

Worship in Song

O great God of highest heav'n

Countdown Video & Welcome

Words of Introduction

As it is written in Isaiah the prophet, "Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way, the voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,'" *Mark 1.2-3*

Lighting the Advent Candles

Worship in Song

On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry
Announces that the Lord is nigh;
Awake and hearken for he brings
Glad tidings from the King of kings.

Then cleansed be every breast from sin;
Make straight the way for God within;
Prepare we in our hearts a home,
Where such a mighty guest may come.

For thou art our salvation, Lord,
Our refuge, and our great reward.
Without your grace we waste away
Like flowers that wither and decay.

To heal the sick stretch out thine hand
And bid the fallen sinner stand;
Shine forth, and let thy light restore
Earth's own true loveliness once more.

All praise, eternal Son, to thee
Whose advent doth thy people free
Whom with the Father we adore,
And Holy Spirit for evermore.

Confession

In this season of busyness, and stress, God of Light, we confess how easy it is to slip off your paths and forget to prepare for your coming.
Father, forgive us: save us and help us.

For behaving just as we wish, without thinking of you
Father, forgive us: save us and help us.

For failing you by what we do, and think and say;
Father, forgive us: save us and help us.

For letting ourselves be drawn away from you
by temptations in the world about us;
Father, forgive us: save us and help us.

For living as if we were ashamed to belong to your Son
Father, forgive us: save us and help us.

Assurance of Pardon

May almighty God, who sent his Son into the world to save sinners, bring you his pardon and peace, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Special Prayer for Today

God of faithfulness and truth, you sent your servant John the Baptist to preach in the desert and summon the people to repentance. Make us and all things new, that in the wilderness of our world and in our lives, we also may prepare a way for Jesus. **Amen.**

Bible Reading

Matthew 3.1-12 (*Church Bible page 808*)

This is the Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Song of Worship

Though the nations rage kingdoms rise and fall
There is still one King reigning over all
So I will not fear for this truth remains
That my God is the Ancient of Days

None above him none before him
All of time in his hands
For his throne it shall remain and ever stand
All the power all the glory I will trust in his name
For my God is the Ancient of days

Though the dread of night overwhelms my soul
He is here with me, I am not alone
O His love is sure and He knows my name
For my God is the Ancient of Days

Though I may not see what the future brings
I will watch and wait for the Saviour king
Then my joy complete standing face to face
In the presence of the Ancient of Days

The Apostles' Creed

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.

Prayers

At the end: Merciful Father,
accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

The Peace

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

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

Offertory Prayer

Everything in heaven and earth comes from you, Lord. We give you only what is yours. May you be praised forever and ever. Amen.

The Eucharistic Prayer

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, it is our duty and our joy, at all times and in all places to give you thanks and praise, holy Father, heavenly King, almighty and eternal God, through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.

For he is your living Word; through him you have created all things from the beginning, and formed us in your own image. Through him you have freed us from the slavery of sin, giving him to be born of a woman and to die upon the cross; you raised him from the dead and exalted him to your right hand on high. Through him you have sent upon us your holy and life-giving Spirit, and made us a people for your own possession.

Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we proclaim your great and glorious name, for ever praising you and saying:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.

Accept our praises, heavenly Father, through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ, and as we follow his example and obey his command, grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit these gifts of bread and wine may be to us his body and his blood;

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.

Therefore, heavenly Father, we remember his offering of himself made once for all upon the cross; we proclaim his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; we look for the coming of your kingdom, and with this bread and this cup we make the memorial of Christ your Son our Lord.

Great is the mystery of faith:
**Christ has died. Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.**

Accept through him, our great high priest, this our sacrifice of thanks and praise, and as we eat and drink these holy gifts in the presence of your divine majesty, renew us by your Spirit, inspire us with your love and unite us in the body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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.**

Giving of 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.

We receive communion

Worship in Song

Here O my Lord, I see thee face to face
Here would I touch and handle things unseen
Here grasp with firmer hand the eternal grace
And all my weariness upon thee lean

Here would I feed upon the bread of God
Here drink with thee the royal wine of heaven
Here would I lay aside each earthly load
Here taste afresh the calms of sins forgiven

Mine is the sin, but thine the righteousness
Mine is the guilt, but thine the cleansing blood
Here is my robe, my refuge and my peace
Thy blood thy righteousness O Lord my God

I have no help but thine; nor do I need
Another arm save thine to lean upon
It is enough my Lord, enough indeed
My strength is in thy might, thy might alone

Too soon we rise; the symbols disappear
The feast, though not the love, is past and gone
The bread and wine remove, but thou art here
Nearer than ever, still my shield and sun

Feast after feast thus comes and passes by
Yet, passing, points to the glad feasts above
Giving sweet foretaste of the festal joy
The Lamb's great bridal feast of bliss and love.

Worship in Song

O great God of highest heav'n
Occupy my lowly heart
Own it all and reign supreme
Conquer ev'ry rebel pow'r
Let no vice or sin remain
That resists Your holy war
You have loved and purchased me
Make me Yours forever more

I was blinded by my sin
Had no ears to hear Your voice
Did not know Your love within
Had no taste for heaven's joys
Then Your Spirit gave me life
Opened up Your word to me
Through the gospel of Your Son
Gave me endless hope and peace

Help me now to live a life
That's dependent on Your grace
Keep my heart and guard my soul
From the evils that I face
You are worthy to be praised
With my ev'ry thought and deed
O great God of highest heav'n
Glorify Your Name through me

Worship in Song

Before the throne of God above
I have a strong a perfect plea
A great High Priest whose name is Love
Who ever lives and pleads for me
My name is graven on His hands
My name is written on His heart
I know that while in heaven He stands
No tongue can bid me thence depart

When Satan tempts me to despair
And tells me of the guilt within
Upward I look and see Him there
Who made an end of all my sin
Because the sinless Saviour died
My sinful soul is counted free
For God the Just is satisfied
To look on Him and pardon me

Behold Him there the risen Lamb
My perfect spotless Righteousness
The great unchangeable I AM
The King of glory and of grace
One with Himself I cannot die
My soul is purchased by His blood
My life is hid with Christ on high
With Christ my Saviour and my God

Prayer after Communion

Father in heaven, who sent your Son to
redeem the world and will send him again to
be our judge: give us grace so to imitate him
in the humility and purity of his first coming
that, when he comes again, we may be ready
to greet him with joyful love and firm faith;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Worship in Song

We won't fear the battle, we won't fear the night
We will walk the Valley with You by our side
You will go before us, you will lead the way
We have found a refuge only You can save

Sing with joy now our God is for us
The Father's love is a strong and mighty fortress
Raise your voice now no love is greater
Who can stand against us if our God is for us

Even when I stumble, even when I fall
Even when I turn back still Your love is sure
You will not abandon, you will not forsake
You will cheer me onward with never ending grace

Bridge

Neither height nor depth can separate us
Hell and death will not defeat us
He who gave His Son to free us holds me in His love

Notices

Blessing

Go in peace; love and care for one another in
the name of Christ; and may the rough places
in your life be made smooth; may the dark
valleys of your hearts be filled; may the
rugged mountains levelled; and the way of the
Lord be made ready in you; and may he come
to you and shine forth from you; and the
blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son,
and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain
with you always. **Amen.**

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

Music as we leave

We won't fear the battle