

Advent 3: Home Worship

12 December 2021

For hymns, see the YouTube recording of the service which is published shortly after the 10am Eucharist at:
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC8PZ-OGaWI9XvZLXd1Y1LyA>

The Gathering

Take a few moments in silence to collect your thoughts and to acknowledge God's presence with you.

In the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

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.

The Confession

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 Absolution

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

Lord, have mercy. Lord have mercy.
Christ have mercy. Christ have mercy.
Lord, have mercy. Lord have mercy.

The Lighting of an Advent Candle

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.

God our Father, you gave to Zechariah and Elisabeth in
their old age a son called John. He grew up strong in
spirit, prepared the people for the coming of the Lord,
and baptized them in the Jordan to wash away their
sins: Help us, who have been baptized into Christ,
to be ready to welcome him into our hearts,
and to grow strong in faith by the power of the Spirit.
We ask this through Jesus Christ,
the Light who is coming into the world.

Lord Jesus, Light of the world,
John told the people to prepare,
for you were very near:
As Christmas grows closer day by day,
help us to be ready to welcome you now.

The 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

Readings

Zephaniah 3.14-20

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel!
Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter
Jerusalem!
The Lord has taken away the judgements against you,
he has turned away your enemies.
The king of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst;
you shall fear disaster no more.
On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:
Do not fear, O Zion;
do not let your hands grow weak.
The Lord, your God, is in your midst,
a warrior who gives victory;
he will rejoice over you with gladness,

he will renew you in his love;
he will exult over you with loud singing
as on a day of festival.
I will remove disaster from you,
so that you will not bear reproach for it.
I will deal with all your oppressors
at that time.
And I will save the lame
and gather the outcast,
and I will change their shame into praise
and renown in all the earth.
At that time I will bring you home,
at the time when I gather you;
for I will make you renowned and praised
among all the peoples of the earth,
when I restore your fortunes
before your eyes, says the Lord.

Philippians 4.4-7

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Gospel Reading Luke 3.7-18

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke. Glory to you, O Lord.

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, 'You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, "We have Abraham as our ancestor"; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.' And the crowds asked him, 'What then should we do?' In reply he said to them, 'Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.' Even tax-collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, 'Teacher, what should we do?' He said to them, 'Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.' Soldiers also asked him, 'And we, what should we do?' He said to them, 'Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.' As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, 'I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.' So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

Sermon by Sarah Dallas

Prayers of Intercession

The following or another response may be used

Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

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.

Eucharistic Prayer

It is indeed right and good to give you thanks and praise, almighty God and everlasting Father, through Jesus Christ your Son. For when he humbled himself to come among us in human flesh, he fulfilled the plan you formed before the foundation of the world to open for us the way of salvation. Confident that your promise will be fulfilled, we now watch for the day when Christ our Lord will come again in glory. And so we join our voices with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven to proclaim your glory for ever praising you and saying:

Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

Prayer of Spiritual Communion for those at Home

O loving God, in union with Christian people
throughout the world and across the centuries
gathered to celebrate the Eucharist, hearing your holy
Word and receiving the Precious Body and Blood of
your dear Son, I offer you praise and thanksgiving.
Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, I ask
you to come spiritually into my heart. I unite myself
to you. Let nothing ever separate me from you.

Come Lord Jesus, dwell in me and send your Holy
Spirit that I may be filled with your presence.

The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour has taught us, so we pray

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.

Post-Communion

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.

The Blessing

Christ the Sun of righteousness shine upon us, scatter
the darkness from before our path, and make us ready
to meet him when he comes in glory and the blessing
of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be with us
and remain with us always.
Amen.

Dismissal

Let us bless the Lord.
Thanks be to God. Amen.