First Sunday of Advent

INTRODUCTION

INTROIT HYMN— **5** *New English Hymnal*

The ADVENT CANDLE *is lit, and the priest says*

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.

All respond: **Blessed be God for ever.**

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

All respond: **Amen.**

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

The PRAYERS OF PENITENCE *are introduced.*

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.

May the God of all healing and forgiveness draw you to himself, and cleanse you ✠ from all your sins, that you may behold the glory of his Son, the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

KYRIE ELEÏSON *is sung.*

Kyrie, eleïson. (×3) *(Lord, have mercy.)*
Christe, eleïson. (×3) *(Christ, have mercy.)*
Kyrie, eleïson. (×3) *(Lord, have mercy.)*

All remain standing for the COLLECT.

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 lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Readings for Year B

FIRST READING *Isa 64.1–9*

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

Oh that you would rend the heavens and come down, that the mountains might quake at your presence – as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil – to make your name known to your adversaries, and that the nations might tremble at your presence! When you did awesome things that we did not look for, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. From of old no-one has heard or perceived by the ear, no eye has seen a God besides you, who acts for those who wait for him. You meet him who joyfully works righteousness, those who remember you in your ways. Behold, you were angry, and we sinned; in our sins we have been a long time, and shall we be saved? We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. There is no-one who calls upon your name, who rouses himself to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have made us melt in the hand of our iniquities. But now, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. Be not so terribly angry, O Lord, and remember not iniquity for ever. Behold, please look, we are all your people.

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

RESPONSORIAL PSALM *from Ps 80*

℟. Let your face shine on us and we shall be saved. *(All repeat)*

Hear, O Shepherd of Israel,
you that led Joseph like a flock;
Shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim,
before Ephraim, Benjamin and Manasseh. ℟.

Stir up your mighty strength,
and come to our salvation.
O Lord God of hosts,
how long will you be angry at your people's prayer? ℟.

You feed them with the bread of tears;
you give them abundance of tears to drink.
You have made us the derision of our neighbours,
and our enemies laugh us to scorn. ℟.

SECOND READING *1 Cor 1.3–9*

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus, that in every way you were enriched in him in all speech and all knowledge – even as the testimony about Christ was confirmed among you – so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ, who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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

GRADUAL HYMN— **1**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *Ps 85.7*

Alleluia.
Show us, O Lord, your mercy:
and grant us your salvation.
Alleluia.

GOSPEL READING *Mk 13.24–37*

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Hear the Gospel ✠ of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.
Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said to his disciples:—

"In those days, after that tribulation, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. And then he will send out the angels and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

"From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts out its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

"But concerning that day or that hour, no-one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Be on guard, keep awake. For you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his servants in charge, each with his work, and commands the door-keeper to stay awake. Therefore stay awake – for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or when the cock crows, or in the morning – lest he come suddenly and find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake."

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

A SERMON *may follow.*

*All **stand** to recite 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,
(all bow) **was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and was made man.**
(all rise) **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.

The INTERCESSIONS *are introduced, and all **kneel**. One of these responses may be used:*
℣. Lord, hear us. ℟. **Lord, graciously hear us.**
or ℣. Lord, in your mercy, ℟. **Hear our prayer.**

At the Commemoration of the Departed:
℣. Rest eternal ✠ grant unto them, O Lord;
℟. **And let light perpetual shine upon them.**

The Intercessions may end:
Merciful Father,
Accept these prayers, for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

*All **stand** as the priest introduces the* PEACE.
The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

OFFERTORY HYMN— **500**

The people unite their prayers with the priest, who says the PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS.
Pray, my brothers and sisters, that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.
May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands, for the praise and glory of his name, for our good, and the good of all his Church.
Accept, Lord, our offerings, presented from among your many gifts to us, and let this expression of our reverence become for us the pledge of eternal redemption; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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 him thanks and praise.

The PREFACE *follows.*

All respond with the SANCTUS & BENEDICTUS.
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.

*All **kneel**. After the Consecration, all acclaim:*
Christ is the bread of life:
When we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim your death, Lord Jesus, until you come in glory *(sung twice)***.**

The Eucharistic Prayer continues, and ends:
… for ever and ever. **Amen.**

RITE OF COMMUNION

The priest introduces the LORD'S PRAYER.

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.

The priest breaks the Host; AGNUS DEI *is sung.*

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: grant us peace.

The priest gives the COMMUNION INVITATION.

God's holy gifts for God's holy people.
Jesus Christ is holy,
Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

Holy Communion is distributed.

COMMUNION HYMN— **14**

The priest says the 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.**

CONCLUSION

The priest gives the BLESSING *and* DISMISSAL.

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Bow your heads and pray for God's blessing.

May God the Father, judge all-merciful, make us worthy of a place in his kingdom. **Amen.**
May God the Son, coming among us in power, reveal in our midst the promise of his glory. **Amen.**
May God the Holy Spirit make us steadfast in faith, joyful in hope and constant in love. **Amen.**
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 the peace of Christ.
Thanks be to God.

RECESSIONAL HYMN— **18**

The service may be followed by the ANGELUS.

℣. The angel of the Lord declared unto Mary:
℟. **And she conceived by the Holy Spirit.**
Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee; blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.
Holy Mary, Mother of God,
pray for us sinners, now,
and at the hour of our death. Amen.

℣. Behold the handmaid of the Lord:
℟. **Be it unto me according to thy word.**
Hail Mary …

℣. And the Word was made flesh:
℟. **And dwelt among us.**
Hail Mary …

℣. Pray for us, O holy Mother of God:
℟. **That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.**
Let us pray. Pour forth, we beseech you, O Lord, your grace into our hearts; that we to whom the Incarnation of Christ, your Son, was made known by the message of an angel, may by his Passion and Cross ✠ be brought to the glory of his Resurrection; through the same Christ our Lord. **Amen.**