

St Peter's Church Darwen

The Third Sunday of Advent

Hymn

The Greeting and Welcome

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

All Amen.

The Lord be with you

All and also with you.

The lighting of the Advent Candle

A Prayer is said as the Advent Candle is lit:

A candle on our Advent Wreath will be lit today.

Each candle reminds us of those who prepared for the coming of Christ:

Advent 1: Patriarchs and Matriarchs

Advent 2: The Prophets

Advent 3: John the Baptist

Advent 4: The Virgin Mary

Christmas Day: The Christ.

Each week in Advent we say a special prayer which reminds us of their importance in our preparation for the coming of the Christ.

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Invitation to confession

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.**

The Prayer of Penitence

Lord Jesus, you came to gather the nations into the piece of
your kingdom. Lord have mercy:

All **Lord, have mercy.**

You have 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.**

A voice cries out in the wilderness,
'Make straight the way of the Lord.'
So let us listen and turn to the Lord in penitence and faith.

All **Most merciful God,
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
we confess that we have sinned
in thought and 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.**

The Absolution

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

God for whom we watch and wait,
you sent John the Baptist to prepare the way of your Son:
give us courage to speak the truth, to hunger for justice,
and to suffer for the cause of right, with Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

The Liturgy of the Word

First Reading: Isaiah 35.1-10

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice
and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice
with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the
majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord,
the majesty of our God.

Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees.
Say to those who are of a fearful heart, 'Be strong, do not fear!
Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible
recompense. He will come and save you.'

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf
unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of
the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the
wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall
become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of
jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and
rushes.

A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way;
the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people;
no traveller, not even fools, shall go astray.

No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;
they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there.

And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with
singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain
joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

At the end of the reading:

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Second Reading: James 5.7-10

Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord.

The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient
with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be
patient.

Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near.

Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors!

As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

At the end of the reading:

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

A hymn may be sung.

Gospel Reading:

Alleluia, alleluia. Blessed is the King who comes
In the name of the Lord.

Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest heaven.

All Alleluia.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to
Matthew.

All Glory to you, o Lord

Gospel: Matthew 11.2-11

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?'

Jesus answered them,

'Go and tell John what you hear and see:
the blind receive their sight, the lame walk,

the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear,
the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them.

And blessed is anyone who takes no offence at me.'

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John:

'What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet.

This is the one about whom it is written,

"See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you."

'Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.'

At the end of the reading:

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

The Creed

The Affirmation of Faith

Prayers of Intercession

This response may be used

Lord, in your mercy
All Hear our prayer.

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

The Peace

Hymn

Preparation of the Table

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you.

All And also with you.
Lift up your hearts.

All We lift them up unto the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
All It is right to give thanks and praise.

The President praises God for his mighty acts, and all respond:

All **Holy, holy, holy, 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.**

The president recalls the Last Supper.

Great is the mystery of Christ
All **Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.**

The Lord's Prayer

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 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.**

The Agnus Dei may be said or sung

Giving of Communion

During the distribution hymns may be sung.

Prayer after Communion

The Post Communion is said.

Post Communion:

We give you thanks, O Lord,
for these heavenly gifts;
kindle in us the fire of your Spirit
that when your Christ comes again
we may shine as lights before his face;
who is alive and reigns now and for ever.

All Amen.

**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.**

The Dismissal

Notices may be given. A hymn may be sung.

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 the Father, the Son, and the Holy
Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always,

All Amen

Our Lord says, 'I am coming soon'.

All Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

May the Lord, when he comes, find us watching us watching
and waiting.

All Amen.

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