

**14 December 2025 - Advent 3
Gaudete Sunday**

**GATHERING SONG:
Longing For 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.

Chorus

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

Chorus

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

Chorus

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

Chorus

**ENTRANCE HYMN:
9 Lo, He Comes With Clouds Descending**

Stand

GREETING

✠ 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.

PRAYERS OF PENITENCE

Brothers and sisters,
let us acknowledge our sins,
and so prepare ourselves to
celebrate the sacred mysteries.

Lord Jesus Christ, you came to gather the nation,
into the peace of your kingdom:
Lord, have mercy.

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

Lord Jesus Christ, You come in word and sacrament,
to strengthen us in holiness:
Christ, have mercy.

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

Lord Jesus Christ, You will come again in glory
with salvation for your people:
Lord, have mercy.

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

Almighty God,
who forgives all who truly repent,
have mercy upon you,
pardon and deliver you from all your sins,
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,
and keep you in life eternal;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

COLLECT

O Lord Jesus Christ,
who at your first coming sent your messenger
to prepare your way before you:
grant that the ministers and
stewards of your mysteries
may likewise so prepare and make ready your way
by turning the hearts of the disobedient
to the wisdom of the just,
that at your second coming to judge the world
we may be found an acceptable people in your sight;
for you are alive and reign with the Father
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Sit

*During the lighting of the candle,
the Advent Prose is sung:*

**Drop down ye heavens, from above,
and let the skies pour down righteousness:**

We have sinned, and are as an unclean thing,
and we all do fade as a leaf:
and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away;
thou hast hid thy face from us:
and hast consumed us, because of our iniquities.

Refrain

ADVENT WREATH PRAYER

Blessed are you, sovereign Lord, just and true:
to you be praise and glory for ever.
Your prophet John the Baptist
was witness to the truth
as a burning and shining light.
May we your servants rejoice in his light,
and so be led to witness to him
who is the Lord of our coming kingdom,
Jesus our Saviour and King of the ages.

Blessed be God for ever.

FIRST READING:

<i>Sit</i>

Isaiah 35.1-10

Everlasting joy shall be upon their heads

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly,
and rejoice with joy and singing.
The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.
They shall see the glory of the Lord,
the majesty of our God.
Strengthen the weak hands,
and make firm the feeble knees.
Say to those who are of a fearful heart,
'Be strong, do not fear!
Here is your God.
He will come with vengeance,
with terrible recompense.
He will come and save you.'
Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;
then the lame shall leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.
For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,
and streams in the desert;
the burning sand shall become a pool,
and the thirsty ground springs of water;
the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp,
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.
A highway shall be there,
and it shall be called the Holy Way;
the unclean shall not travel on it,
but it shall be for God's people;
no traveller, not even fools, shall go astray.
No lion shall be there,
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;
they shall not be found there,

but the redeemed shall walk there.
And the ransomed of the Lord shall return,
and come to Zion with singing;
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
they shall obtain joy and gladness,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

This is the word of the Lord:

Thanks be to God

PSALM:

Psalm 146.4-10

**I will praise the Lord, I will praise the Lord as long
as I live**

Happy are those who have the God of Jacob for their
help, whose hope is in the Lord their God;
Who made heaven and earth, the sea and all that is in
them; who keeps his promise for ever;

**I will praise the Lord, I will praise the Lord as long
as I live**

Who gives justice to those that suffer wrong and bread
to those who hunger.

The Lord looses those that are bound; the Lord opens
the eyes of the blind;

**I will praise the Lord, I will praise the Lord as long
as I live**

The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down; the Lord
loves the righteous;

The Lord watches over the stranger in the land; he
upholds the orphan and widow; but the way of the
wicked he turns upside down.

The Lord shall reign for ever, your God, O Zion,
throughout all generations.

**I will praise the Lord, I will praise the Lord as long
as I live**

SECOND READING:

James 5.7-10

***Strengthen your hearts,
for the coming of the Lord is near.***

Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming
of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from
the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early
and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen
your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved,
do not grumble against one another, so that you may
not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the
doors! As an example of suffering and patience,
beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of
the Lord.

This is the word of the Lord:

Thanks be to God

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION*Stand***Alleluia, alleluia!**

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me.

He has sent me to bring the good news to the poor.

Alleluia!**GOSPEL:**

Matthew 11.2-11

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.✕ Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Matthew**Glory to you, O Lord.*****“See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way before you”***

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, ‘Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?’ Jesus answered them, ‘Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offence at me.’

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: ‘What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written, “See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.”

Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

The Gospel of the Lord:

Praise to you, O Christ**HOMILY***Sit***NICENE CREED***Stand*

**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.

INTERCESSIONS

<i>Stand</i>

Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

✠ Rest eternal grant to them, O Lord,
and let light perpetual shine upon them.

Merciful Father,
**accept these prayers
for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen.**

PEACE

Lord Jesus Christ,
who said to your Apostles:
Peace I leave you, my peace I give you,
look not on our sins,
but on the faith of your Church,
and graciously grant her peace and unity
in accordance with your will.
Who live and reign for ever and ever.
Amen.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

**PROCESSION OF THE GIFTS:
Wait For The Lord**

**Wait for the Lord, his day is near,
Wait for the Lord, be strong, take heart!**

Prepare the way for the Lord,
Make a straight path for him. *Refrain*

The Glory of the Lord shall be revealed. *Refrain*

All the Earth will see the Lord. *Refrain*

Rejoice in the Lord always:
he is at hand. *Refrain*

During this hymn a collection will be taken. If you are a UK taxpayer and can gift aid your donation, please place it in a yellow gift aid envelope (available in the pews) and complete all the details requested. You can also donate using the card machine at the back if you'd prefer. Anyone who gives using the Parish Giving Scheme can use a token to indicate their giving.

**OFFERTORY HYMN:
The Bells Of Waiting Advent Ring**

**The bells of waiting Advent ring,
A song in winter's darkest night.
Yet listen to the tale they tell;
Earth waits for Christ from glory bright.**

**Sing to the mighty Father God,
Whose love enshrines his majesty.
There is no darkness where he reigns
And light above all light is he.**

**And all who trust him and obey
Will find when Jesus comes again
That they are heirs to that bright place,
God's realm of glory, their domain!**

**To Father, Son and Holy Ghost
We sing our praises, loud and long;
And wait with winter's Advent bells
To welcome Christ in Christmas song.**

OFFERTORY PRAYERS

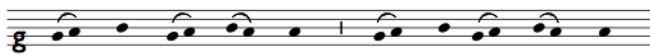
Pray, my brothers and sisters,
that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God,
the almighty Father.

**May the Lord accept
the sacrifice at your hands,
for the praise and glory of his name,
for our good, and the good of all his Church.**

May the sacrifice of our worship, Lord, we pray,
be offered to you unceasingly,
to complete what was begun in sacred mystery
and powerfully accomplish for us your saving work.
Through Christ our Lord. **Amen**

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

The Priest continues singing the Preface



The Lord be with you **R.** and al-so with you.



Lift up your hearts. **R.** **We lift them to the Lord.**



Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



R. **It is right to give thanks and praise.**

ending with:

Holy, holy, holy, Lord.

God of power and God of might;
God of power and God of might

Heav'n and earth are full of your glory
Heav'n and earth are full of your glory

Hosanna in the highest
Hosanna in the highest

Blessed is he that comes in the name of the Lord
Blessed is he that comes in the name of the Lord

Hosanna in the highest
Hosanna in the highest

The Priest continues the Eucharistic Prayer

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

The Priest concludes the Eucharistic Prayer

At the end all sing



A - men.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

At the Saviour's command
and formed by divine teaching,
we dare to say:

**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,
and 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,
for ever and 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.**

AGNUS DEI

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
Lord, have mercy upon us

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
Lord, have mercy upon us

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
Lord, grant us peace

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

This is the Lamb of God
who takes away the sins of the world.
Happy are those who are called to his supper.

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

*Please follow the guidance of the stewards as you
come forward for the distribution of Communion. If you
would like to receive a blessing instead, please bring
your service sheet with you.*

**COMMUNION HYMN:
297 Lord Jesus Christ**

COMMUNION HYMN:

Gaudete (Rejoice, Christ Has Been Born From the Virgin Mary, Rejoice!)

***Gaudete, gaudete, Christus est natus
Ex Maria Virgine, gaudete!
Gaudete, gaudete, Christus est natus
Ex Maria Virgine, gaudete!***

**Feel excitement in the air
As we wait His coming.
We will join our waiting song,
Louder still resounding.**

Chorus

**Time of grace to come we pray,
Time of grace soon on us.
Let us sing our song of joy,
Song of our salvation.**

Chorus

**Darkness that still binds the soul,
Shattered by this dawning.
Where the light is shining bright,
Our salvation calling.**

Chorus

**Ev'ry morning sends a prayer
as the year is fading.
Ev'ry angel crying "Lord!
Lord the world is waiting!"**

Chorus**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION***Stand*

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*Sit***BLESSING & DISMISSAL***Stand*

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

✠May almighty God bless you,
the Father,
and the Son,
and the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Go in the peace of Christ.
Thanks be to God.

RECESSIONAL HYMN:

3 Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus