

20th December 2020
Service of Holy
Communion



The Fourth Sunday
of Advent

The Greeting

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you,
and also with you.

Lighting of the Fourth Advent Candle

Blessed are you, Sovereign Lord, just and true,
to you be praise and glory for ever! Of old you
spoke by the mouth of your prophets but in
our days you speak through your Son whom
you have appointed heir of all things. Grant
us, your people, to walk in his light that we
may be found ready and watching when he
comes again in glory and judgement; for you
are our light and our salvation.

Blessed be God for ever.

Prayers of Penitence

'The axe is laid at the root of the trees; every
tree that does not bear good fruit is cut
down.' But confident in God's mercy we
confess our sins.

**Lord God, in our sin we have avoided your
call. Our love for you is like a morning cloud,
like the dew that goes away early. Have mercy
on us; bind up our wounds and revive us; in
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Lord Jesus, you came to gather the nations
into the peace of your kingdom:

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

You come in word and sacrament to
strengthen us in holiness:

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

2.

You will come in glory with salvation for your
people:

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.

The Collect

God our redeemer, who prepared the Blessed
Virgin Mary to be the mother of your Son:
grant that, as she looked for his coming as our
saviour, so we may be ready to greet him
when he comes again as our judge; who is
alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the
Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

Old Testament Reading

2 Samuel 7. 1-11, 16

Now when David the king was settled in his
house, and the LORD had given him rest from
all his enemies around him, the king said to
the prophet Nathan, 'See now, I am living in a
house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a
tent.' Nathan said to the king, 'Go, do all that
you have in mind; for the LORD is with you.'
But that same night the word of the LORD
came to Nathan: Go and tell my servant
David: Thus says the LORD: Are you the one to
build me a house to live in? I have not lived in
a house since the day I brought up the people
of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have
been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle.
Wherever I have moved about among all the
people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with
any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I
commanded to shepherd my people Israel,
saying, 'Why have you not built me a house of
cedar?' Now therefore you shall say to my
servant David: Thus says the LORD of hosts: I
took you from the pasture, from following the
sheep to be prince over my people Israel; and
I have been with you wherever you went, and

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have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the Lord declares to you, David, that the Lord will make you a house.

Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure for ever before me; your throne shall be established for ever.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Luke 1. 26-38

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.' But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who

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was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.' Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

The Nicene Creed

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.

Prayers of Intercession

The response is

Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

5.
And, at the end,
Merciful Father,
**accept these prayers
for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen.**

The Peace

May the God of peace make you completely holy, ready for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The peace of the Lord be always with you,
and also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

All may exchange a sign of peace.

Preparation of the Table

As the grain once scattered in the fields and the grapes once dispersed on the hillside are now reunited on this table in bread and wine, so, Lord, may your whole Church soon be gathered together from the corners of the earth into your kingdom. **Amen.**

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord is here.
His Spirit is with us.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give thanks and praise.

It is indeed right and good to give you thanks and praise, almighty God and everlasting Father, through Jesus Christ your Son.

He is the one foretold by all the prophets, whom the Virgin Mother bore with love beyond all telling.

John the Baptist was his herald and made him known when at last he came. In his love Christ fills us with joy as we prepare to celebrate his birth, so that when he comes again he may

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find us watching in prayer, our hearts filled with wonder and praise.

And so, with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we proclaim your glory, and join in their unending hymn of praise:

**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.

We praise and bless you, loving Father, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; and as we obey his command, send your Holy Spirit, that broken bread and wine outpoured may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper with his friends and, taking bread, he praised you. He broke the bread, gave it to them and said: Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine. Again he praised you, gave it to them and said: Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did, in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice made once for all upon the cross.

Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation, we proclaim his death and resurrection until he comes in glory.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus:

**Dying you destroyed our death,
rising you restored our life:
Lord Jesus, come in glory.**

7.

Lord of all life, help us to work together for that day when your kingdom comes and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth.

Look with favour on your people, gather us in your loving arms and bring us with Cuthbert, Aidan and all the saints to feast at your table in heaven.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

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.
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.

Giving of Communion

Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Blessed 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.

When directed, please move forward in silence to receive the bread. The priest will receive the wine on behalf of us all.

8.

Prayers after Communion

Heavenly Father, who chose the Blessed Virgin Mary to be the mother of the promised saviour: fill us your servants with your grace, that in all things we may embrace your holy will and with her rejoice in your salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Almighty God, we thank you for feeding us with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.

Through him we offer you our souls and bodies to be a living sacrifice.

Send us out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory. Amen.

The Blackburn Diocesan Vision Prayer for Vision 2026

Heavenly Father, we embrace your call for us to make disciples, to be witnesses and to grow leaders. Give us the eyes to see your vision, ears to hear the prompting of your Spirit and courage to follow in the footsteps of your Son, our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

The Blessing

May God the Holy Spirit, by whose working the Virgin Mary conceived the Christ, help you bear the fruits of holiness; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ. Amen.



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