A Service of the Word in Advent

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The Gathering

*The Greeting*

The Lord be with you

***All***   **and also with you.**

*Priest:* Our Lord says ‘Surely I come quickly.’ Even so; come, Lord Jesus.

*Revelation 22.20*

*Prayer of Preparation*

***All***   **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.**

*Prayers of Penitence*

Christ the Light of the world has come to dispel the darkness of our hearts. In his light let us examine ourselves and confess our sins.

***All***   **Most merciful God,**

**Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,**

**we confess that we have sinned**

**in thought, word and deed.**

**We have not loved you with our whole heart.**

**We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.**

**In your mercy**

**forgive what we have been,**

**help us to amend what we are,**

**and direct what we shall be;**

**that we may do justly,**

**love mercy,**

**and walk humbly with you, our God.**

**Amen.**

*The priest declares God’s forgiveness.*

**OPENING HYMN**

*The Blessings of the Advent Wreath (done once before its usage)*

The Lighting of the Advent Candle

*The Collect of the Day*

The Liturgy of the Word

*Reading(s)*

*After each reading*

This is the word of the Lord.

***All***   **Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL HYMN**

*Gospel Reading*

*When the Gospel is announced the reader says*

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

***All***   **Glory to you, O Lord.**

*and at the end*

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

***All***   **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**GOSPEL HYMN**

*The Homily*

*Affirmation of Faith*

We say together in faith

***All***   **Holy, holy, holy**

**is the Lord God almighty,**

**who was, and is, and is to come.**

We believe in God the Father, who created all things:

***All***   **for by his will they were created**

**and have their being.**

We believe in God the Son,

who was slain:

***All***   **for with his blood,**

**he purchased us for God,**

**from every tribe and language,**

**from every people and nation.**

We believe in God the Holy Spirit:

***All***   **the Spirit and the Bride say,‘Come!’**

**Even so come, Lord Jesus!**

**Amen.**

*Prayers of Intercession*

*The Prayer Over the Gifts*

*The Lord’s Prayer*

Let us pray for the coming of God’s kingdom

in the words our Saviour taught us.

***All***   **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.**

*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

The Dismissal

*These words may be said*

Our Lord says, I am coming soon.

***All***   **Amen. Come Lord Jesus.**

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

***All***   **Amen.**

*The priest may use this seasonal blessing*

May God himself, the God of peace,

make you perfect and holy;

and keep you all safe and blameless, in spirit, soul and body,

for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

And the blessing …

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

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

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