

ST. MARGARET'S CHURCH
LOWESTOFT



Service of Holy Communion



For the Season of Advent

Sunday 30th November 2025
Advent Sunday

Mass Setting:
St. Thomas (D. Thorne)

Presiding Canon Simon
Preacher Gerda



WELCOME & OPENING PRAYER

In this season of Advent,
we prepare our hearts
for the coming of Emmanuel God with us

In our watching and in our waiting
Come Christ Jesus

In our hopes and in our fears
Come Christ Jesus

Into our hearts, our homes, and into the world
Come Christ Jesus

The Choir Process

Choir Introit – Advent Wreath Prayer 1

HYMN 45 - O come, O come, Emmanuel.

**1 O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here,
until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice, rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee,
O Israel.**

**2 O come, thou Rod of Jesse, free
thine own from Satan's tyranny;
from depths of hell thy people save,
and give them victory o'er the grave.
Rejoice, rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee,
O Israel.**

**3 O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer
our spirits by thine advent here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice, rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee,
O Israel.**

**4 O come, thou Key of David, come
and open wide our heavenly home;
make safe the way that leads on high,
and close the path to misery.
Rejoice, rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee,
O Israel.**

**5 O come, O come, thou Lord of Might,
who to thy tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times didst give the law,
in cloud and majesty and awe.
Rejoice, rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee,
O Israel.**

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLES

Advent 1 - Responses

People of God: awake!
The day is coming soon
when you shall see God face to face.
Remember the ways and the works of God.

The advent candle is lit

God calls you out of darkness
to walk in the light of his coming.
You are God's children.
**Lord, make us one as we walk with Christ
today and for ever.
Amen.**

INTRODUCTION TO CONFESSION

Let us make our confession to the coming Lord

When the Lord comes, he will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness and will disclose the purposes of the heart.

Confession

Please sit or kneel for a moment of quiet & reflection

O promised Christ, our peace depends on your coming. We are a sinful people; our pardon depends on your coming. We are full of good intentions but weak at keeping promises. Our only hope of doing God's will is that you should come and help us do it. We and the world wait for your peace, for your pardon, and for your grace. Even so: come, Lord Jesus. Amen.

The Kyrie Eleison

***Lord, have mercy
Lord, have mercy***

***Christ, have mercy
Christ, have mercy***

***Lord, have mercy
Lord, have mercy***

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy upon *us*, pardon and deliver *us* from all *our* sins, confirm and strengthen *us* in all goodness, and keep *us* in life eternal.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

THE COLLECT (Prayer of the week – found on the pew sheet)

Almighty God,
as your kingdom dawns,
turn us from the darkness of sin
to the light of holiness,
that we may be ready to meet you
in our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

(please sit)

BIBLE READING

New Testament: Romans 13: 11 – end Read by Val

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; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armour of light; let us live honourably as in the day, not in revelling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarrelling and jealousy. Instead, 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.

Choir Motet: A tender shoot (Goldschmidt)

GOSPEL READING Matthew 24: 36-44

(Please remain standing)

Alleluia, alleluia.

Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight, and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.

Alleluia.

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus spoke to his disciples: 'About that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But 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. Therefore 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.

SERMON Gerda

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We stand to affirm our Faith using the words of 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, 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.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION Led by Rev Pauline

(Please sit or kneel)

These responses may be used:

Christ within us and Christ around us

Bring Light to our world

at the end

Light of the world

Accept these prayers for the sake of your Son our Saviour

Jesus Christ. Amen

NOTICES AND TIME OF SHARING

THE PEACE

(If you would like to, please stand)

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

Let us offer one another a sign of peace

OFFERTORY HYMN 30 - Come thou long expected Jesus.

(During the hymn the bread & wine are brought forward and the altar is prepared)

***1 Come, thou long-expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us,
let us find our rest in thee.***

***2 Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art:
dear desire of every nation,
joy of every longing heart.***

***3 Born thy people to deliver,
born a child, and yet a king,
born to reign in us for ever,
now thy gracious kingdom bring.***

***4 By thy own eternal Spirit
rule in all our hearts alone;
by thy all-sufficient merit
raise us to thy glorious throne.***

CHARLES WESLEY (1707 – 1788)

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.

**Lord, may your whole Church soon be gathered together
from the corners of the earth into your kingdom.**

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER (please sit or kneel)

The Choir may remain standing

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*:

***Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna, in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest.***

Lord, you are holy indeed,
the source of all holiness;
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit,
and according to your holy will,
these gifts of bread and wine may be to us
the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;
who, in the same night that he was betrayed,
took bread and gave you 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 gave you thanks;
he gave it to them, saying:
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.



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.

And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the cross, his perfect sacrifice made once for the sins of the whole world; rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension, and looking for his coming in glory, we celebrate this memorial of our redemption.

As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, we bring before you this bread and this cup and we thank you for counting us worthy to stand in your presence and serve you.

Send the Holy Spirit on your people
and gather into one in your kingdom
all who share this one bread and one cup,
so that we, in the company of all the saints,
may praise and glorify you for ever,
Through him, and with him, and in him,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
with all who stand before you in earth and heaven,
we worship you, Father almighty, in songs of everlasting praise:

***Blessing and honour and glory and power be yours for ever
and ever. Amen.***



THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

The 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.***

Come to this table, not because you must but because you may,
not because you are strong, but because you are weak.

Come, not because any goodness of your own gives you a right to
come, but because you need mercy and help.

Come, because you love the Lord a little and would like to love him
more.

Come, because he loved you and gave himself for you.

Come and meet the risen Christ, for we are his Body.

All are welcome to come forward to receive the bread and the wine or
a blessing. It is helpful for us if you say your name when you come to
the front. The choir will receive Holy Communion first at the High Altar,
followed by the rest of the congregation who will receive Holy
Communion at the Chancel step.

An anthem is usually sung by the Choir and then a Hymn is also
sung during communion (please remain seated).

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.

Choir Anthem: People look East (Archer)

Hymn 249 – Holy spirit living breath of God

***1 Holy Spirit, living breath of God,
Breathe new life into my willing soul.
Bring the presence of the risen Lord
to renew my heart and make me whole.
cause your word to come alive in me;
give me faith for what I can not see,
give me passion for your purity;
Holy Spirit, breathe new life in me.***

***2. Holy Spirit, come abide within,
may your joy be seen in all I do.
Leave enough to cover every sin
In each thought and deed and attitude:
kindness to the greatest and the least,
gentleness that sows the path of peace,
turn my strivings into works of grace;
Breath of God, show Christ in all I do.***

***3 Holy Spirit, from creation's birth,
Giving life to all that God has made,
Show your power once again on earth,
Cause your church to hunger for your ways,
May the fragrance of our prayers arise,
Lead us on the road of sacrifice,
That in unity the face of Christ
May be clear for all the world to see.***

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POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Said by a minister and found on the weekly pew sheet.

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.

THANKSGIVING PRAYER

**God of new beginnings,
you have fed us at your table
with the bread of renewed hope,
now kindle within us the fire of your love
to be ready to greet Emmanuel,
God with us. Amen**

HYMN 41 - Lo, he comes with clouds descending.

***1 Lo, he comes with clouds descending,
once for favoured sinners slain;
thousand thousand saints attending
swell the triumph of his train:
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
God appears on earth to reign.***

***2 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, deeply wailing, deeply wailing,
shall the true Messiah see.***

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

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

CHARLES WESLEY (1707 – 1788)
and JOHN CENNICK (1718 – 1755)

Emmanuel God with us,
the Prophets spoke of your coming,
as a child born to Mary.
In the sadness and joy of your children,
in the work and fellowship of our homes,
Your Kingdom come

Lord Jesus, the Prophets spoke of your
coming to bring justice,
compassion and freedom
Your Kingdom come

Lord Jesus, be born within us,
that we may live in your world with
love and gentleness
Your Kingdom come

THE BLESSING

Christ the Sun of righteousness shine upon *us*,
scatter the darkness from before *our* path,
and make *us* 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 *us* and remain with *us* always.
Amen.

THE DISMISSAL

Go in the peace of Christ, to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ. Amen.

