

*Evening Prayer on Sunday, 30  
November 2025 (1<sup>st</sup> Advent)*

**Preparation**

O God, make speed to save us.

**O Lord, make haste to help us.**

Reveal among us the light of your presence.  
**that we may behold your power and glory.**

Blessed are you, Sovereign God,  
creator of light and darkness,  
to you be glory and praise for ever.  
As evening falls, you renew your promise  
to reveal among us the light of your presence.  
May your word be a lantern to our feet  
and a light upon our path  
that we may behold your coming among us.  
Strengthen us in our stumbling weakness  
and free our tongues to sing your praise.  
Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.  
**Blessed be God for ever.**

That this evening may be holy, good and  
peaceful,  
let us pray with one heart and mind. *(silence  
is kept)*

As our evening prayer rises before you, O  
God,  
so may your mercy come down upon us  
to cleanse our hearts  
and set us free to sing your praise  
now and for ever.  
**Amen.**

**Prayers of Penitence**

We have not always worshipped God, our  
creator. Lord, have mercy.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

We have not always followed Christ, our  
Saviour. Christ, have mercy.  
**Christ, have mercy.**

We have not always trusted in the Spirit, our  
guide. Lord, have mercy.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

*Absolution*

**The Word of God**

*Psalm 91*

I will give thanks to you, Lord, with my whole  
heart; \*

I will tell of all your marvellous works.

**I will be glad and rejoice in you; \***  
**I will make music to your name, O Most  
High.**

When my enemies are driven back, \*  
they stumble and perish at your presence.

**For you have maintained my right and my  
cause; \***  
**you sat on your throne giving righteous  
judgement.**

You have rebuked the nations and destroyed  
the wicked; \*  
you have blotted out their name for ever and  
ever.

**The enemy was utterly laid waste. \***  
**You uprooted their cities;**  
**their very memory has perished.**

But the Lord shall endure for ever; \*  
he has made fast his throne for judgement.

**For he shall rule the world with  
righteousness \***  
**and govern the peoples with equity.**

Then will the Lord be a refuge for the  
oppressed, \*  
a refuge in the time of trouble.

**And those who know your name will put  
their trust in you, \***  
**for you, Lord, have never failed those who  
seek you.**

Sing praises to the Lord who dwells in Zion; \*  
declare among the peoples the things he has  
done.

**The avenger of blood has remembered them; \*  
he did not forget the cry of the oppressed.**

Have mercy upon me, O Lord; \*  
consider the trouble I suffer from those who hate me,  
you that lift me up from the gates of death;

**That I may tell all your praises in the gates of the city of Zion \*  
and rejoice in your salvation.**

The nations shall sink into the pit of their making \*  
and in the snare which they set will their own foot be taken.

**The Lord makes himself known by his acts of justice; \*  
the wicked are snared in the works of their own hands.**

They shall return to the land of darkness, \*  
all the nations that forget God.

**For the needy shall not always be forgotten \*  
and the hope of the poor shall not perish for ever.**

Arise, O Lord, and let not mortals have the upper hand; \*  
let the nations be judged before your face.

**Put them in fear, O Lord, \*  
that the nations may know themselves to be but mortal.**

Glory to the Father, and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit:  
**as it was in the beginning, is now  
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

*A reading from the prophet Isaiah*

Awake, awake,  
put on your strength, O Zion!  
Put on your beautiful garments,  
O Jerusalem, the holy city;  
for the uncircumcised and the unclean  
shall enter you no more.

Shake yourself from the dust, rise up,  
O captive Jerusalem;  
loose the bonds from your neck,  
O captive daughter Zion!

For thus says the LORD ADONAI: You were sold for nothing, and you shall be redeemed without money. For thus says the ADONAI GOD: Long ago, my people went down into Egypt to reside there as aliens; the Assyrian, too, has oppressed them without cause. Now therefore, what am I doing here, says ADONAI, seeing that my people are taken away without cause? Their rulers howl, says ADONAI, and continually, all day long, my name is despised. Therefore my people shall know my name; therefore on that day they shall know that it is I who speak; here am I.

How beautiful upon the mountains  
are the feet of the messenger who announces peace,  
who brings good news,  
who announces salvation,  
who says to Zion, 'Your God reigns.'  
Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices,  
together they sing for joy;  
for in plain sight they see  
the return of the LORD ADONAI to Zion.  
Break forth together into singing,  
you ruins of Jerusalem;  
for ADONAI has comforted his people,  
he has redeemed Jerusalem.  
ADONAI has bared his holy arm  
before the eyes of all the nations;  
and all the ends of the earth shall see  
the salvation of our God.

Depart, depart, go out from there!  
Touch no unclean thing;  
go out from the midst of it, purify yourselves,  
you who carry the vessels of ADONAI.  
For you shall not go out in haste,  
and you shall not go in flight;  
for ADONAI will go before you,  
and the God of Israel will be your rearguard.

The reading ends here.

*A Cantic from the Advent Sequence*

Saviour eternal,

life of the world unfailing,  
**light everlasting**  
**and our true redemption.**

Taking our humanity  
in your loving freedom,  
**you rescued our lost earth**  
**and filled the world with joy.**

By your first advent justify us,  
**by your second, set us free:**

that when the great light dawns and you  
come as judge of all,  
**we may be robed in immortality**

and ready, Lord, to follow in your footsteps  
blest,  
**wherever they may lead.**

**Glory to the Father and to the Son**  
**and to the Holy Spirit;**  
**as it was in the beginning is now**  
**and shall be for ever. Amen.**

*A reading from the Gospel according to  
Matthew*

‘So when you see the desolating sacrilege  
standing in the holy place, as was spoken of  
by the prophet Daniel (let the reader  
understand), then those in Judea must flee to  
the mountains; someone on the housetop  
must not go down to take what is in the  
house; someone in the field must not turn  
back to get a coat. Woe to those who are  
pregnant and to those who are nursing infants  
in those days! Pray that your flight may not be  
in winter or on a sabbath. For at that time  
there will be great suffering, such as has not  
been from the beginning of the world until  
now, no, and never will be. And if those days  
had not been cut short, no one would be  
saved; but for the sake of the elect those days  
will be cut short. Then if anyone says to you,  
“Look! Here is the Messiah!” or “There he  
is!”—do not believe it. For false messiahs and  
false prophets will appear and produce great  
signs and omens, to lead astray, if possible,  
even the elect. Take note, I have told you  
beforehand. So, if they say to you, “Look! He  
is in the wilderness”, do not go out. If they

say, “Look! He is in the inner rooms”, do not  
believe it. For as the lightning comes from the  
east and flashes as far as the west, so will be  
the coming of the Son of Man. Wherever the  
corpse is, there the vultures will gather.

*Advent Responsory from Psalm 130*

My soul is waiting for you, O Lord:  
in your word is my hope.

**My soul is waiting for you, O Lord:**  
**in your word is my hope.**

There is forgiveness with you,  
so that you shall be feared.

**In your word is my hope.**

Glory to the Father, and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit.

**My soul is waiting for you, O Lord:**  
**in your word is my hope.**

*Gospel Canticle : Luke 1.46-55*

**Lord Jesus, you are the one who is to come,**  
**the one whom we await with longing hearts.**

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,  
my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour;  
he has looked with favour on his lowly  
servant.

From this day all generations will call me  
blessed;  
the Almighty has done great things for me  
and holy is his name.

He has mercy on those who fear him,  
from generation to generation.

He has shown strength with his arm  
and has scattered the proud in their conceit,

Casting down the mighty from their thrones  
and lifting up the lowly.

He has filled the hungry with good things  
and sent the rich away empty.

He has come to the aid of his servant Israel,  
to remember his promise of mercy,

The promise made to our ancestors,  
to Abraham and his children for ever.

**Glory to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning is now  
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

**Lord Jesus, you are the one who is to come,  
the one whom we await with longing hearts.**

### ***Reflection***

## **Prayers**

### ***The Collect for St Andrew***

#### ***Intercessions for Advent***

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

That God may bring in his kingdom with  
justice and mercy,  
let us pray to the Lord: Maranatha,  
***come, Lord Jesus.***

That God may establish among the nations his  
sceptre of righteousness,  
let us pray to the Lord: Maranatha, ***come,***  
***Lord Jesus.***

That we may seek Christ in the scriptures  
and recognize him in the breaking of the  
bread,  
let us pray to the Lord: Maranatha, ***come,***  
***Lord Jesus.***

That God may bind up the brokenhearted,  
restore the sick  
and raise up all who have fallen,  
let us pray to the Lord: Maranatha, ***come,***  
***Lord Jesus.***

That the light of God's coming may dawn  
on all who live in darkness and the shadow of  
death,  
let us pray to the Lord: Maranatha, ***come,***  
***Lord Jesus.***

That, with all the saints in light,  
we may shine forth as lights for the world,  
let us pray to the Lord: Maranatha, ***come,***  
***Lord Jesus.***

Let us commend the world, which Christ will  
judge, to the mercy and protection of God.

### ***The Collect for First Advent***

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 the same, Jesus our brother. AMEN

### ***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 Conclusion**

**The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
and the love of God,  
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,  
be with us all evermore.  
Amen.**