Ante-Communion for the Season of Advent, Year B

*(also called* The Liturgy of the Word)

*From the* 1979 Book of Common Prayer *pages 351-360, 406-407 and* Enriching Our Worship 1 *pages 50-56 and* The Book of Occasional Services*.*

*In the absence of a priest, all that is described herein, except for the concluding blessing, may be said by a deacon, or, if there is no deacon, by a lay reader. Adapt instructions about standing, kneeling, etc., as appropriate for your space.*

*A hymn, psalm, or anthem may be sung.*

*The people standing, the Presider says*

 Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. *or* Blessed are you, holy and living One.

*People* **And blessed be his kingdom, You come to your people and set them free.**

**now and for ever. Amen.**

**[***If Confession of Sin is used in this service, use the following form.*

*The Decalogue may be said (BCP 350), the people kneeling.*

*The Presider may read one of the following sentences*

Jesus said, "The first commandment is this: Hear, O Israel: The Lord your God is the only Lord. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this: Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these."    *Mark 12:29-31*

If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.    *1 John 1:8,9*

Since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.    *Hebrews 4:14,16*

*If a Confession of Sin is used, the Presider then says*

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Silence may be kept.*

*Minister and People*

**Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

*The Bishop when present, or the Priest, stands and says*

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen***.*

*A deacon or lay person using the preceding form substitutes "us" for "you" and "our" for "your."***]**

*[If a Confession of Sin is not used, the following may be said by the Presider. If a Confession of Sin is used, this prayer is omitted.*

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you 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. **Amen.**]

*One of the following is sung or said, all standing*

Lord, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.** *or*

Lord, have mercy. Kyrie eleison.

**Christe eleison.** *or*

Kyrie eleison.

Holy God,

Holy and Mighty,

Holy Immortal One,

**Have mercy upon us.**

*Or, one of the Canticles from Morning or Evening Prayer or some other Song of Praise (excluding Gloria in excelsis) may be used*

The Collect of the Day

*The Presider says to the people*

 The Lord be with you. *or* God be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Presider* Let us pray.

*The Celebrant says the Collect. Collects for the Sundays of Advent (Contemporary) are on pages 211-212 of the* Book of Common Prayer. *They may also be found at* *www.lectionarypage.net**.*

*People* **Amen.**

The Lessons

*The Revised Common Lectionary Year B is on page 901-911 of the* Book of Common Prayer *or at* *www.lectionarypage.net*

*The people sit. One or two Lessons, as appointed, are read, the Reader first saying*

A Reading (Lesson) from .

*A citation giving chapter and verse may be added.*

*After each Reading, the Reader may say*

 The word of the Lord. *or* Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

*or the Reader may say* Here ends the Reading (Epistle).

*Silence may follow*

*A Psalm, hymn, or anthem may follow each Reading.*

*Then, all standing, the Deacon or a Priest reads the Gospel, first saying*

 The Holy Gospel of our Lord (*or* Savior) Jesus Christ according to .

*People* **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

*After the Gospel, the Reader says*

 The Gospel of the Lord.

*People* **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

*If no Deacon or Priest is available, a lay reader may read the Gospel. Customarily a lay reader would introduce and conclude it with*

*Reader* A Reading from the Gospel according to .

*and*

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

*or using one of the other options above.*

The Sermon



*On Sundays and other Major Feasts there follows, all standing*

The Nicene Creed

**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:**

 **by the power of the Holy Spirit**

 **he became incarnate from 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.**

 **With the Father and the Son he
 is worshiped and glorified.**

 **He 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.**

*or the following*

**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 became truly human.**

 **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,**

 **who with the Father and the Son
 is worshiped 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.**

The Prayers of the People

*Prayer is offered with intercession for*

*The Universal Church, its members, and its mission*

*The Nation and all in authority*

*The welfare of the world*

*The concerns of the local community*

*Those who suffer and those in any trouble*

*The departed (with commemoration of a saint when appropriate)*

*See the forms beginning on page 383 of* The Book of Common Prayer *or the following may be used.*

*Deacon or other Leader:* We long for the coming of the Lord, when all will be made right; until that Day dawns, we pray and work for God’s vision of beloved community, saying: O Christ, hear us.

*Leader:*For the holy churches of God in every place, for Michael our Presiding Bishop, for Carlye our Bishop, for all lay leaders and clergy, and for the unity of all.

*People:* **O Christ, hear us.**

*Leader:* As we watch and wait and heed the Baptist’s cry to “Prepare!”, we pray that you may form us anew in this season of Advent, that we may be prepared to behold your coming at Bethlehem, in our lives, and, at the last, in glory.

*People:* **O Christ, hear us.**

*Leader:*For all those who await the Sacrament of Confirmation, that we may soon gather again to celebrate their commitment to the life of Christ.

*People:* **O Christ, hear us.**

*Leader:*For the world and its leaders, for Donald our President, Joe (*or* Joseph) our President-elect, Phil our Governor, [\_\_\_\_\_ our Mayor]; for our nation and its people.

*People:* **O Christ, hear us.**

*Leader:* For all those who are suffering during this pandemic, for all victims of COVID-19, including those we name now . . . ., for all who are sick and for those who are dying.

*People:* **O Christ, hear us.**

*Leader:*For all those providing care at this time, for doctors, nurses, staff, technician, for social workers, counselors, therapists, for all first responders and for all essential workers, that you may safeguard them as they work on our behalf.

*People:* **O Christ, hear us.**

*Leader:* For research scientists and lab technicians; for all those seeking a vaccine for this virus and those seeking enhanced treatments for this illness; for healing and restoration.

*People:* **O Christ, hear us.**

*Leader:* For all who suffer from violence and discrimination rooted in white supremacy and racial injustice; for all those who benefit from systems of oppression, whether by intention or by circumstance; that all may be called to the vision of reconciliation and love that heals wounds of division and hatred.

*People:* **O Christ, hear us.**

*Leader:*For all victims of violence, for those in danger and need, for the oppressed; for all those who face these concerns, now magnified; for those who suffer for any reason, for all other illnesses, for all those we name now . . . , we pray.

*People:* **O Christ, hear us.**

*Leader:* For all the blessings of this life, for those you would name here . . . , and for all those we love.

*People:* **O Christ, hear us.**

*Leader:* For all those who mourn, for those who grieve, separated at the last hour from their loved one; for those who face death without the consolation of family at their side; for all those who have died, including those we name now . . . , we pray.

*People:* **O Christ, hear us.**

*The following or some other concluding Collect is said by the Presider*

Hasten, O Father, the coming of your kingdom; and grant that we your servants, who now live by faith, may with joy behold your Son at his coming in glorious majesty; even Jesus Christ, our only Mediator and Advocate. **Amen*.***

*A hymn or anthem may then be sung, and the offerings of the people received.*

*This would be an appropriate time to give electronically.*

The Lord’s Prayer

*The Presider then says*

And now, as our Savior

Christ has taught us,

we are bold to say,

*People and Celebrant*

**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.**

As our Savior Christ

has taught us,

we now pray,

*People and Celebrant*

**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.**

*The Service may conclude with one of the following three choices:*

The Grace

*The Presider, lay or ordained, may say this or the Peace*

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. *2 Corinthians 13:14*

*or*

The Peace

*Presider* The peace of the Lord be always with you. *or* The peace of Christ be always with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Then the Ministers and People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.*

*or*

The Blessing

*The Bishop, when present, or the Priest, may bless the people using these or other words*

*Advent Blessing (from* The Book of Occasional Services 2018*).*

May Almighty God, by whose providence our Savior Christ came among us in great humility, sanctify you with the light of his blessing and set you free from all sin. **Amen.**

May he whose second Coming in power and great glory we await, make you steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and constant in love. **Amen.**

May you, who rejoice in the first Advent of our Redeemer, at his second Advent be rewarded with unending life. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

*or this*

May the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**