

25 DECEMBER 2021
HOME SERVICE GUIDE
CHRISTMAS DAY

A very warm welcome to everyone who has joined us for our worship service this morning.



Welcome & Greeting

The Angelus prayer from Archbishop Thabo

**God bless the world,
Give it wisdom at this time,
Grant us relief and release,
Be with those who are ill,
And bless the carers fighting this pandemic,
For Jesus Christ's sake. Amen**

Called to be a reconciling people, we gather together to experience the birth of the Christ child, one who confounds expectations, upsets the established order and uprights the downtrodden. Today we give thanks that God's promise of a Redeemer is fulfilled. We light the Christ candle with praise to our God who brings joy to the world. The Christ candle represents **light and purity** – the life of Christ.

Light all four candles and the Christ candle in the middle:

We light the final candle, the Christ candle, as a reminder that our Advent waiting is complete, and Christ is born anew amongst us. Lord, you came as a tiny, fragile baby; yet we know that you are God and you are with us. May the flame of this candle remind us that you are the light of the world and that if we follow you, we will never walk in darkness, but will have the true light of life. Amen

INTRODUCTION

The Lord be with you
And also with you

Praise the Lord
Praise him you servants of the Lord

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit
Blessed be his name, now and for ever

Gloria

**Glory to God in the highest
And peace to his people on earth.
Lord, God heavenly King
almighty God and Father
we worship you, we give you thanks
we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father
Lord God, Lamb of God
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.
For you alone are the Holy One
you alone are the Lord
you alone are the Most High
Jesus Christ
with the Holy Spirit
in the glory of God the Father. Amen**

Collect for Purity (APB p105)

**Almighty God
to whom all hearts are open
all desires known
and from whom no secrets are hid:
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**

Penitence (APB p106)

Jesus said, 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it. 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments depend all the law and the prophets.

Let us confess our sins (firmly resolved to keep God's commandments and to live in love and peace with all creation).

(Silence may be kept)

**Almighty God, our heavenly Father
in penitence we confess
that we have sinned against you
through our own fault
in thought, word, and deed
and in what we have left undone.
For the sake of your Son, Christ our Lord forgive us all that is past
and grant that we may serve you
in newness of life to the glory of your Name.**

Absolution

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

Amen

Collect

O Christ, light of the world, born into human pain and joy: let our celebration of your birth make us bold witnesses of your love; to the glory of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen..

Our Parish Prayer

Lord our God, thank you for calling St Augustine's to be your church in our city. Help us to welcome you in all people, to praise you in prayer and worship, to love you, through serving this parish and the community, to travel and grow in faith together, to be a community of love and service in our world through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

First Reading: Isaiah 52:7-10

Psalm: Psalm 98

Second Reading: Hebrews 1:1-12

Hymn/Song: SOF 36 Away in a Manger

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head;
The stars in the bright sky looked down where He lay;
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the Baby awakes,
But little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes:
I love You, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky
And stay by my side until morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus: I ask You to stay
Close by me for ever and love me, I pray;
Bless all the dear children in Your tender care,
And fit us for heaven to live with You there.

Gospel: Luke 2:1-20

Sermon

The Nicene Creed (APB p108)

**We believe in one God
the Father, the Almighty
maker of heaven and earth
Of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ
the only Son of God
eternally begotten of the Father
God from God, Light from Light
true God from true God
begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead**

and his kingdom will have no end.

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord the giver of life
who proceeds from the Father and the Son
who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

Prayers of the Church - Form A (APB p 109)

The Peace (APB p 115)

“Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!”
(Luke 2:14)

May the peace and joy of the Lord be always with you.
Peace be with you.

The Presentation of Gifts (APB p116) Use Your Home-Made Collection Boxes.

Yours, Lord, is the greatness, the power, the glory, the splendour, and the majesty; for everything in heaven and on earth is yours. All things come from you, and of your own do we give you. **Amen**

The Lord's Prayer (Afrikaans) Said

**Ons vader wat woon in die hemel, geheilig sy u Naam,
Laat u ryk kom, u wil geskied, soos in die hemel so ook op die aarde.
Gee ons vandag ons dag se brood
en vergeef ons al ons skulde, net soos ons vergewe die wat teen ons sondig.
Laat kom ons nie in die versoeking, maar verlos ons van die Bose.
Want U is die ryk en die sterkte en die ere,
vir ewig en ewig, amen. Vir ewig en ewig, amen.**

Prayer of preparation:

**Almighty and everlasting God
we approach the sacrament of your only begotten Son our Lord Jesus Christ;
as sick, we come to the physician of life;
as unclean, to the fountain of mercy;
as blind, to the light of eternal splendour;
as needy, to the Lord of heaven and earth;
as naked, to the King of glory. Amen**

Spiritual Communion prayer (APB p 516)

One who is unable to receive the Sacrament physically may make a spiritual communion, and be certain that Christ comes to them in this way as surely as he does in the Sacrament.

**Jesus, may all that is you flow into me.
May your body and blood be my food and drink.
May your passion and death be my strength and life.
Jesus, with you by my side enough has been given.
May the shelter I seek be the shadow of your cross.
Let me not run from the love which you offer
But hold me safe from the forces of evil.
On each of my dyings shed your light and your love.
Keep calling to me until that day comes when, with your saints, I may praise you
forever. Amen.**

Conclusion (APB p 129)

**Give thanks to God for God is gracious
God's mercy endures for ever.**

**Lord,
we have broken your bread
and received your life.
By the power of your Spirit
keep us always in your love;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**Father almighty
we offer ourselves to you
as a living sacrifice
in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Send us out into the world
in the power of the Holy Spirit
to live and work
to your praise and glory.**

Prayer for Africa

**God, bless Africa
protect our children
transform our leaders
heal our communities
restore our dignity**

**and give us peace;
for Jesus Christ's sake. Amen**

Blessing

May you be filled with the wonder of Mary, the obedience of Joseph, the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the determination of the magi, and the peace of the Christ child"; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be with you, and all whom you love and pray for today and always. Amen

<https://www.crosswalk.com/faith/prayer/christmas-prayers-and-blessings.html>

Dismissal (APB 129)

Go in peace and joy to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ. Amen.