

Service of Morning Communion for Advent 3

Welcome

Hymn

The Greeting

The Lord be with you

ALL and also with you.

Prayer of Preparation

ALL Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayers of Penitence

Remember, Lord, Your compassion and love, for they are everlasting.
Lord have mercy. Lord have mercy.

Remember not the sins of our youth or our transgressions, but think on us in your goodness O Lord, according to your steadfast love.
Christ have mercy. Christ have mercy.

O keep our souls and deliver us; let us not be put to shame, for we have put our trust in you. Amen.

Absolution

The Collect

The LITURGY of the WORD

Reading

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24 (New International Version)

Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.



Do not quench the Spirit. Do not treat prophecies with contempt but test them all; hold on to what is good, reject every kind of evil.

May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do it.

HYMN

Gospel Reading

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

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

Now this was John's testimony when the Jewish leaders in Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to ask him who he was. He did not fail to confess, but confessed freely, "I am not the Messiah."

They asked him, "Then who are you? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" He answered, "No."

Finally, they said, "Who are you? Give us an answer to take back to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?"

John replied in the words of Isaiah the prophet, "I am the voice of one calling in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way for the Lord.'"

Now the Pharisees who had been sent questioned him, "Why then do you baptize if you are not the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?" "I baptize with water," John replied, "but among you stands one you do not know. He is the one who comes after me, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie."



This all happened at Bethany on the other side of the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

SERMON

The sermon can be found after the service on our website www.stjamesroundsgreen.com or on our Facebook page.

The Creed

We believe in God, the almighty Father, who is the creator of heaven and earth. We believe in Jesus Christ, His only begotten Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, given birth by the Virgin Mary and suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried, He descended to the dead.

On the third day He rose from the dead, ascended into heaven, is seated at the Father's right hand. He will return to judge the living and the dead.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and in everlasting life. Amen.

The Peace

Prayers of Intercession

Intercessions for Advent 3 (2020)

We rejoice, O Lord, in your liberation.

May everyone in your worldwide Church be anointed with boldness to proclaim your freedom and release from all that would harm us and lead us away from your love.

Set us free, we pray, from anything which holds us back from living out your glory in our lives.

We pray especially for all church leaders, of every denomination, who may be struggling to personally live lives of liberation in you; or who are battling with any kind of temptation or addiction.

May your grace abound and bring them to place their feet firmly on the Rock of Jesus Christ and receive his power for right living.



We rejoice, O Lord, in your justice: and we know that in all nations injustice can be found.

We ask you to infiltrate governments around the world with wisdom and truth so that both rich and poor, old and young, all races and cultures will be treated equitably and fairly.

We especially ask you to restore those who have lost livelihoods through the pandemic and feel all hope is lost.

And for our country, in the light of the huge changes coming because of Brexit, restore your balance in trade and cohesive living.

We rejoice, O Lord, in your favour.

We pray that you will pour out your grace on the community around this church. So many people here are living with a variety of difficulties and problems on a daily basis, with no end in sight.

We thank you for the work of the Action Centre who continually seek to improve the lives of all living on Lion Farm. Show us too how we can become more involved in this work. May our paths cross with the lonely and downhearted so that we have opportunities to share the love of Christ. Bless all our homes, we pray, and bring into the kingdom all those whom you are calling at this time.

We try to rejoice, O Lord, without ceasing and give you thanks in all circumstances. May we hold fast through whatever trials beset us: and we especially remember now all those who are battling with illness, pain or grief. In silence we name them to you, our God, who hears all our cries and prayers whether spoken out loud or not.....May your grace, peace and healing infuse their lives, not just today, but in the days to come.

HYMN

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER H

The Lord is here.

ALL His Spirit is with us.

Lift up your hearts

ALL We lift them to the Lord.



Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

ALL It is right to give thanks and praise.

It is right to praise you, Father, Lord of all creation; in your love you made us for yourself. When we turned away you did not reject us, but came to meet us in your Son.

ALL You embraced us as your children and welcomed us to sit and eat with you.

In Christ you shared our life that we might live in him and he in us.

ALL He opened his arms of love upon the cross and made for all the perfect sacrifice for sin.

On the night he was betrayed, at supper with his friends he took bread, and gave you thanks; he broke it and gave it to them saying: Take, eat: this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.

ALL Father, we do this in remembrance of him: his body is the bread of life.

At the end of supper, taking the cup of wine, he gave you thanks and said; Drink this, all of you, this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins; do this in remembrance of me.

ALL Father, we do this in remembrance of him: his blood is shed for all.

As we proclaim his death and celebrate his rising in glory, send your Holy Spirit that this bread and this wine may be to us the body and blood of your dear Son.

ALL As we eat and drink these holy gifts make us one in Christ, our risen Lord.

With your whole church throughout the world we offer you this sacrifice of praise and lift our voice to join the eternal song in heaven:

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

Let us now continue in prayer using the words our Saviour taught us:

ALL: 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.

Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and for ever.

Amen.

Breaking of the Bread

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

ALL Though we are many, we are one body, because we all share in one bread.

Invitation to Communion

Draw near with faith. Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ, which he gave for you, and his blood, which he shed for you. Eat and drink in remembrance that he died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

ALL Most merciful Lord, your love compels us to come in. Our hands were unclean, our hearts were unprepared; we were not fit even to eat the crumbs from under your table. But you, Lord, are the God of our salvation, and share your bread with sinners.

So, cleanse and feed us with the precious body and blood of your Son, that he may live in us and we in him; and that we, with the whole company of Christ, may sit and eat in your kingdom. Amen.

THE PRIEST AND THE PEOPLE RECEIVE COMMUNION.

Prayer after Communion

ALL 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

Blessing

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord

ALL: In the name of Christ. Amen.

