



**THE EUCHARIST**  
**ON THE THIRD SUNDAY**  
**OF ADVENT**

**Sunday 13 December 2020**

## Welcome to York Minster

We are delighted to be able to be able to worship together again in this awesome place. Welcome whether you are worshipping with us in person, and welcome if you worshipping with us online. Though we may be dispersed we are bound together as the body of Christ through the sacrament of the Eucharist and we join together to hold before Almighty God the prayers of our own hearts and the needs of our world.

At the darkest time of the year, we turn in hopeful expectation towards the light that is coming. We look for the dawning of a renewed relationship between God and humanity. During these seasons of Advent, Christmas and Epiphany we move from waiting to fulfilment, from darkness to light, from eager expectation to joyful thanksgiving. Christians around the world will be making this same journey celebrating the coming of Jesus, light of the world, as a tiny infant and as the eternal redeemer of the whole of creation.

We hope that our offering may bring comfort and joy to everyone in these difficult times and speak of the one we believe to be the light in the darkness, Jesus Christ, the same, yesterday, today and forever.

### Information about this Service

- ◆ This service is being live-streamed, but care is taken to focus on the clergy and choir and not the congregation.
- ◆ For licensing and safeguarding reasons, please do not record this service on your own devices.
- ◆ Communion is administered in one kind only. If you normally receive communion in your own church, you are very welcome to receive communion here.
- ◆ If you do not wish to take communion but would like to receive a blessing, please come forward and let the minister know.
- ◆ Gluten-free communion wafers are available from the communion station at the front, nearest the altar. Please follow the directions of the Stewards. When the time comes to receive communion, please ask the minister for a gluten-free wafer.

*If you are joining us via the live stream, you might find this prayer helpful during Communion.*

## **Act of Spiritual Communion**

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Blessed Sacrament.  
I love you above all things and I desire you in my soul.  
Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally,  
come at least spiritually into my heart.  
As though you were already there,  
I embrace you and unite myself wholly to you;  
permit not that I should ever be separated from you.  
Amen.

*The Kyrie and Agnus Dei are from the MESSE DE REQUIEM by Gabriel Fauré.*

*The Sanctus and Benedictus are sung to plainsong (MASS VIII).*

*The Preacher is the Revd Michael Smith, Canon Pastor.*

## The Gathering

*Please stand as the choir sings the ADVENT PROSE:*

Drop down, ye heavens, from above, and let the skies pour down righteousness.

Be not wroth very sore, O Lord, neither remember iniquity for ever:  
thy holy cities are a wilderness, Sion is a wilderness, Jerusalem a desolation:  
our holy and our beautiful house, where our fathers praised thee.

Drop down, ye heavens . . .

We have sinned, and are as an unclean thing, and we all do fade as a leaf:  
and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away;  
thou hast hid thy face from us:  
and hast consumed us, because of our iniquities.

Drop down, ye heavens . . .

## The Greeting

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.**

*The President welcomes those in the building and those watching the service at home and introduces the service.*

## Prayer at the Advent Wreath

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.**

*The third candle is lit on the Advent Wreath.*

## Prayers of Penitence

*A minister introduces the confession.*

A voice cries out in the wilderness,  
'Make straight the way of the Lord.'  
So let us listen, and turn to the Lord in penitence and faith.

**Almighty God, our heavenly Father,  
we have sinned against you  
and against our neighbour  
in thought and word and deed,  
through negligence, through weakness,  
through our own deliberate fault.  
We are truly sorry  
and repent of all our sins.  
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,  
who died for us,  
forgive us all that is past  
and grant that we may serve you in newness of life  
to the glory of your name. Amen.**

*As the Advent wreath is raised, the choir sings:*

Kyrie eleison.	<i>Lord, have mercy upon us.</i>
Christe eleison.	<i>Christ, have mercy upon us.</i>
Kyrie eleison.	<i>Lord, have mercy upon us.</i>

*The President says the absolution.*

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

Let us pray.

*There is a short period of prayerful silence.*

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.**

*Please sit.*

## The Liturgy of the Word

### Old Testament Reading

A reading from the prophecy of Isaiah.

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me,  
because the Lord has anointed me;  
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,  
to bind up the broken-hearted,  
to proclaim liberty to the captives,  
and release to the prisoners;  
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour,  
and the day of vengeance of our God;  
to comfort all who mourn;  
to provide for those who mourn in Zion—  
to give them a garland instead of ashes,  
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,  
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.

They will be called oaks of righteousness,  
the planting of the Lord, to display his glory.  
They shall build up the ancient ruins,  
they shall raise up the former devastations;  
they shall repair the ruined cities,  
the devastations of many generations.

For I the Lord love justice,  
I hate robbery and wrongdoing;  
I will faithfully give them their recompense,  
and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.  
Their descendants shall be known among the nations,  
and their offspring among the peoples;  
all who see them shall acknowledge  
that they are a people whom the Lord has blessed.  
I will greatly rejoice in the Lord,  
my whole being shall exult in my God;  
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,  
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,  
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,  
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.  
For as the earth brings forth its shoots,  
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,  
so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise  
to spring up before all the nations.

*Isaiah 61. 1-4, 8-end*

This is the word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

*The Gospel is heralded by music played on the organ. Please stand.*

## Gospel Reading

*When the Gospel is announced the reader says:*

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

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, 'I am not the Messiah.' And they asked him, 'What then? Are you Elijah?' He said, 'I am not.' 'Are you the prophet?' He answered, 'No.' Then they said to him, 'Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?' He said,

I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness,  
"Make straight the way of the Lord",  
as the prophet Isaiah said.

Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, 'Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?' John answered them, 'I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.' This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

*John 1. 6-8. 19-28*

*After the Gospel the reader says:*

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*The organist plays a musical response to the Gospel reading.*

*Please sit for the sermon.*

## The Sermon

The Revd Michael Smith, Canon Pastor

*The organist plays a musical response to the sermon.*

*Please stand for the Creed.*



## The Creed

Let us affirm our faith in God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

**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.**

*Please sit for the Intercessions.*

## Prayers of Intercession

*One of these responses may be used:*

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

*OR*

Lord, hear us.  
**Lord, graciously hear us.**

*The prayers may conclude:*

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

## The Liturgy of the Sacrament

### The Peace

*The President introduces 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  
**and also with you.**

## Preparation of the Table

*An anthem is sung by the choir, during which the table is prepared, and the gifts and the altar are censed.*

## Offertory Motet

Rorate caeli desuper, et nubes pluant justum: aperiatur terra, et germinet salvatorem.

Benedixisti, Domine, terram tuam: avertisti captivitatem Jacob.

Gloria Patri et Filio et Spiritui Sancto: sicut erat in principio, et nunc et semper et in saecula saeculorum. Amen.

Rorate caeli desuper, et nubes pluant justum: aperiatur terra, et germinet salvatorem.

*Drop down, you heavens, from above, and let the skies pour down righteousness. Let the earth open, and bring forth salvation.*

*Lord, you have been gracious to your land: you have turned away the captivity of Jacob.*

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son: and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: world without end. Amen.*

*Drop down, you heavens, from above, and let the skies pour down righteousness. Let the earth open, and bring forth salvation.*

*Words* Introit Proper for the Annunciation ♦ *Music* William Byrd (1540–1623)

## Taking of the Bread and Wine

*A prayer is said as the gifts are presented.*

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 following dialogue is said:*

The Lord be with you  
**and also with you.**

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.  
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 singing:

*The choir sings:*

Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus,  
Dominus Deus Sabaoth,  
pleni sunt caeli et terra gloria tua.  
Hosanna in excelsis.

*Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.*

Benedictus qui venit in nomine  
Domini. Osanna in excelsis.

*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.

*This acclamation is used:*

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

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 the Blessed Virgin Mary,  
Peter the Apostle, 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.**

*Silence is kept.*

## **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.  
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.**

## **Breaking of the Bread**

*The President breaks the consecrated bread, saying:*

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**

*The President says an invitation to communion, which may include these words:*

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.**

The body and blood of Christ, keep you in eternal life.

*During the distribution of Communion the choir sings:*

Agnus Dei,  
qui tollis peccata mundi,  
dona eis sempiternam requiem.

*O Lamb of God,  
who takes away the sins of the world,  
grant them eternal rest.*

Lux aeterna luceat eis, Domine,  
cum sanctis tuis in aeternum,  
quia pius es.

*May eternal light shine upon them, O Lord,  
in the company of thy saints for eternity,  
for you are full of goodness.*

*Please stand.*

## **After 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.**

**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 Dismissal

## Blessing

*The President gives God's blessing:*

Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you,  
scatter the darkness from before your path,  
and make you ready to meet him when he comes in glory;  
and the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you, and remain with you always.

**Amen.**

*The Deacon says:*

Go in the peace of Christ.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Recessional Psalm

*Psalm 67 is sung by the choir as the procession leaves:*

God be merciful unto us, and bless us ♦ and shew us the light of his countenance,  
and be merciful unto us;

That thy way may be known upon earth ♦ thy saving health among all nations.

Let the people praise thee, O God ♦ yea, let all the people praise thee.

O let the nations rejoice and be glad ♦ for thou shalt judge the folk righteously,  
and govern the nations upon earth.

Let the people praise thee, O God ♦ let all the people praise thee.

Then shall the earth bring forth her increase ♦ and God, even our own God, shall  
give us his blessing.

God shall bless us ♦ and all the ends of the world shall fear him.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son ♦ and to the Holy Ghost;

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be ♦ world without end. Amen.