



## The Sunday Sheet *for* The 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2024

*A very warm welcome as we gather for the Parish Eucharist.  
An induction loop is provided.*

***Gluten free wafers are available*** for those who need them. Please inform one of the  
welcomers who will pass the information on to the clergy. Many thanks

### Entrance Hymn

On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry  
announces that the Lord is nigh;  
awake, and hearken, for he brings  
glad tidings of the King of kings.

Then cleansed be every breast from sin;  
make straight the way for God within;  
prepare we in our hearts a home,  
where such a mighty guest may come.

For thou art our salvation, Lord,  
our refuge, and our great reward;  
without thy grace we waste away,  
like flowers that wither and decay.

To heal the sick stretch out thine hand,  
and bid the fallen sinner stand;  
shine forth, and let thy light restore  
earth's own true loveliness once more.

All praise, eternal Son, to thee  
whose advent doth thy people free,  
whom with the Father we adore  
and Holy Ghost for evermore.

*Charles Coffin 1676-1749 tr. John Chandler 1806-1876  
Tune: Winchester New*

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

Grace and peace be with you  
**And keep you in the love of Christ.**

*The Priest gives an introduction to the Eucharist*

Jesus Christ is the Light of the world:  
**A light no darkness can put out.**

*The second candle on the Advent Wreath is lit*

God our Father,  
you spoke to the prophets of old  
of a Saviour who would bring peace.  
You helped to spread the joyful message  
of his coming kingdom.  
Help us, as we prepare to celebrate his birth,  
to share with those around us  
the good news of your power and love.  
We ask this through Jesus Christ,  
the light who is coming into the world. **Amen.**

*The Priest calls the people to penitence.*

*Silence is kept*

Lord, you call us to make a straight path for you to come to us, but we are too busy  
with our own agendas.  
Lord, have mercy: **Lord, have mercy.**

Lord, you call us to level the ground for you to come to us, but we are too  
preoccupied with making our own lives easy.  
Christ, have mercy: **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord, you call us to smooth the way so that all flesh may see your glory, but we are too  
embarrassed to speak of our faith.  
Lord, have mercy: **Lord, have mercy.**

Almighty God have mercy on you,  
✠ forgive you and set you free from sin,  
and keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

## The Collect

Father in heaven,  
who sent your Son to redeem the world  
and will send him again to be our judge:  
give us grace so to imitate him  
in the humility and purity of his first coming  
that, when he comes again,  
we may be ready to greet him  
with joyful love and firm faith;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns  
with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

*Please Sit*

## Malachi 3. 1-4

A reading from the book of the prophet Malachi.

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?  
For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

For the word of the Lord:

**Thanks be to God.**

## The Gospel

*Please Stand*

Hark! A thrilling voice is sounding:  
"Christ is nigh!" it seems to say;  
"Cast away the dreams of darkness,  
O ye children of the day!"

Wakened by the solemn warning,  
let the earth-bound soul arise;  
Christ, her sun, all ill dispelling,  
shines upon the morning skies.

Lo, the Lamb, so long expected,  
comes with pardon down from heaven;  
let us haste, with tears of sorrow,  
one and all to be forgiven.

That when next he comes with glory,  
and then earth is wrapped in fear,  
with his mercy he may shield us,  
and with words of love draw near.

Honour, glory, might and merit,  
to the Father and the Son,  
with the everlasting Spirit,  
while eternal ages run.

*Edward Caswell 1814-1878 (tr. from Latin 5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup> C)*

*Tune: Merton*

### **Luke 3. 1-6**

Listen to the Gospel of Christ according to Saint Luke.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

'The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

"Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make his paths straight.

Every valley shall be filled,  
and every mountain and hill shall be made low,  
and the crooked shall be made straight,  
and the rough ways made smooth;  
and all flesh shall see the salvation of God." '

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**The Homily**

*Please Sit*

## **An Affirmation of the Faith.**

*Please Stand*

Let us declare our faith in God.

**We believe in God the Father,  
from whom every family  
in heaven and on earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son,  
who lives in our hearts through faith,  
and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,  
who strengthens us  
with power from on high.**

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

## **The Intercession**

*Please Sit*

*Appropriate responses may be used, for example*

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

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

*The Intercession ends with a suitable collect said by the priest, or the following*

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

## **The Peace**

*Please Stand*

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

The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
**And also with you.**

Let us offer one another a sign of the Lord's peace.

## Offertory Hymn

Bless the God of Israel,  
who has come to set us free.  
He has raised for us a Saviour  
sprung from royal David's tree.  
Through his prophets God has spoken  
of the hope that Christ would bring;  
of his faithfulness and mercy  
let each generation sing.

Long ago God made a promise  
he would set his people free,  
that in all our life and worship  
we might know true liberty,  
to be holy, to be righteous  
in his sight throughout our days;  
now this child will be a herald  
making ready all God's ways.

Let all people know salvation  
through forgiveness of their sin,  
as our God in his compassion  
bids a shining dawn begin.  
So may all who dwell in darkness  
see the shadows disappear  
while he guides our feet in pathways  
where his peace is ever near.

*2<sup>nd</sup> half of the tune*

To the Father be all glory  
with the Spirit and the Son,  
as it was, is now and shall be  
while eternal ages run.

*Anne Harrison based on Luke 1. 68-79  
Tune: Blaenwern*

## The Thanksgiving

We celebrate together the gifts and grace of God.  
**We take this bread,  
we take this wine  
to follow Christ's example  
and obey his command.**

## **Prayer over the Gifts**

God of hope,  
renew in us the joy of your salvation  
and make us a living sacrifice to you;  
for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## **The Eucharistic Prayer**

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 our thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, it is our duty and our joy  
at all times and in all places to give you thanks, holy Father,  
all-powerful and everliving God,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Who humbled himself to live among us,  
taking human flesh,  
fulfilling the plan you formed long ago  
and opening to us the way to salvation.  
We watch and wait for that day  
when our Lord Jesus Christ will be revealed,  
when justice shall march before him  
and peace shall follow his steps,  
that when he comes in glory, with healing in his wings  
we may inherit the promised salvation in which we dare to hope.

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

**Holy, holy, holy, holy,  
Holy, holy, Lord God Almighty.  
And we lift our hearts before you  
as a token of our love.  
Holy, holy, holy, holy.**

**Gracious Father, gracious Father,  
Blessed is the one who comes to us  
in your name.  
And we lift our hearts before you  
as we give you thanks and praise.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

All praise and thanks to you, true and living God,  
Creator of all things, Giver of life.  
You formed us in your own image;  
but we have marred that image and fall short of your glory.  
We give you thanks  
that you sent your Son to share our life;  
you gave him up to death that the world might be saved,  
and you raised him from the dead  
that we might live in him and he in us.

Sanctify with your Spirit this bread and wine, your gifts to us,  
that they may be for us the body and blood of our Saviour Jesus Christ.

On the night he was betrayed, he took bread,  
and when he had given thanks  
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying,

Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you:  
do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way after supper he took the cup,  
and when he had given thanks  
he gave it to them, saying,

Drink from this, all of you,  
for 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.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:  
**Christ has died.  
Christ is risen.  
Christ will come in glory.**



As he has commanded us, Father,  
we remember Jesus Christ, your Son.  
Proclaiming his victorious death,  
rejoicing in his resurrection  
and waiting for him to come in glory  
we bring to you this bread, this cup.

Accept our sacrifice of thanks and praise.  
Restore and revive your people,  
renew us and all for whom we pray  
with your grace and heavenly blessing,  
and at the last receive us with all your saints  
into that unending joy promised by your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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

*Silence is kept*

*Please Sit*

Let us pray with confidence to the Father:

**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.**

## The Communion

*The priest breaks the bread*

Every time we eat this bread and drink of this cup  
**we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.**

**Jesus, Lamb of God: have mercy on us.**

**Jesus, bearer of our sins: have mercy on us.**

**Jesus, redeemer of the world: give us your peace.**

## The Invitation to Holy Communion

Jesus is the Lamb of God

who takes away the sins of the world.

Happy 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 sacrament is administered with these words:*

The body of Christ. **Amen.**     The blood of Christ. **Amen.**

*All those who are baptised (Christened) are welcome to receive Holy Communion today. Baptised (Christened) children are welcome to receive holy communion at the discretion of their parents.*

*If you are not receiving you are welcome to come forward for a blessing but please bring this leaflet with you as a signal to the priest.*

## Hymn at the end of Communion

Purify my heart,

Let me be as gold and precious silver;

Purify my heart,

Let me be as gold, pure gold.

*Refiner's fire, my heart's one desire*

*Is to be holy,*

*Set apart for you, Lord;*

*I choose to be holy,*

*Set apart for you, my master,*

*Ready to do your will.*

Purify my heart,  
Cleanse me from within and make me holy,  
Purify my heart,  
Cleanse me from my sin, deep within.

*Brian Doerksen b.1965*

*Silence is kept*

## **The Sending Out**

*Please Stand*

### **Post Communion Prayer**

Give thanks to the Lord for he is gracious:  
**his love is everlasting.**

Lord, here you have nourished us with the food of life;  
through our sharing in this holy sacrament  
teach us to judge wisely earthly things  
and to yearn for things heavenly.  
We as this through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### **The Blessing**

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

Christ the Sun of righteousness shine on you and scatter the darkness from before you.  
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.**

### **Final Hymn**

God has spoken by his prophets,  
spoken his unchanging word;  
each from age to age proclaiming  
God the One, the righteous Lord;  
in the world's despair and turmoil  
one firm anchor still holds fast:  
God is King, his throne eternal,  
God the First and God the Last.

God has spoken by Christ Jesus,  
Christ, the everlasting Son;  
brightness of the Father's glory,  
with the Father ever one:  
spoken by the Word incarnate,  
Life, before all time began,  
Light of light to earth descending,  
God, revealed as Son of Man.

God is speaking by his Spirit  
speaking to our hearts again;  
in the age-long word expounding  
God's own message, now as then.  
Through the rise and fall of nations  
one sure faith is standing fast:  
God abides, his word unchanging,  
God the First and God the Last.

*George Wallace Briggs 1875-1959*  
*Tune: Hydrydol*



*CCL No: 961722*

## Notices

**Refreshments.** Please do join us for refreshments after the service if you can.

**Praying for Growth.** Please pray for the growth and renewal of the Church here in this place. Here is the Leading Your Church into Growth Prayer:

*God of Mission,  
Who alone brings growth to your  
Church,  
Send your Holy Spirit to give  
Vision to our planning,  
Wisdom to our actions,  
Joy to our worship,  
And power to our witness.  
Help our church to grow in numbers,  
In spiritual commitment to you,  
And in service to our local community,  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

**The Community Fridge** takes place every Sunday from 4-5pm at the Parish Church.

**Sunday Sheet.** Please take this sheet home with you for the notices for the week and to pray for what is happening in the life of our Church.

**Choir Tour.** The Cathedral Choir have been given the amazing opportunity of singing in Finland on a choir tour in May next year. We are raising money to make sure this can happen. For more details, and to donate online, please see the following

link: <https://gofund.me/560aa0db>

If you would like to donate in cash or by cheque, please clearly mark your donations 'Choir Finland' and hand to a member of the cathedral team or pop it in the collection plate or donation box

in the cathedral. If you are able to, please share the Go Fund Me page – from the page on the link above, click 'Share' and you can share on social media or copy the link to send to friends and family. Thank you.

**O Come, let us adore him** is an Advent Study Group put together by the Bishops of the Church in Wales. We will be running the group at the Parish Church on the following Mondays: 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> December starting at 11am. The sessions will last no longer than one hour. A warm welcome to all!

**Christmas Coffee Morning** will take place at the Parish Church on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> December from 10am to 1pm. A warm festive welcome to all.

**Christmas Services.** A card giving details of all the Christmas Services in the Mission Area is available. Please do take one for yourself and others to pass on to friends and neighbours.

**Food4Thought Lunch.** This has now finished for a break over Christmas and will start back again on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2025.

**Carols by 1000 Candles** an evening of Christmas Music with the Cathedral Choir on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December. Admission £10 on the door. Children free. Proceeds to the Choir Finland Tour in 2025

## The Week Ahead

### 9<sup>th</sup> Monday – Feria

9am Morning Prayer

9.30am Holy Eucharist

11am 'O Come let us adore him'

Advent Study Group *at the Parish Church*

5pm Evening Prayer

7.30pm Emergency Services Carol Service

### 10<sup>th</sup> Tuesday – Feria

9am Morning Prayer

5pm Evening Prayer

6pm Holy Eucharist

### 11<sup>th</sup> Wednesday – Ember Day

9am Morning Prayer

10.30am Holy Eucharist

11am Salvation Army Band outside the Cathedral Tearoom

2pm Mothers Union Family Group  
Advent Carol Service *at the Parish Church*

5pm Evening Prayer

### 12<sup>th</sup> Thursday – Feria

9am Morning Prayer

10am Holy Eucharist *at the Parish Church*

10.45am Prayer Group *at the Parish Church*

5pm Evening Prayer

6.30pm Ysgol Esgob Morgan Carol Service

### 13<sup>th</sup> Friday – Ember Day

9am Morning Prayer

9.30am Offeren (*Welsh Eucharist*)

7.30pm Stepping Stones Concert

### 14<sup>th</sup> Saturday – Ember Day

9am Morning Prayer

10am to 1pm Christmas Coffee Morning  
*at the Parish Church*

5pm Evening Prayer

6pm St Asaph Choral Society Concert

### 15<sup>th</sup> Sunday – Advent 3

9.30am All-Age/Family Eucharist

11am The Cathedral Eucharist

3.30pm Choral Evensong

7.30pm Trelawnyd Male Voice Choir  
Christmas Concert

#### Contact:

Parish Church: 01745 535957

Fr Rex: 07393 639813

#### Parish Church Website:

[www.stasaphparishchurch.org.uk](http://www.stasaphparishchurch.org.uk)

## Today's Readings

### Malachi 3. 1-4

The Lord's terrible, judging messenger is coming.

**Canticle:** Benedictus

### Philippians 1. 3-11

Paul gives thanks for the Philippians, and prays that their faith will bear fruit and enable them to come safely before Christ's judgement.

### Luke 3. 1-6

John the Baptist, God's messenger, break into the ongoing history of the world.

