

## Morning Prayer for Advent

From the Reign of Christ to Christmas Eve

### GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

#### Introductory Responses

Restore us, O Creator of the stars of night;  
**show us the light of your countenance,  
and we shall be saved.**

Will you not give us life again,  
**so that your people may rejoice in you?**

Show us your mercy, O God,  
**and grant us your salvation.**

Blessed is the Christ who comes in your name!  
**Peace in heaven and glory in the highest.**

*Or*

O Lord, open our lips  
**and our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**  
Reveal among us the light of your presence  
**so that we may behold your power and glory.**

Blessed are you, Sovereign God of all,  
to you be praise and glory for ever.  
In your tender compassion  
the dawn from on high is breaking upon us  
to dispel the lingering shadows of night.  
As we look for your coming among us this day,  
open our eyes to behold your presence  
and strengthen our hands to do your will,  
so that the world may rejoice and give you praise.

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.  
**Blessed be God for ever.**

*or*

Blessed be God: Source of all being, eternal Word and Holy Spirit.  
**Blessed be God for ever.**

*or*

Blessed be the holy and undivided Trinity, one God.  
**Blessed be God for ever.**

### THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

#### The Psalm

*Morning Prayer continues with **the Psalm(s)** from the Daily Office Lectionary, the Weekday Eucharistic Lectionary or the Revised Common Lectionary Daily Readings is said or sung.*

*At the end of the Psalm the accompanying prayer may be used or one of the following.*

Glory to God, Source of all being, eternal Word and Holy Spirit:  
**as it was in the beginning, is now and will be for ever. Amen.**

*or*

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

*or*

Glory to the holy and undivided Trinity, one God:  
**as it was in the beginning, is now and will be for ever. Amen.**

*Morning Prayer continues with **the first Reading** from the Daily Office Lectionary, the Weekday Eucharistic Lectionary or the Revised Common Lectionary Daily Readings.*

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*or*

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.

**Thanks be to God.**

*or*

Holy Word, Holy Wisdom.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Morning Prayer continues with **the Responsory** said or sung.*

Now it is time to awake out of sleep,

**for the night is far spent and the day is at hand.**

Now is our salvation nearer than when we first believed,

**for the night is far spent.**

Let us therefore cast off the works of darkness  
and put on the armour of light,

**for the day is at hand.**

Put on the Lord Jesus Christ

and make no provision for the flesh,

**for the night is far spent and the day is at hand.**

*Morning Prayer continues with the **Second Reading***

*Morning Prayer continues with one of **the Canticles***

The Canticles (choose one of the three below)

***The Song of Zechariah (Luke 1.68-79)***

Blessed are you, Lord, the God of Israel, \*  
you have come to your people and set them free.

You have raised up for us a mighty Saviour, \*  
born of the house of your servant David.

Through your holy prophets, \*  
you promised of old to save us from our enemies,  
from the hands of all who hate us, \*  
to show mercy to our forebears,  
and to remember your holy covenant.

This was the oath you swore to our father Abraham: \*

to set us free from the hands of our enemies,  
free to worship you without fear, \*

holy and righteous before you, all the days of our life.

And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, \*  
for you will go before the Lord to prepare the way,  
to give God's people knowledge of salvation \*

by the forgiveness of their sins.  
In the tender compassion of our God \*  
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,  
to shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, \*  
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

*Or*

*A Song of the Wilderness (Isaiah 35.1, 2b-4a, 4c-6, 10)*

The wilderness and the dry land shall rejoice, \*  
the desert shall blossom and burst into song.  
They shall see the glory of the Lord, \*  
the majesty of our God.  
Strengthen the weary hands, \*  
and make firm the feeble knees.  
Say to the anxious, 'Be strong, fear not,  
your God is coming with judgement, \*  
coming with judgement to save you.'  
Then shall the eyes of the blind be opened, \*  
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;  
then shall the lame leap like a hart, \*  
and the tongue of the mute sing for joy.  
For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, \*  
and streams in the desert;  
the ransomed of the Lord shall return with singing, \*  
with everlasting joy upon their heads.  
Joy and gladness shall be theirs, \*  
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

*Or*

*A Song of Baruch (Baruch 5.5, 6c, 7-9)*

Arise, O Jerusalem, stand upon the height: \*  
look to the east and see your children,  
gathered from the west and the east \*  
at the word of the Holy One.  
They rejoice that God has remembered them \*  
and has brought them back to you.  
For God has ordered that every high mountain \*  
and the everlasting hills be made low,  
and the valleys filled up to make level ground \*  
so that they may walk safely in the glory of God.  
The woods and every fragrant tree \*  
have shaded them at God's command.  
For God will lead this people with joy  
in the light of the divine glory \*  
with the mercy and righteousness that comes from God.

*At the end of the Canticle one of the following may be said or sung.*

Glory to God, Source of all being, eternal Word and Holy Spirit:  
**as it was in the beginning, is now and will be for ever. Amen.**

*or*

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

*or*

Glory to the holy and undivided Trinity, one God:  
**as it was in the beginning, is now and will be for ever. Amen.**

*Morning Prayer continues with **the Gospel Reading***

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to...  
**Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

The Gospel of Christ.

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

*Morning Prayer continues with **an Affirmation of Faith***

*Affirmation of Faith*

*One of the following Affirmations of Faith may be said or sung.*

*The Apostles' Creed*

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

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

*Or*

*Hear, O Israel*

**Hear, O Israel,  
the Lord our God, the Lord is one.  
Love the Lord your God  
with all your heart,  
with all your soul,  
with all your mind,  
and with all your strength.  
This is the first and the great commandment.  
The second is like it:  
Love your neighbour as yourself.  
There is no commandment greater than these.**

*Morning Prayer continues with **the Litany***

**THE PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY**

*The Litany (said or sung)*

In joyful expectation let us pray to God, our Saviour and Redeemer.  
O Wisdom from the mouth of the Most High,  
you reign over all things to the ends of the earth:  
come and teach us how to live.

**Lord Jesus, come soon.**

O Head of the house of Israel,  
you appeared in the fire of the burning bush  
and you gave the law on Sinai:  
come with outstretched arm and ransom us.

**Lord Jesus, come soon.**

O Branch of Jesse standing as a sign among the nations,  
all rulers will keep silence before you  
and all peoples will summon you to their aid:  
come, set us free and delay no more.

**Lord Jesus, come soon.**

O Key of David and sceptre of the house of Israel,  
you open and none can shut;  
you shut and none can open:  
come and free the captives from prison.

**Lord Jesus, come soon.**

O Morning Star, bright Sun of righteousness:  
come and enlighten all who dwell in darkness  
and the shadow of death.

**Lord Jesus, come soon.**

O Emmanuel, hope of the nations:  
come and save us, O Anointed One.

**Lord Jesus, come soon.**

*Additional intercessions, petitions and thanksgivings may be offered in silence or aloud. Among these concerns it is appropriate to remember*

- *the church, that we may be ready for the coming of Christ;*
- *the leaders of the church;*
- *the nations, that they may seek peace and reconciliation;*
- *those who are working for justice in the world and*
- *the broken, that they may find God's healing.*

*After a period of silence either the Collect of the Day or one of the following collects may be said or sung.*

*Morning Prayer continues with **the Confession** (from A Penitential Office found before the Morning Prayer Service)*

Let us confess our sins  
against God and our neighbour.

**God of all mercy,  
we confess that we have sinned against you,  
opposing your will in our lives.  
We have denied your goodness in each other,  
in ourselves and in the world you have created.  
We repent of the evil that enslaves us,  
the evil we have done  
and the evil done on our behalf.  
Forgive, restore and strengthen us  
through our Saviour Jesus Christ,  
so that we may abide in your love  
and serve only your will. Amen.**

*Or*

Most merciful God,  
we confess that we have sinned against you  
in thought, word and deed,  
by what we have done  
and by what we have left undone.  
We have not loved you with our whole heart;  
we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.  
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,  
have mercy on us and forgive us,  
that we may delight in your will,  
and walk in your ways,  
to the glory of your name. Amen.

*A deacon or lay person using the prayer below substitutes us for you and our for your.*

May the God of love and power  
forgive you/us and free you/us from your/our sins,  
heal and strengthen you/us by the Holy Spirit  
and raise you/us to new life in Jesus Christ. Amen.

*Or*

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

*Morning Prayer continues with the Collect*

*Week of the Reign of Christ*

*Most High God, majestic and almighty, our beginning and our end: rule in our hearts  
and guide us to be faithful in our daily actions, worshipping the one who comes as  
Saviour and Sovereign, and who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy  
Spirit, one God. Amen.*

*Advent 1*

God of justice and peace, from the heavens you rain down mercy and kindness, so that  
all on earth may stand in awe and wonder before your marvellous deeds. Raise our  
heads in expectation, so that we may yearn for the coming of your Christ and stand  
without blame before him, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit for ever  
and ever. **Amen.**

*Advent 2*

God of timeless grace, you fill us with joyful expectation. Make us ready for the message  
that prepares the way, so that with uprightness of heart and holy joy we may eagerly  
await the coming of your Christ, who reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and for  
ever. **Amen.**

*Advent 3*

Merciful God, your word, spoken by the prophets, restores your people's life and hope.  
Fill our hearts with the joy of your saving grace, so that we may hold fast to your great  
goodness and in our lives proclaim your justice in all the world, through your Christ  
who comes among us. **Amen.**

*Advent 4*

O God of Elizabeth and Mary, you visited your servants with news of the world's  
redemption in the coming of the Saviour. Make our hearts leap with joy and fill our  
mouths with songs of praise, so that we may announce glad tidings of peace and  
welcome the Christ in our midst. **Amen.**

*Morning Prayer continues with **the Lord's Prayer**.*

**The Lord's Prayer**

Awaiting his coming in glory  
and gathering our prayers and praises into one,  
let us pray as our Saviour taught us,

**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.**

**Save us from the time of trial,  
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours,  
now and for ever. Amen.**

*Morning Prayer continues with **the Dismissal**.*

**THE SENDING FORTH OF THE COMMUNITY**

**The Dismissal**

Let us bless the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Morning Prayer may conclude with the following Sentence.*

May Christ, when he comes, find us watching and waiting. **Amen.**

## Evening Prayer for Advent

From the Reign of Christ to Christmas Eve

### GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

#### Introductory Responses

Light and peace in Jesus Christ our hope.

**Thanks be to God.**

*or*

Jesus Christ is the light of the world.

**A light no darkness can extinguish.**

#### Thanksgiving

Let us give thanks to God our Creator.

**It is right to offer thanks and praise.**

*or*

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

Blessed are you, Sovereign God,

creator of light and darkness,

to you be glory and praise for ever.

As evening falls, you renew your promise

to reveal among us the light of your presence.

May your word be a lantern to our feet

and a light upon our path

so that we may behold your coming among us.

Strengthen us in our stumbling weakness

and free our tongues to sing your praise.

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

**Blessed be God for ever.**

*or*

Blessed be God: Source of all being, eternal Word and Holy Spirit.

**Blessed be God for ever.**

*or*

Blessed be the holy and undivided Trinity, one God.

**Blessed be God for ever.**

### THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

#### The Psalm

*Evening Prayer continues with **the Psalm(s)** from the Daily Office Lectionary, the Weekday Eucharistic Lectionary or the Revised Common Lectionary Daily Readings is said or sung.*

*At the end of the Psalm the accompanying prayer may be used or one of the following.*

Glory to God, Source of all being, eternal Word and Holy Spirit:

**as it was in the beginning, is now and will be for ever. Amen.**

*or*

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:

**as it was in the beginning, is now and will be for ever. Amen.**

*or*

Glory to the holy and undivided Trinity, one God:

**as it was in the beginning, is now and will be for ever. Amen.**



*Evening Prayer continues with the **First Reading**.*

**The Reading**

*A Reading from the Daily Office Lectionary, the Weekday Eucharistic Lectionary or the Revised Common Lectionary Daily Readings is read. After a period of silent reflection one of the following is said.*

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*or*

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.

**Thanks be to God.**

*or*

Holy Word, Holy Wisdom.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Evening Prayer continues with **the Responsory***

**The Responsory**

My soul is waiting for you, Light of my salvation:  
in your word is my hope.

**My soul is waiting for you, Light of my salvation:  
in your word is my hope.**

There is forgiveness with you,  
so that you shall be held in awe.

**My soul is waiting for you, Light of my salvation:  
in your word is my hope.**

Reveal among us the light of your presence,  
so that we may behold your power and glory.

**My soul is waiting for you, Light of my salvation:  
in your word is my hope.**

*Evening Prayer continues with **the Gospel Reading***

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to...

**Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

The Gospel of Christ.

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

*Evening Prayer continues with **the Canticle***

**The Canticle**

*'The Song of Mary', 'A Song of the Spirit' or 'A Song of the Lamb' may be said or sung.*

*The Song of Mary (Luke 1.46-55)*

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,  
my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour, \*  
for you, Lord, have looked with favour  
on your lowly servant.

From this day all generations will call me blessed: \*  
you, the Almighty, have done great things for me  
and holy is your name.

You have mercy on those who fear you, \*  
from generation to generation.

You have shown strength with your arm \*

and scattered the proud in their conceit,  
casting down the mighty from their thrones \*  
and lifting up the lowly.  
You have filled the hungry with good things \*  
and sent the rich away empty.  
You have come to the aid of your servant Israel, \*  
to remember the promise of mercy,  
the promise made to our ancestors, \*  
to Abraham and his children for ever.

*Or*

*A Song of the Spirit (Revelation 22.12-14, 16, 17)*

'Behold, I am coming soon', says the Lord  
'and bringing my reward with me, \*  
to give everyone according to their deeds.  
I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, \*  
the beginning and the end.'  
Blessed are those who do God's commandments,  
that they may have the right to the tree of life, \*  
and may enter into the city through the gates.  
'I, Jesus, have sent my angel to you, \*  
with this testimony for all the churches.  
I am the root and the offspring of David, \*  
I am the bright morning star.'  
'Come!' say the Spirit and the Bride; \*  
'Come!' let each hearer reply.  
Come forward, you who are thirsty, \*  
let those who desire take the water of life as a gift.

*Or*

*A Song of the Lamb (Revelation 19.1b, 2a, 5b, 6b, 7, 9b)*

Salvation and glory and power belong to our God, \*  
whose judgements are true and just.  
Praise our God, all you servants of the Lord, \*  
all who fear God, both small and great.  
The Lord our God, the Almighty, reigns: \*  
let us rejoice and exult and give God the glory.  
For the marriage of the Lamb has come \*  
and his bride has made herself ready.  
Blessed are those who are invited \*  
to the wedding banquet of the Lamb.

*At the end of the Canticle one of the following may be said or sung.*

Glory to God, Source of all being, eternal Word and Holy Spirit:  
**as it was in the beginning, is now and will be for ever. Amen.**

*or*

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

*or*

Glory to the holy and undivided Trinity, one God:  
**as it was in the beginning, is now and will be for ever. Amen.**

*Evening Prayer continues with an Affirmation of Faith*

Affirmation of Faith

*One of the following Affirmations of Faith may be said or sung.*

*The Apostles' Creed*

I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.  
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come again to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.

*Or*

*Hear, O Israel*

Hear, O Israel,  
the Lord our God, the Lord is one.  
Love the Lord your God  
with all your heart,  
with all your soul,  
with all your mind,  
and with all your strength.  
This is the first and the great commandment.  
The second is like it:  
Love your neighbour as yourself.  
There is no commandment greater than these.

*Evening Prayer continues with **the Litany***

THE PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY

*The Litany*

Watchful at all times, let us pray to God for strength to stand with confidence.  
God, our Maker and Redeemer, fill the earth with justice and compassion.  
**God of Mary and Joseph, hear and have mercy.**  
Establish righteousness in the nations.  
**God of Mary and Joseph, hear and have mercy.**  
Bind up the broken-hearted, restore the sick and raise up all who have fallen.  
**God of Mary and Joseph, hear and have mercy.**  
Shine the light of Christ on all who live in darkness and the shadow of death.  
**God of Mary and Joseph, hear and have mercy.**  
Empower us, with all the saints in light, to be your witnesses in the world.  
**God of Mary and Joseph, hear and have mercy.**

*Evening Prayer continues with one of the following **collects***

### *Week of the Reign of Christ*

Most High God, majestic and almighty, our beginning and our end: rule in our hearts and guide us to be faithful in our daily actions, worshipping the one who comes as Saviour and Sovereign, and who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God. **Amen.**

#### *Advent 1*

God of justice and peace, from the heavens you rain down mercy and kindness, so that all on earth may stand in awe and wonder before your marvellous deeds. Raise our heads in expectation, so that we may yearn for the coming of your Christ and stand without blame before him, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit for ever and ever. **Amen.**

#### *Advent 2*

God of timeless grace, you fill us with joyful expectation. Make us ready for the message that prepares the way, so that with uprightness of heart and holy joy we may eagerly await the coming of your Christ, who reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. **Amen.**

#### *Advent 3*

Merciful God, your word, spoken by the prophets, restores your people's life and hope. Fill our hearts with the joy of your saving grace, so that we may hold fast to your great goodness and in our lives proclaim your justice in all the world, through your Christ who comes among us. **Amen.**

#### *Advent 4*

O God of Elizabeth and Mary, you visited your servants with news of the world's redemption in the coming of the Saviour. Make our hearts leap with joy and fill our mouths with songs of praise, so that we may announce glad tidings of peace and welcome the Christ in our midst. **Amen.**

### *Evening Prayer continues with the Lord's Prayer*

#### *The Lord's Prayer*

Awaiting his coming in glory  
and gathering our prayers and praises into one,  
let us pray as our Saviour taught us,

**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.  
Save us from the time of trial,  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours,  
now and for ever. Amen.**

### *Evening Prayer continues with the Dismissal*

#### *THE SENDING FORTH OF THE COMMUNITY*

#### *The Dismissal*

Let us bless the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

#### *Evening Prayer may conclude with the following Sentence.*

May Christ, when he comes, find us watching and waiting. **Amen.**