



# Welcome to St Alban's

## Advent Sunday

OPENING HYMN *J.R. Peasey (1896-1971) ©Mrs Mildred Peasey*

- 1. Awake, awake: fling off the night!  
For God has sent a glorious light;  
and we who live in Christ's new day  
must works of darkness put away.**
- 2. Awake and rise, like people renewed,  
and with the Spirit's power endued,  
the light of life in us will glow,  
and fruits of truth and goodness show.**
- 3. Let in the light; all sin expose  
to Christ, whose life no darkness knows.  
Before his cross expectant kneel;  
that Christ may judge and, judging, heal.**
- 4. Awake, and rise up from the dead,  
and Christ his light on you will shed.  
His power will wrong desires destroy,  
and your whole nature fill with joy.**
- 5. Then sing for joy, and use each day;  
give thanks for everything alway.  
Lift up your hearts; with one accord  
praise God through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

*The first candle of the Advent Wreath is lit and we all pray...*  
**Lord Jesus, light of the world,  
born in David's city of Bethlehem, born like him to be a king:  
be born in our hearts at Christmas, be King of our lives today. Amen.**

*We are gathered together as one body*

† In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

When the Lord comes, he will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness and will disclose the purposes of the heart. Therefore, in the light of Christ let us confess our sins...

Lord Jesus, you came to gather the nations into the peace of your kingdom:

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

You come in word and sacrament to strengthen us in holiness:

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

You will come in glory with salvation for your people:

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Almighty God,

who forgives all who truly repent,

have mercy upon you

† pardon and deliver you from all your sins,

confirm and strengthen you in all goodness

and keep you in life eternal.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

#### THE COLLECT (The special prayer of the day)

Almighty God,

give us grace to cast away the works of darkness

and to put on the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life,

in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility;

that on the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty

to judge the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal;

through him who is alive and reigns with you,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

#### NEW TESTAMENT READING

1 Corinthians 1.3-9

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>4</sup>I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, <sup>5</sup>for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind— <sup>6</sup>just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among

you— <sup>7</sup> so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>8</sup> He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>9</sup> God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

This is the word of the Lord: **Thanks be to God.**

THE GOSPEL Mark 13.24-end

**Alleluia, Alleluia; Alleluia, Alleluia.**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

‘But in those days, after that suffering,  
the sun will be darkened,

and the moon will not give its light,

<sup>25</sup> and the stars will be falling from heaven,

and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

<sup>26</sup> Then they will see “the Son of Man coming in clouds” with great power and glory. <sup>27</sup> Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

<sup>28</sup> ‘From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. <sup>29</sup> So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he<sup>[e]</sup> is near, at the very gates. <sup>30</sup> Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. <sup>31</sup> Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

<sup>32</sup> ‘But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. <sup>33</sup> Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. <sup>34</sup> It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. <sup>35</sup> Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, <sup>36</sup> or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. <sup>37</sup> And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.’

*At the end of the reading:* This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

THE SERMON

THE APOSTLES CREED *Please stand if you are able*

**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 OF INTERCESSION

Watchful at all times, let us pray for strength to stand with confidence before our Maker and Redeemer.

*At the end of the prayers we say together:*

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

THE PEACE *Please stand*

In the tender mercy of our God, the dayspring from on high shall break upon us, to give light to those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace. The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
**And also with you.**

THE PREPARATION OF THE TABLE

Blessed be God, by whose grace creation is renewed, by whose love heaven is opened, by whose mercy we offer our sacrifice of praise.  
**Blessed be God for ever.**

THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

*The president blesses the elements, and the response each time is*  
**Blessed be God for ever.**

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 and good to give you thanks and praise,  
almighty God and everlasting Father,  
through Jesus Christ your Son.

For when he humbled himself to come among us in human flesh,  
he fulfilled the plan you formed before the foundation of the world  
to open for us the way of salvation.

Confident that your promise will be fulfilled,  
we now watch for the day when Christ our Lord will come again in glory.  
And so we join our voices with angels and archangels  
and with all the company of heaven to proclaim your glory,  
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.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

*The president recalls the last supper:*

Great is the mystery of faith.

**Christ has died: Christ is risen: Christ will come again.**

*The president continues to praise God for his mighty acts. At the end we say...Amen*

As our Saviour taught us so we pray:

**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.  
And 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**

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.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, grant us peace.**

God's holy gifts, for God's holy people.

**Jesus Christ is holy, Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.**

*The Church of which we are members is not defined by the walls of a building but by the Body of Christ of which we are members.  
In making our communion spiritually, we are joining with Christians everywhere to be nourished by the one who tells us, 'I am the Bread of Life'*

An Act of Spiritual Communion

**My Jesus, I believe that you are present  
in the Holy Sacrament of the altar.  
I love you above all things and I passionately desire  
to receive you into my soul.  
Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally,  
come spiritually into my soul  
so that I may unite myself wholly to you now and for ever. Amen.**

*Post communion prayer:*

O Lord our God, make us watchful and keep us faithful  
as we await the coming of your Son our Lord;  
that, when he shall appear, he may not find us sleeping in sin  
but active in his service and joyful in his praise;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

**Almighty God, we thank you for feeding us  
with the body and blood of your Son, Jesus Christ.  
Through Him we offer you our souls and bodies  
to be a living sacrifice.  
Send us out in the power of your Spirit  
to live and work to your praise and glory. Amen**

BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

May God himself, the God of peace, make you perfect and holy,  
and keep you safe and blameless, in spirit, soul and body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus  
Christ;  
and the blessing ...

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

HYMN *Charles Wesley (1707-1788)*

**1. Lo, he comes with clouds descending,  
once for favoured sinners slain;  
thousand, thousand saints attending  
swell the triumph of his train:  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!  
God appears on earth to reign.**

