



CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF THE ADVENT
IN THE CITY OF BIRMINGHAM



FIVE O'CLOCK
MARCH 19, 2023
The Fourth Sunday in Lent
Evening Prayer

Welcome to the Five O’Clock Service at the Advent.

No matter what brought you today, even if you don’t feel like you belong, we’re so glad you’re here. You’re exactly where you need to be. We pray that as our voices join together in word and song through this service, you might hear and receive God’s grace, through the freeing power of the gospel of Jesus Christ, by the work of the Holy Spirit.

Evening Prayer

This service is a modern expression of traditional Anglican worship. The focus is on hearing God’s Word and responding in both sung and said prayer. We hold services of Evening Prayer on first and third Sundays. All other Sundays we celebrate Holy Communion.

PRELUDE MUSIC

DURING THE PRELUDE, FEEL FREE TO SOCIALIZE AND GREET EACH OTHER.

THE PEOPLE STAND.

SONG

Jesus, What a Friend for Sinners

Jesus, what a friend for sinners!
Jesus, lover of my soul;
Friends may fail me, foes assail me,
He, my Savior, makes me whole.

*Hallelujah, what a Savior;
Hallelujah, what a friend.
Saving, helping, keeping, loving,
He is with me to the end.*

Jesus, what a strength for weakness!
Let me hide myself in him;
Tempted, tried, and sometimes failing,
He, my strength, my victory wins. *Refrain*

Jesus, what a help in sorrow!
While the billows over me roll;
Even when my heart is breaking,
He, my comfort, helps my soul. *Refrain*

Jesus, I do now receive him,
More than all in him I find
He has granted me forgiveness,
I am his, and he is mine. *Refrain*

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OPENING SENTENCES

Jesus said, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me."
-Mark 8:34

CALL TO WORSHIP

Dearly beloved, we have come together in the name of Christ to offer our praise and thanksgiving, to hear and receive God's holy word, to pray for the needs of the world, and to seek the forgiveness of our sins, that by the power of the Holy Spirit we may give ourselves to the service of God.

PHOS HILARON

**O joyful light,
from the pure glory of the eternal heavenly Father,
O holy, blessed Jesus Christ.**

**As we come to the setting of the sun
and see the evening light,
we give thanks and praise to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit of God.**

**Worthy are you at all times
to be sung with holy voices,
O Son of God, O giver of life,
and to be glorified through all creation.**

CONFESSION OF SIN

Jesus says, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.” So let us turn away from our sin and turn to Christ, kneeling in silence and confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

THE PEOPLE KNEEL OR SIT, AND A PERIOD OF SILENCE IS KEPT.

**Almighty and most merciful Father,
we have wandered and strayed from your ways
like lost sheep.
We have followed too much the devices and desires
of our own hearts.
We have offended against your holy laws.
We have left undone those things
that we ought to have done;
and we have done those things
that we ought not to have done;
and there is no health in us.
But you, O Lord, have mercy upon us sinners.
Spare those who confess their faults.
Restore those who are penitent,
according to your promises declared to mankind
in Christ Jesus our Lord.
And grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake,
that we may live a disciplined, righteous and godly life,
to the glory of your holy name.
Amen.**

THE DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who desires not the death of a sinner, pardons and absolves you through Jesus Christ our Lord. There is therefore now no condemnation. As far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed your transgressions from you, to remember your sins no more. **Amen.**

INVITATION AND RESPONSE

THE PEOPLE STAND.

O Lord, open our lips.

And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

O God, make speed to save us.

O Lord, make haste to help us.

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

as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

Praise the Lord.

The Lord's name be praised.

SONG

Christ Is Mine Forevermore

Mine are days that God has numbered,
I was made to walk with him.
Yet I look for worldly treasure,
And forsake the King of kings.

*But mine is hope in my Redeemer,
Though I fall his love is sure.
For Christ has paid for every failing,
I am his forevermore.*

Mine are tears in times of sorrow,
Darkness not yet understood.
Through the valley I must travel,
Where I see no earthly good.

*But mine is peace that flows from heaven.
And the strength in times of need.
I know my pain will not be wasted,
Christ completes his work in me.*

Mine are days here as a stranger,
Pilgrim on a narrow way.
One with Christ I will encounter,
Harm and hatred for his name.

*But mine is armour for this battle,
Strong enough to last the war.
And he has said he will deliver,
Safely to the golden shore.*

And mine are keys to Zion city,
Where beside the King I walk.
For there my heart has found its treasure.
Christ is mine forevermore.

Come rejoice now O my soul,
For his love is my reward.
Fear is gone and hope is sure,
Christ is mine forevermore.

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THE PEOPLE SIT.

PSALM 23 (KJV)

READ RESPONSIVELY, BY HALF-VERSE.

- 1 The Lord is my shepherd; *
I shall not want.
- 2 He maketh me to lie down in green pastures; *
he leadeth me beside the still waters.
- 3 He restoreth my soul; *
he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his Name's sake.
- 4 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; *
for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff, they comfort me.
- 5 Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies; *
thou anointest my head with oil, my cup runneth over.
- 6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, *
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

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

A READING FROM THE FIRST BOOK OF SAMUEL.

The Lord said to Samuel, “How long will you grieve over Saul, since I have rejected him from being king over Israel? Fill your horn with oil, and go. I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons.”² And Samuel said, “How can I go? If Saul hears it, he will kill me.” And the Lord said, “Take a heifer with you and say, ‘I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.’”³ And invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do. And you shall anoint for me him whom I declare to you.”⁴ Samuel did what the Lord commanded and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling and said, “Do you come peaceably?”⁵ And he said, “Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the Lord. Consecrate yourselves, and come with me to the sacrifice.” And he consecrated Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.⁶ When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, “Surely the Lord’s anointed is before him.”⁷ But the Lord said to Samuel, “Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him. For the Lord sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.”⁸ Then Jesse called Abinadab and made him pass before Samuel. And he said, “Neither has the Lord chosen this one.”⁹ Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, “Neither has the Lord chosen this one.”¹⁰ And Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel. And Samuel said to Jesse, “The Lord has not chosen these.”¹¹ Then Samuel said to Jesse, “Are all your sons here?” And he said, “There remains yet the youngest, but behold, he is keeping the sheep.” And Samuel said to Jesse, “Send and get him, for we will not sit down till he comes here.”¹² And he sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy and had beautiful eyes and was handsome. And the Lord said, “Arise, anoint him, for this is he.”¹³ Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers. And the Spirit of the Lord rushed upon David from that day forward. And Samuel rose up and went to Ramah. (16:1-13)

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

A READING FROM THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO ST. JOHN.

As he passed by, Jesus saw a man blind from birth. ²And his disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” ³Jesus answered, “It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him. ⁴We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. ⁵As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” ⁶Having said these things, he spit on the ground and made mud with the saliva. Then he anointed the man’s eyes with the mud ⁷and said to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing. ⁸The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar were saying, “Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?” ⁹Some said, “It is he.” Others said, “No, but he is like him.” He kept saying, “I am the man.” ¹⁰So they said to him, “Then how were your eyes opened?” ¹¹He answered, “The man called Jesus made mud and anointed my eyes and said to me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash.’ So I went and washed and received my sight.” ¹²They said to him, “Where is he?” He said, “I do not know.” ¹³They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. ¹⁴Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. ¹⁵So the Pharisees again asked him how he had received his sight. And he said to them, “He put mud on my eyes, and I washed, and I see.” ¹⁶Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath.” But others said, “How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?” And there was a division among them. ¹⁷So they said again to the blind man, “What do you say about him, since he has opened your eyes?” He said, “He is a prophet.” ¹⁸The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight, until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight ¹⁹and asked them, “Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?” ²⁰His parents answered, “We know that this is our son and that he was born blind. ²¹But how he now sees we do not know, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.” ²²(His parents said these things because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that if anyone should confess Jesus to be Christ, he was to be put out of the synagogue.) ²³Therefore his parents said, “He is of age; ask him.” ²⁴So for the second

time they called the man who had been blind and said to him, “Give glory to God. We know that this man is a sinner.” ²⁵He answered, “Whether he is a sinner I do not know. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.” ²⁶They said to him, “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?” ²⁷He answered them, “I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?” ²⁸And they reviled him, saying, “You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. ²⁹We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.” ³⁰The man answered, “Why, this is an amazing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. ³¹We know that God does not listen to sinners, but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does his will, God listens to him. ³²Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a man born blind. ³³If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.” ³⁴They answered him, “You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?” And they cast him out. ³⁵Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” ³⁶He answered, “And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?” ³⁷Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and it is he who is speaking to you.” ³⁸He said, “Lord, I believe,” and he worshiped him. ³⁹Jesus said, “For judgment I came into this world, that those who do not see may see, and those who see may become blind.” ⁴⁰Some of the Pharisees near him heard these things, and said to him, “Are we also blind?” ⁴¹Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would have no guilt; but now that you say, ‘We see,’ your guilt remains.” (9:1-41)

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

THE SERMON

Canon Gardner

ALL SERMON AND CLASS AUDIO RECORDINGS ARE AVAILABLE AT AUDIO.ADVENTBIRMINGHAM.ORG.

THE PEOPLE STAND.

SONG

Great Are You Lord

You give life, you are love,
You bring light to the darkness.
You give hope, you restore
Ev'ry heart that is broken.
Great are you, Lord.

*It's your breath in our lungs,
So we pour out our praise.
We pour out our praise.
It's your breath in our lungs,
So we pour out our praise to you only.*

You give life, you are love,
You bring light to the darkness.
You give hope, you restore
Ev'ry heart that is broken.
Great are you, Lord. *Refrain*

And all the earth will shout your praise,
Our hearts will cry, these bones will sing,
Great are you, Lord. *Refrain*

Words & Music: Jason Ingram, Leslie Jordan, David Leonard ©2012 Integrity's Alleluia! Music CCLI #1620861

THE APOSTLES' CREED

Let us declare our faith in the one true God, who is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

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

**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.**

**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.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

THE PEOPLE SIT OR KNEEL.

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

**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, and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

SUFFRAGES

Show us your mercy, O Lord;

And grant us your salvation.

Clothe your ministers with righteousness;

Let your people sing with joy.

Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;

For only in you can we live in safety.

Lord, keep this nation under your care;

And guide us in the way of justice and truth.

Let your way be known upon earth;

Your saving health among all nations.

Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;

Nor the hope of the poor be taken away;

Create in us clean hearts, O God;

And sustain us with your Holy Spirit.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And with thy spirit.

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Gracious Father, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ came down from heaven to be the true bread which gives life to the world: Evermore give us this bread, that he may live in us, and we in him; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION AND THANKSGIVING

THE GRACE

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

THE WELCOME

THE PEOPLE SIT.

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. *-Matthew 6:19-20*

PLEASE REMAIN SEATED AS THE USHERS TAKE UP THE OFFERING. IF YOU ARE VISITING US, WE INVITE YOU TO FILL IN A WELCOME CARD AND PLACE IT IN THE BASKET AS YOUR OFFERING.

AT THE OFFERTORY

Only the Sick Need a Physician

Who is this man, who sits with the sinners,
Who dines with the drunkards, and loves the unclean?
Who is this man who won't cast a stone,
But honors the harlot, who washes his feet?

*Come, scarlet letters, you outcasts and debtors,
I will call you my friends.
I'll sit at your table, you broken and fatal:
Only the sick need a physician.*

Who is this man, who calls God a Father,
The son of a blue collar carpenter man?
Who calls us unclean, like tombs full of bones,
We keep our religion, but whitewash our sin.
Come be born again. *Refrain*

What kind of God would hang on a tree
Despised and rejected, and nailed to the wood?
You saved all the others, but can't save yourself?
We don't need you Jesus, we're well and we're good,
And you're nailed to the wood;
We never understood,
There is none who is good! *Refrain*

THE DOXOLOGY

PLEASE STAND.

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host: praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

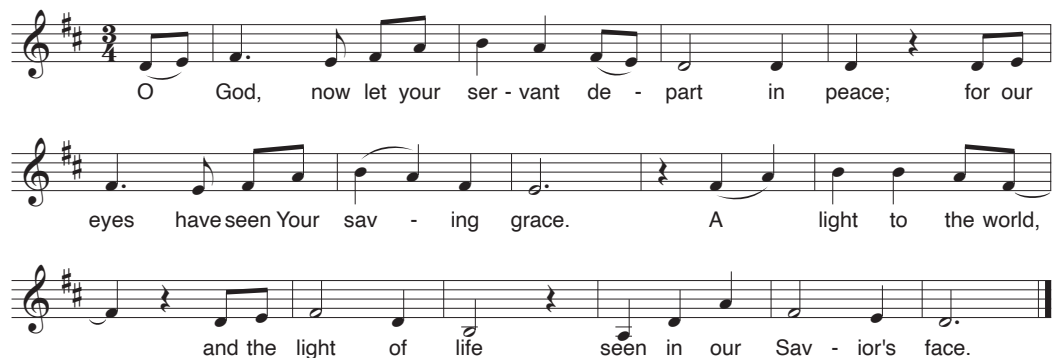
THE GENERAL THANKSGIVING

Let us pray.

**Almighty God, Father of all mercies
we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks
for all your goodness and loving-kindness
to us and to all whom you have made.
We bless you for our creation, preservation,
and all the blessings of this life;
but above all for your immeasurable love
in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ;
for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.
And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies,
that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise,
not only with our lips, but in our lives,
by giving up our selves to your service,
and by walking before you
in holiness and righteousness all our days;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.**

NUNC DIMITTIS

O Lord, Now Let Your Servant Depart in Peace



O God, now let your ser - vant de - part in peace; for our
eyes have seen Your sav - ing grace. A light to the world,
and the light of life seen in our Sav - ior's face.

THE PEACE

Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given us access to his grace. *-Romans 5:1-2*

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And with thy spirit!

YOU MAY GREET EACH OTHER IN THE NAME OF THE LORD.

POSTLUDE MUSIC

FEEL FREE TO REMAIN IN THE NAVE (CHURCH WORSHIP SPACE) AND HAVE CONVERSATIONS WHILE THE MUSIC IS PLAYING.

*Come to me,
all who labor and are heavy laden,
and I will give you rest.*

Matthew 11.28

The Church of the Advent was founded with the City of Birmingham in 1872.

CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF THE ADVENT (EPISCOPAL)
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