

01ST SUNDAY IN ADVENT – 03 DEC 2023

HOME SERVICE GUIDE

Admission to First Holy Communion

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



INTROIT HYMN: SOF 410 (V 1,3, 4 & 5)

O come O come Emmanuel

GREETING AND WELCOME

Lighting of the Advent Candle (Purple - Prophecy or Hope Candle)

Today, on this first Sunday of Advent, we light the first candle, which is purple, in our Advent wreath. This candle symbolizes hope. It is sometimes called the “Prophecy Candle” in remembrance of the prophets, especially Isaiah, who foretold the birth of Christ. It represents the expectation felt in anticipation of the coming Messiah.

Blessing of The Advent wreath

O God, by whose Word all things are sanctified, pour forth Your blessing upon this wreath, a symbol of the light of Christ’s presence. Grant that we who use it may prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ. We ask this in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen

Let us pray

We light this first candle to remind us of all God’s people, always preparing for Jesus to come among them.

Lord teach us your ways, so that we may walk in your paths!

Jesus says, “keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come”

Lord, help us to be ready to serve you, to follow you and to know you, so our lives will reflect your love.

Amen

The Lord be with you

And also with you

COLLECT FOR PURITY (APB P 105)

Let us pray

**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

Lord, Have mercy
Lord, Have mercy

Christ, have mercy
Christ, have mercy

Lord, have mercy
Lord, have mercy

PENITENCE

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 neighbour as yourself." On these two commandments depend all the law and prophets.

CONFESSION

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

(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**

THE COLLECT

Let us pray

Almighty Father, your Son came to us in humility as our saviour and at the last day he will come again in glory as our judge: give us grace to turn away from darkness to the light of Christ that we will be ready to welcome him; who lives and reigns with you and the 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.

SUNDAY SCHOOL PRAYER

God of grace and God of love, we thank you for these our children. Help them to focus their hearts and minds now on what they are about to learn. Inspire and guide

our Sunday school teachers as they teach and lead these children in the way of your love and grace. Thank you for your faithfulness and loving kindness. Amen

The Word of God (APB p 107)

THE FIRST READING: Isaiah 64:1-9

PSALM: Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

THE SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

GRADUAL HYMN: MP 102 Come thou long expected Jesus

**Come, thou long expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us,
let us find our rest in thee.**

**Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of every nation,
joy of every longing heart.**

**Born thy people to deliver,
born a child and yet a King,
born to reign in us forever,
now thy gracious kingdom bring.**

**By thine own eternal spirit
rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all sufficient merit,
raise us to thy glorious throne.**

THE GOSPEL: Mark 13: 24-37

NICENE CREED (APB p 108)

**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.**

SERMON

THE PRAYERS – FORM C

ADMISSION to First Holy Communion

THE PEACE (*APB p 115*)

Our Saviour Christ is the Prince of Peace; of the increase of his government and of peace there shall be no end.

May the peace of the Lord be with you always.

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 (*APB p 126*)

**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.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours**

now and for ever. 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.

**Soul of Christ, sanctify me.
Body of Christ, save me.
Blood of Christ, refresh me.
Water from the side of Christ, wash me.
Passion of Christ, strengthen me.
O good Jesus, hear me;
Within your wounds hide me.
Let me never be separated from you.
From the malicious enemy, defend me.
In the hour of my death, call me, and bid me come to you
that with your saints I may praise you forever and ever. Amen.**

CONCLUSION (APB p 129)

**Give thanks to the Lord for the Lord is gracious
The Lord's mercy endures for ever**

**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**

FINAL BLESSING

May God, who loves us, give us ears to hear, and eyes to watch, that we may know God's grace and presence in our midst during this holy season of joy as we anticipate the coming of Jesus Christ; 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**

(Adapted from <https://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/prayers.php?id=48>)

DISMISSAL (APB 129)

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord

In the name of Christ. Amen.