

**THE PARISH CHURCH OF
ST. MICHAEL
ALNWICK**



**THE EUCHARIST
IN ADVENT**

**COMMON WORSHIP
(ORDER ONE)**

ABOUT THIS SERVICE

Welcome to St. Michael's, Alnwick and to this Eucharist.

In it we recall the last meal of Christ with his friends in the Upper Room, and we recognise him in the breaking of the bread.

Although our faith is grounded in history, this service is not a nostalgic looking back to the events of the past: it is a celebration that in the Eucharist Christ is truly present to us now, and a promise of the glory that will be ours when the whole universe is made complete in him.

The season of Advent is a time of watching and waiting, both for the coming of Jesus as a baby at Christmas, and also for his coming in power and judgement at the close of the age. The mood is one of expectant longing for the coming of Christ's kingdom, as the acclamation at the heart of the Eucharistic Prayer reminds us, we are waiting for Christ's return.

As we receive communion, we are given the bread of heaven and the cup of life in Christ Jesus – pledges of the kingdom that is to come when the glory of Christ is fully revealed, but which can be experienced here and now through the life of faith and in Christ's sacramental presence within the Eucharist.

In responding 'Amen' before receiving the Body and Blood of Christ, we recognize that presence among us and within us, and offer ourselves afresh to make the kingdom a reality in our daily living.

*Hark the glad sound! the Saviour comes, the Saviour promised long!
Let every heart prepare a throne, and every voice a song.*

*He comes the broken heart to bind, the bleeding soul to cure,
and with the treasures of his grace enrich the humble poor.*

*Our glad hosannas, Prince of peace, thy welcome shall proclaim,
and heaven's eternal arches ring with thy beloved name.*

The Gathering

Hymn

The president may say

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

All

Amen.

The Greeting

The president greets the people

Grace, mercy and peace
from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ
be with you.

All

and also with you.

Words of welcome or introduction may be said.

The Advent Wreath

ADVENT I

God of Abraham and Sarah,
and all the patriarchs of old,
you are our Father too.
Your love is 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.

All **Lord Jesus, light of the world,
born in David's city of Bethlehem,
born like him to be a King:
Be born in our hearts this Christmas,
be king of our lives today.
Amen.**

ADVENT 2

God our Father,
you spoke to the prophets of old
of a Saviour who would bring peace.
You helped them 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.

All **Lord Jesus, light of the world,
the prophets said you would bring peace
and save your people in trouble.
Give peace in our hearts at Christmas
and show all the world God's love.
Amen.**

ADVENT 3

God our Father,
you gave to Zechariah and Elizabeth in their old age
a son called John.
He grew up strong in spirit,
prepared the people for the coming of the Lord,
and baptized them in the Jordan to wash away their sins.
Help us, who have been baptized into Christ,
to be ready to welcome him into our hearts,

and to grow strong in faith by the power of the Spirit.
We ask this through Jesus Christ,
the light who is coming into the world.
Amen.

All **Lord Jesus, light of the world,
John told the people to prepare,
for you were very near.
As Christmas grows closer day by day,
help us to be ready to welcome you now.
Amen.**

ADVENT 4

God our Father,
the angel Gabriel told the Virgin Mary
that she was to be the mother of your Son.
Though Mary was afraid,
she responded to your call with joy.
Help us, whom you call to serve you,
to share like her in your great work
of bringing to our world your love and healing.
We ask this through Jesus Christ,
the light who is coming into the world.
Amen.

All **Lord Jesus, light of the world,
blessed is Gabriel, who brought good news;
blessed is Mary, your mother and ours.
Bless your Church preparing for Christmas;
and bless us your children, who long for your coming.
Amen.**

Prayers of Penitence

When the Lord comes,
he will bring to light things now hidden in darkness,
and will disclose the purposes of the heart.
Therefore in that light, we confess our sins.

Lord Jesus, you came to gather the nations
into the peace of your kingdom:

Lord, have mercy.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

You come in word and sacrament
to strengthen us in holiness:

Christ, have mercy.

All **Christ, have mercy.**

You will come in glory
with salvation for your people:

Lord, have mercy.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

Almighty God,
who forgives all who truly repent,
have mercy upon you,
pardon and deliver you from all your sins,
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,
and keep you in life eternal;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

The Collect

*The president introduces a period of silent prayer with the words
'Let us pray' or a more specific bidding.*

The Collect is said.

All **Amen.**

The Liturgy of the Word

Readings

At the end the reader may say

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn

Gospel Reading

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 *N.*

All **Glory to you, O Lord.**

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

The Creed

The president says

Let us declare our faith in God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Do you believe and trust in God the Father?

All **I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe and trust in his Son Jesus Christ?

All **I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

All Do you believe and trust in the Holy Spirit?
**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.
Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession

Watchful at all times,
let us pray for strength to stand with confidence
before our Maker and Redeemer.

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

(or)

Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

(or)

Maranatha:

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

At the end:

Merciful Father

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

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

The Peace

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

All The peace of the Lord be always with you
and also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

All may exchange a sign of peace.

Preparation of the Table

Taking of the Bread and Wine

Hymn

The gifts of the people may be gathered and presented.

The table is prepared and bread and wine are placed upon it.

The president takes the bread and wine.

Look upon us in mercy not in judgement;
draw us from hatred to love;
make the frailty of our praise
a dwelling place for your glory.

Amen.

The Eucharistic Prayer

All The Lord be with you (or) The Lord is here.
and also with you. (or) 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.**

From the First Sunday of Advent until 16 December

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 saying:

From 17 December until Christmas Eve

It is indeed right and good to give you thanks and praise,
almighty God and everlasting Father,
through Jesus Christ your Son.
He is the one foretold by all the prophets,
whom the Virgin Mother bore with love beyond all telling.
John the Baptist was his herald
and made him known when at last he came.
In his love Christ fills us with joy
as we prepare to celebrate his birth,
so that when he comes again he may find us watching in prayer,
our hearts filled with wonder and praise.
And so, with angels and archangels,
and with all the company of heaven,
we proclaim your glory,
and join in their unending hymn of praise:

All **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.**

We praise and bless you, loving Father,
through Jesus Christ, our Lord;
and as we obey his command,
send your Holy Spirit,
that broken bread and wine outpoured
may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper with his friends
and, taking bread, he praised you.
He broke the bread, gave it to them and said:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine.
Again he praised you, gave it to them and said:
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.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did,
in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice
made once for all upon the cross.

Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation,
we proclaim his death and resurrection
until he comes in glory.

Christ is the bread of life:

All **When we eat this bread and drink this cup,
we proclaim your death, Lord Jesus,
until you come in glory.**

Lord of all life,
help us to work together for that day
when your kingdom comes
and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth.

Look with favour on your people,
gather us in your loving arms
and bring us with Michael, Paul and all the saints
to feast at your table in heaven.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father,
for ever and ever.

All **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Awaiting his coming in glory,
as our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

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

The president breaks the consecrated bread.

Every time we eat this bread
and drink this cup,

All **we proclaim the Lord's death
until he comes.**

All **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.**

Giving of Communion

The president says the 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.

The president and people receive communion.

*For those at home you might like to make an act of Spiritual
Communion:*

**In union, heavenly Father, with your people
throughout the world and across the centuries
gathered to make communion,
hearing your holy Word
and receiving the Precious Body and Blood,
I offer you praise and thanksgiving.**

**Even though I am not now able
to taste the Bread of Heaven and drink the Cup of Life
I pray that you will unite me with all the baptised
and with your Son who gave his life for us.**

Come Lord Jesus, dwell in me and send your Holy Spirit that I may be filled with your presence.

**The body and blood of Christ keep me in eternal life.
Amen.**

Prayer after Communion

Silence is kept.

The Post Communion or another suitable prayer may be used.

All

**We thank you, Lord,
that you have fed us in this sacrament,
united us with Christ,
and given us a foretaste of the heavenly banquet
prepared for all peoples.
Amen.**

The Dismissal

Hymn

Acclamation

With love and compassion,
come, Lord Jesus.

With judgement and mercy,
come, Lord Jesus.

In power and glory,
come, Lord Jesus.

In wisdom and truth,
come, Lord Jesus.

Blessing

Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you,
scatter the darkness from before your path,
and make you 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 you and remain with you always.

All

Amen.

As we await our coming Saviour,
go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ. Amen.

The ministers and people depart.



A prayer before leaving church

Loving Father,
your Son Jesus Christ has come to us
in word and Spirit, in bread and cup.

Make us holy
and bring us to perfection,
when we stand before him
as he comes to judge the living and the dead,
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

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