



The Sunday Sheet *for* Advent 1 Sunday 30th November 2025

*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

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 ills 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 the world is wrapped in fear,
with his mercy he may shield us,
and with words of love draw near.

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

*Edward Caswell 1814-1878
Tune: Merton*

✠ 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, followed by

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

The first candle on the Advent Wreath is lit

God of Abraham and Sarah,
and all the patriarchs of old,
you are our Father too.
Your love was revealed to us in Jesus Christ,
Son of God and Son of David.
Help us in preparing to celebrate his birth
to make our hearts ready for your Holy Spirit
to make his home among us.
We ask this through Jesus Christ,
the light who is coming into the world. **Amen.**

The priest calls the people to penitence.

Now it is time for us to wake out of sleep.
Lord, have mercy: **Lord, have mercy.**

We do not know the day or hour when judgement will come.
Christ, have mercy: **Christ, have mercy.**

Christ clothes us in righteousness that we may be ready to meet him in glory.
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

Let us pray:

Almighty God,
give us grace to cast away the works of darkness
and to put on the armour of light,
now in the time of this mortal life,
in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility;
that on the last day,
when he shall come again in his glorious majesty
to judge the living and the dead,
we may rise to the life immortal;
through him who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Please Sit

Romans 13. 11-14

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

¹¹ Brothers and sisters, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹²the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armour of light; ¹³let us live honourably as in the day, not in revelling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarrelling and jealousy. ¹⁴Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

For the word of the Lord:

Thanks be to God.

The Gospel

Please Stand

*Fling wide the gates, unbar the ancient doors;
salute your king in his triumphant cause.*

He comes to save all those who trust his name,
and will declare them free from guilt and shame.

*Fling wide the gates, unbar the ancient doors;
salute your king in his triumphant cause.*

*Michael Perry 1942-1996
Tune: Crucifer*

Matthew 24. 36-44

Listen to the Gospel of Christ according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus spoke to his disciples: ³⁶ 'But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³⁷For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, ³⁹and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. ⁴⁰Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. ⁴¹Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. ⁴²Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. ⁴³But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.

This is the Gospel of the Lord:

Praise to you, O Christ.

The Homily

Please Sit

The Affirmation of 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 Intercessions

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

Together we watch and wait, in joyful expectation of the coming of our Saviour.

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

Longing for light, we wait in darkness.
Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people,
light for the world to see.

*Christ be our light!
Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.
Christ be our light!
Shine in your church gathered today.*

Longing for peace, our world is troubled.
Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has pow'r to save us.
Make us your living voice.

Longing for food, many are hungry.
Longing for water, many still thirst.
Make us your bread, broken for others,
shared until all are fed.

Longing for shelter, many are homeless.
Longing for warmth, many are cold.
Make us your building, sheltering others,
walls made of living stones.

Many the gifts, many the people,
many the hearts that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants to one another,
Making your kingdom come.

Christ be our light!
Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.
Christ be our light!
Shine in your church gathered today.

Bernadette Farrell. B.1957

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 love and power,
your word stirs within us
the expectation of the coming of your Son.
Accept all we offer you this day,
and sustain us with your promise of eternal life.
We ask this in the name 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
We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.
**Though we are many, we are one body
for we all share in one bread.**

We sing

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

Wait for the Lord,
whose day is near.

Wait for the Lord,
keep watch, take heart. *(Sing through 3 times)*

Taize Community

Silence is kept

Post Communion Prayer

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

God our deliverer, awaken our hearts
to prepare the way for the advent of your Son:
that, with minds purified by the grace of his coming,
we may serve you faithfully all our days;
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

Lo, he comes with clouds descending,
once for favoured sinners slain;
thousand thousand saints attending
swell the triumph of his train:

Alleluia!

Christ appears on earth to reign.

Every eye shall now behold him
robed in dreadful majesty;
those who set at naught and sold him,
pierced and nailed him to the Tree,
deeply wailing,
shall the true Messiah see.

Those dear tokens of his passions
still his dazzling body bears,
cause of endless exultation
to his ransomed worshippers:
 with what rapture
gaze we on those glorious scars.

Yea, Amen, let all adore thee,
high on thine eternal throne;
Saviour, take the power and glory,
claim the kingdom for thine own:
 Alleluia!
thou shalt reign, and thou alone.

*Charles Wesley 1707-1788
& John Cennick 1718-1755
Tune: Helmsley*

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.

Advent Procession today at the Cathedral at 3.30pm. This is a beautiful service of music and readings to mark the beginning of this special season. A warm welcome to all!

Kentigern Guild meets on Wednesday 3rd December at 2.30pm at the Parish Church. The speaker will be Canon Neil Burgess on the Vale of Clwyd Railway. All welcome!

Christmas Coffee Morning will take place at the Parish Church on Saturday

20th 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.

Bishop's Advent Message. A printed version is available today.

Carols by 1000 Candles an evening of Christmas Music with the Cathedral Choir on Friday 19th December. Admission £10 on the door. Children free. Proceeds to the work of the Cathedral Choir.

Ways of Giving to the work of the Parish Church. We are very grateful to all those who contribute financially to the life and witness of our Parish. There are various ways to do this:

1. The Collection plate near the entrance to the Church
2. Setting up a Standing Order.
Contact Dave Bradley or Marion Hughes for the bank details
3. Gift Direct. Set up regular giving or make a one off donation.

For Gift Direct you can use the QR code below. Thank you very much.



The Week Ahead

1st Monday – Andrew, Apostle

9am Morning Prayer

9.30am Holy Eucharist

5pm Evening Prayer

2nd Tuesday – The Saints, Martyrs & Missionaries of Asia

9am Morning Prayer

5pm Evening Prayer

6pm Holy Eucharist

3rd Wednesday – Francis Xavier

9am Morning Prayer

10.30am Holy Eucharist

5pm Evening Prayer

4th Thursday – Advent Weekday

9am Morning Prayer

10am Holy Eucharist *at the Parish*

Church

10.45am Prayer Group *at the Parish*

Church

5pm Evening Prayer

5th Friday – Advent Weekday

9am Morning Prayer

9.30am Offeren (Welsh Eucharist)

5pm Evening Prayer

6th Saturday – Nicholas, Bishop

9am Morning Prayer

10am to 1pm Bethlehem Brunch – The
Christmas Story for Children & Families

5pm Evening Prayer

7th Sunday – Advent 2

9.30am The Parish Eucharist

11am The Cathedral Eucharist

3.30pm Choral Evensong

Contact:

Parish Church: 01745 535957

Fr Rex: 07393 639813

Parish Church Website:

www.stasaphparishchurch.org.uk

Today's Readings

Isaiah 2. 1-5

Isaiah sees a vision of a restored Jerusalem, uniting the nations of the world in peaceful pilgrimage to the home of their God.

Psalms 122

Romans 13. 11-14

Paul writes to the church in Rome of expectation and hope, as the light of salvation in Christ shines ever brighter in the lives of believers.

Matthew 24. 36-44

Jesus urges his followers to be on the alert, looking for signs of the fulfilment of God's purposes for the world.

