

Holy Communion

Last Sunday before Advent

November 23rd, 2025



The Greeting

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you **and also with you.**

HYMN O come, O come Emmanuel Words: JM Neale, Music: C Mawby

O come, O come, Emmanuel, / and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here / until the Son of God appear.

O come, Thou Dayspring come and cheer/ our spirits by Thine advent here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadows put to flight.

Refrain Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel,
Shall come to you, O Israel.

O come, Desire of nations, bind / all peoples in one heart and mind;
Bid envy, strife and quarrels cease,
Fill the whole world with Heaven's peace. *Refrain x 2*

Prayer of Preparation

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden: 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.

Prayers of Penitence

Jesus says, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.'
So let us turn away from sin and turn to Christ, confessing our sins in penitence and faith. *Cf Matthew 4:17*

The kingdom is yours, but we turn away from your just rule:
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

The power is yours, but we trust in our own power and strength:
Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

The glory is yours, but we fall short of the glory of God:
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

The absolution.

Gloria

Words and Music: Donna Adkins & Colin Mawby

Father, we love You / We worship and adore You
Glorify Your name in all the earth /
Glorify Your name / Glorify Your name
Glorify Your name in all the earth
Jesus, we love You ... Spirit, we love You ...

The Collect Prayer (Last Sunday before Advent – Christ the King)

Eternal Father, whose Son Jesus Christ ascended to the throne of heaven that he might rule over all things as Lord and King: keep the Church in the unity of the Spirit and in the bond of peace, and bring the whole created order to worship at his feet; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Liturgy of the Word

Epistle Reading: Colossians 1:9-20

Thanksgiving and Prayer for the Son of God and His People

1:⁹ For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you. We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives, ¹⁰ so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, ¹¹ being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, ¹² and giving joyful thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of his holy people in the kingdom of light. ¹³ For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, ¹⁴ in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. ¹⁵ The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. ¹⁶ For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. ¹⁷ He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸ And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. ¹⁹ For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, ²⁰ and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.

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

SONG Come and See

Words & Music: Graham Kendrick

Come and see, come and see,
Come and see the King of love;
See the purple robe and crown of thorns he wears.
Soldiers mock, rulers sneer as he lifts the cruel cross;
Lone and friendless now, he climbs towards the hill.

Chorus: We worship at your feet,
Where wrath and mercy meet,
And a guilty world is washed by love's pure stream.
For us he was made sin
Oh help me take it in.
Deep wounds of love cry out 'Father, forgive.'
I worship, I worship the lamb who was slain.

Come and weep, come and mourn
For your sin that pierced him there;
So much deeper than the wounds of thorn and nail.
All our pride, all our greed,
All our fallenness and shame;
And the Lord has laid the punishment on him. *Chorus*

Man of heav'n, born to earth
To restore us to your heav'n.
Here we bow in awe beneath your searching eyes.
From your tears comes our joy,
From your death our life shall spring;
By your resurrection power we shall rise. *Chorus*

Gospel: Luke 23:33-43 (NIV) *Words from the Cross*

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke:

Glory to you, O Lord.

23:³³ When they came to the place called the Skull, they crucified him there, along with the criminals – one on his right, the other on his left. ³⁴ Jesus said, 'Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.' And they divided up his clothes by casting lots. ³⁵ The people stood watching, and the rulers even sneered at him. They said, 'He saved others; let him save himself if he is God's Messiah, the Chosen One.' ³⁶ The soldiers also came up and mocked him. They offered him wine vinegar ³⁷ and said, 'If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself.' ³⁸ There was

a written notice above him, which read: this is the king of the jews. ³⁹ One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him: 'Aren't you the Messiah? Save yourself and us!' ⁴⁰ But the other criminal rebuked him. 'Don't you fear God,' he said, 'since you are under the same sentence? ⁴¹ We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong.' ⁴² Then he said, 'Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.' ⁴³ Jesus answered him, 'Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise.'

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

Sermon

SONG This is Amazing Grace Words & Music: P Wickham, J Riddle & J Farro

Who breaks the power of sin and darkness?
Whose love is mighty and so much stronger?
The King of glory, the King above all kings
Who shakes the whole earth with holy thunder?
And leaves us breathless in awe and wonder?
The King of glory, the King above all kings

Chorus This is amazing grace / This is unfailing love
That You would take my place
That You would bear my cross
You laid down Your life / That I would be set free
Oh, Jesus, I sing for / All that You've done for me

Who brings our chaos back into order?
Who makes the orphans a son and daughter?
The King of glory, the King of glory

Who rules the nations with truth and justice
Shines like the sun in all of its brilliance
The King of glory, the King above all kings *Chorus*

Worthy is the Lamb who was slain
Worthy is the King who conquered the grave
Worthy is the Lamb who was slain
Worthy is the King who conquered the grave
Worthy is the Lamb who was slain
Worthy is the King who conquered the grave
Worthy is the Lamb who was slain

Worthy, worthy, worthy *Chorus*

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,
was incarnate from 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 Intercession

This response may be used Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

And at the end

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

The Peace

To crown all things there must be love, to bind all together and
complete the whole. Let the peace of Christ rule in our hearts.

Colossians 3.14,15

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

Preparation of the Table

HYMN Dear Lord and Father of mankind

Words: John Greenleaf Whittier; Music: Charles HH Parry

Dear Lord and Father of mankind, / forgive our foolish ways!
Re-clothe us in our rightful mind, / in purer lives thy service find,
in deeper reverence, praise; / in deeper reverence, praise.

In simple trust like theirs who heard, / beside the Syrian sea,
the gracious calling of the Lord, / let us like them, without a word,
rise up and follow thee, / rise up and follow thee.

O Sabbath rest by Galilee! / O calm of hills above,
where Jesus knelt to share with thee / the silence of eternity,
interpreted by love, / interpreted by love.

Drop thy still dews of quietness, / till all our strivings cease;
take from our souls the strain and stress,
and let our ordered lives confess
the beauty of thy peace; / the beauty of thy peace.

Breathe through the heats of our desire / thy coolness and thy balm;
let sense be dumb, let flesh retire;
speak through the earthquake, wind, and fire,
O still, small voice of calm; / O still, small voice of calm.

Taking of the Bread and Wine

The Lord is here:	His Spirit is with us.
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, our duty and our joy, that we should always sing of your glory, holy Father, almighty and eternal God, through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord. For you are the hope of the nations, the builder of the city that is to come. Your love made visible in Jesus Christ brings home the lost, restores the sinner and gives dignity to the despised. In his face your light shines out, flooding lives with goodness and truth, gathering into one in your kingdom a divided and broken humanity. Therefore with all who can give voice in your creation we glorify your 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.**

We praise and bless you, loving Father, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; and as we obey his command, send your Holy Spirit, that broken bread and wine outpoured may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper with his friends and, taking bread, he praised you. He broke the bread, gave it to them and said: Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine. Again he praised you, gave it to them and said: 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.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did, in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice made once for all upon the cross. Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation, we proclaim his death and resurrection until he comes in glory.

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

Lord of all life, help us to work together for that day when your kingdom comes and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth. Look with favour on your people, gather us in your loving arms and bring us with all the saints to feast at your table in heaven. Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father, for ever and ever. **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.
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.

Communion is shared.

After the post-communion prayer.

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.

NOTICES

HYMN Christ be our Light

Words & Music: Bernadette Farrell

Longing for light, we wait in darkness.

Longing for truth, we turn to you.

Make us your own, your holy people,/ light for the world to see.

Chorus Christ, be our light!

Shine in our hearts, shine through the darkness.

Christ, be our light! shine in your church gathered today.

Longing for peace, our world is troubled./ Longing for hope, many despair.

Your word alone has pow'r to save us./ Make us your living voice.

Chorus

Longing for food, many are hungry./ Longing for water, many still thirst.

Make us your bread, broken for others,/ shared until all are fed.

Chorus

Longing for shelter, many are homeless./ Longing for warmth, many are cold.

Make us your building, sheltering others,/ walls made of living stone.

Chorus

Many the gifts, many the people,/ many the hearts that yearn to belong.

Let us be servants to one another,/ making your kingdom come.

Chorus

Blessing

Christ our King make you faithful and strong to do his will,
that you may reign with him in glory; 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.

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Morning worship:

2nd Sundays, Morning Prayer/Service of the Word at 10:30 am;

4th Sundays (Holy Communion) at 10:30 am, all at St Maarten-langs-de-weg (Oud Katholieke Kerk), Witte de Withstraat, 2, Groningen.

Web-site: <http://gracechurchgroningen.com/>; Facebook (Grace Church Groningen).

Chaplain: the Ven Sam Van Leer, Mon-Wed-Fri, chaplaingracechurchgn@gmail.com or 050 785 0703.

Safeguarding Officer: Debbie Kramer; gracesafeguarding@gmail.com

Safeguarding in Grace Church: <https://gracechurchgroningen.com/caring/safeguarding/>

Diocese: <https://www.europe.anglican.org/resources/safeguarding-diocese-europe>

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Our worship services and ministry in Groningen are made possible by people voluntarily offering their time, talents and financial support. As God has blessed us, so we thank Him by giving accordingly. To help support Grace Church, there is an opportunity to put an offering in the collection basket during the service or near the exit afterwards.

It is also possible to donate by electronic transfer to
Grace Church (Groningen Anglican Church),
account: NL 67 RABO 03012946 23. Or with this QR code:



Grace Church Forthcoming Services & Activities:

- Sunday 14 December, 10:30: Grace Service of Lessons & Carols, Old Catholic Church.
- Thursday 25 December (Christmas), 10:30: All Age Grace Christmas Service (with Holy Communion), Old Catholic Church.
- Sunday 11 January, 10:30: Grace Service of the Word, Old Catholic Church.
- Sunday 25 January, 10:30: Grace Holy Communion, Old Catholic Church.

For info on Home Groups, Bible Study gatherings & other events, please do ask us!

Movie Nights: 28 Nov & 10 Dec, at 19:30, SKLO Bldg (Kraneweg 33, 9718 JE Groningen)