

## Welcome and Archbishops Prayer for Covid

Loving God, at this time of crisis,  
when so many are suffering,  
we pray for the nation and our world.  
Give our leaders wisdom, our Health Service strength and us  
hope.  
Lead us through these parched and difficult days,  
to these fresh springs of joy and comfort,  
that we find in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

## Moment of quiet

## We pray together our Opening Prayer

Come, Lord Jesus, do not delay,  
give new courage to your people who trust in your love.  
By your coming, raise us to the joy of your kingdom,  
where you live and reign with the Father and the Spirit,  
one God for ever and ever. Amen.

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**

## Lighting of the First Advent Candle

Blessed are you, Sovereign Lord,  
God of our ancestors to you be praise and glory for ever!  
You called the patriarchs to live by the light of faith  
and to journey in the hope of your promised fulfilment.  
May we be obedient to your call  
and be ready and watchful to receive your Christ,  
a lamp to our feet and a light to our path;

for you are our light and our salvation.  
**Blessed be God for ever.**

**Lord Jesus, Light of the world,  
born in David's city of Bethlehem,  
born like him to be a king  
Be born in our hearts this Christmastide,  
be king of our lives today.**

### **Confession**

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son  
Jesus Christ to save us from our sins,  
to be our advocate in heaven,  
and to bring us to eternal life.

Let us therefore confess our sins in penitence and faith, firmly  
resolved to keep God's commandments  
and to live in love and peace with all.

*Silence is kept.*                            We pray together

**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.**

*God's forgiveness is declared*

## The Gloria

**Glory to God in the highest, peace to his people on earth.  
Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,  
we worship you, we give you thanks,  
we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,  
Lord God, Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us;  
for you are seated at the right hand of the Father:  
receive our prayer.**

**You alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord.  
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

Our special prayer for today, The Collect

**Almighty God, as your kingdom dawns,  
turn us from the darkness of sin to the light of holiness,  
that we may be ready to meet you  
in our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. Amen**

**Bible Readings First Reading: Isaiah 64:1-9**

**1 Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down, that the mountains would tremble before you!**

**2 As when fire sets twigs ablaze and causes water to boil, come down to make your name known to your enemies and cause the nations to quake before you!**

**3 For when you did awesome things that we did not expect, you came down, and the mountains trembled before you.**

**4 Since ancient times no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who acts on behalf of those who wait for him.**

**5 You come to the help of those who gladly do right, who remember your ways. But when we continued to sin against them, you were angry. How then can we be saved?**

**6 All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags; we all shrivel up like a leaf, and like the wind our sins sweep us away.**

**7 No one calls on your name or strives to lay hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us and have given us over to our sins.**

**8 Yet you, LORD, are our Father. We are the clay, you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand.**

**9 Do not be angry beyond measure, LORD; do not remember our sins forever. Oh, look on us, we pray, for we are all your people.**

This is the Word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

### **Hymn – Praise My Soul The King of Heaven**

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

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

#### **Mark 13:24-37**

**24 “But in those days, following that distress, “ ‘the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light;**

**25 the stars will fall from the sky, and the heavenly bodies will be shaken.’**

**26 “At that time people will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory.**

**27 And he will send his angels and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of the heavens.**

**28 “Now learn this lesson from the fig tree: As soon as its twigs get tender and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near.**

**29 Even so, when you see these things happening, you know that it is near, right at the door.**

**30 Truly I tell you, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened.**

**31 Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.**

**32 “But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.**

**33 Be on guard! Be alert! You do not know when that time will come.**

**34 It’s like a man going away: He leaves his house and puts his servants in charge, each with their assigned task, and tells the one at the door to keep watch.**

**35 “Therefore keep watch because you do not know when the owner of the house will come back—whether in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or at dawn.**

**36 If he comes suddenly, do not let him find you sleeping.**

**37 What I say to you, I say to everyone: ‘Watch!’ ”**

This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **Sermon**

### **Creed/Affirmation of Faith**

Do you believe and trust in God the Father, source of all being and life, the one for whom we exist?

**We believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Son, who took our human nature, died for us and rose again?

**We believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit, who gives life to the people of God and makes Christ known in the world?

**We believe and trust in him.**

This is the faith of the Church.

**This is our faith.**

**We believe and trust in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.  
Amen.**

### **Prayers of Intercession**

**Lord, in your mercy      hear our prayer.**

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

## Communion Prayer

### The Peace

Christ is our peace.  
He has reconciled us to God in one body by the cross.  
We meet in his name and share his peace.  
The peace of the Lord be always with you  
**and also with you.**

## Hymn –My Song Is Love Unknown

## Offertory Prayer

Be present, be present, Lord Jesus Christ, our risen high priest;  
make yourself known in the breaking of bread. **Amen.**

## The Communion 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.**

Almighty God, good Father to us all,  
your face is turned towards your world.  
in love you gave us Jesus your Son  
to rescue us from sin and death.  
Your Word goes out to call us home  
to the city where angels sing your praise.  
We join with them in heaven's song:

**Holy Lord, God of power and God of 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.**

Father of all, we give you thanks  
for every gift that comes from heaven.  
To the darkness Jesus came as your light.  
With signs of faith and words of hope  
he touched touchables with love  
and washed the guilty clean.  
The crowds came out to see your Son,  
yet at the end they turned on him.

On the night he was betrayed  
he came to table with his friends  
to celebrate the freedom of your people.  
Jesus blessed you, Father, for the food;  
he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and said:  
Take, eat, this is my body, given for you all.  
Do this in remembrance of me.

Jesus then gave thanks for the wine;  
he took the cup, gave it and said:  
This is my blood, shed for you and for many  
for the forgiveness of sins.  
Do this as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith  
**Christ has died: Christ is risen: Christ will come again,**

Therefore, Father, with this bread and this cup  
we celebrate the cross on which he died to set us free.  
Defying death he rose again  
and is alive with you to plead for us and all the world.

Send your Spirit now, that by these gifts,  
we may feed on the body and blood of Christ  
with opened eyes and hearts on fire.  
May we and all who share this food  
offer ourselves to live for you  
and be welcomed at your feast in heaven  
where all creation worships you,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. **Amen**

Silence is Kept

### **Lord's Prayer - Sung**

**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.**

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.**  
**Jesus, Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have  
mercy on us.**  
**Jesus, Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have  
mercy on us.**  
**Jesus, Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant  
us your peace.**

Draw near with faith, and  
spiritually receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ  
which he gave for you, his blood which he shed for you,  
and his blessing which is his special gift.  
Eat and drink in remembrance that he died for you,  
and feed on him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.  
**Amen**

### **Post Communion Prayer**

O Lord our God, make us watchful and keep us faithful  
as we await the coming of your Son our Lord;  
that, when he shall appear, he may not find us sleeping in sin  
but active in his service and joyful in his praise;  
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.**

**Hymn - Freely, Freely**

**The Blessing**

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