the coming of the Lord.

In the name of Christ. Amen.

AT 301 PRAYER OF PEACE

May the Father of love stir you deep in your heart.

**May the Son bring His tears to your crying. May the Spirit of love
rise anew ev'ry day, and compassion flare up in your soul.**

May you live day by day and for those whom you meet.

**May you care, though your heart will be broken. May your voice be as one
with the cry of the poor, and the hungry be filled with your food.**

**May your love in your deeds work for peace on this earth,
for our God dwells within those who suffer. May you ache for the time
war will pass from your life, and your freedom frustrate Caesar's pow'r.**

**May the Father of love stir you deep in your heart.
May the Son bring His tears to your crying. May the Spirit of love
rise anew ev'ry day, and compassion flare up in your soul.**

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HYMNS AND SONGS

First reading: Isaiah 2:1-5

LHS

- 16 Hail to the Lord's Anointed G6
- 215 Arise, O God, and shine* G9
- 731 Come, Lord Jesus, come GS
- 738 The night is marching onwards G4
- 779 My Lord of light who made the worlds G8

AT

- 17 Emmanuel: God is with us
- 20 Come, Lord Jesus, come
- 36 Vine and fig tree
- 301 Prayer for peace
- 313 Christ, be our light
- 326 Shout for joy
- 389 Light of the nations
- 409 We are marching in the light of God

Second reading: Romans 13:11-14

LHS

- 1 Hark, a herald voice is calling!* G7
- 11 The advent of our King G4
- 327 Jesus, Thy blood and righteousness* G3
- 336 'Come follow me', the Saviour spake* (esp vv 1,2,3) G3
- 338 Rise, my soul, to watch and pray G4
- 358 Renew me, O eternal light* G3
- 359 Thee will I love, my strength, my treasure* (esp vv 3,4,6) G6
- 738 The night is marching onwards G4

798 Eternal Ruler of the ceaseless round G6

819 Wake us, O Lord, to human need GS

AT

313 Christ, be our light

315 Drawn to the light

390 Put on love

Gospel: Matthew 24:36-44

LHS

180 Wake, arise, wake, arise (vv 1,4) G4

202 Help us to conquer, Thou Prince ever-living* G3

338 Rise, my soul, to watch and pray G4

342 Watch, my soul, and pray* G4

490 O Son of God, we wait for Thee* G3

AT

187 Help us, Lord

221 They were waiting

303 Stay awake

420 Get ready