

Holy Communion

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 22nd, 2024



Grac⁺ε
GRONINGEN ANGLICAN CHURCH

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.

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

O come, O Rod of Jesse's stem, / from every foe deliver them
that trust your mighty power to save,
and give them victory o'er the grave. *Refrain*

O come, O Dayspring from on high, / and cheer us by your drawing nigh;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadow put to flight. *Refrain*

O come, Desire of nations, bind / in one the hearts of humankind;
O bid our sad divisions cease,
and be for us our Prince of Peace. *Refrain*

Lighting of Advent Wreath

Lord Jesus, light of the world, blessed is Gabriel, who brought good news; blessed is Mary, your mother and ours. Bless your Church preparing for Christmas; and bless us your children, who long for your coming. Amen.

Prayers of Penitence

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. *cf 1 Corinthians 4.5*

Heavenly Father, you exalted the humble and meek: give us humble and contrite hearts. Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you grew towards birth in the Virgin's womb: be planted also in our hearts and lives.

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

Holy Spirit, you overshadowed Mary, that she might become the God-bearer: fill us with your heavenly gifts.

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

The absolution.

Collect Prayer (4th Sunday of Advent)

God our redeemer, who prepared the Blessed Virgin Mary to be the mother of your Son: grant that, as she looked for his coming as our saviour, so we may be ready to greet him when he comes again as our judge; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

SONG **In ons hart geboren** Words: Roeland Smith; Music: Adrian Roest

Refrain: Jezus word vandaag en elke dag in ons hart geboren
God dichtbij als nooit tevoren
O Jezus word vandaag en elke dag opnieuw
in ons hart geboren

Maak ons Uw voeten / Maak ons Uw handen
Laat ons leven een teken van Uw liefde zijn *Refrain*

Maak ons Uw oren / Maak ons Uw lippen
Laat ons leven een teken van Uw liefde zijn *Refrain*

The Liturgy of the Word

Micah 5:2-5a (NIV) *A promised ruler from Bethlehem*

5:²‘But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times.’ ³Therefore Israel will be abandoned until the time when she who is in labour bears a son, and the rest of his brothers return to join the Israelites. ⁴He will stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they will live securely, for then his greatness will reach to the ends of the earth. ⁵And he will be our peace
This is the Word of the Lord: **Thanks be to God.**

Hebrews 10:5-10 (NIV) *Christ’s sacrifice once for all*

10:⁵Therefore, when Christ came into the world, he said: ‘Sacrifice and offering you did not desire, but a body you prepared for me; ⁶with burnt offerings and sin offerings you were not pleased. ⁷Then I said, “Here I am – it is written about me in the scroll I have come to do your will, my God.”’ ⁸First he said, ‘Sacrifices and offerings, burnt offerings and sin offerings you did not desire, nor were you pleased with them’ – though they were offered in accordance with the law. ⁹Then he said, ‘Here I am, I have come to do your will.’ He sets aside the first to establish the second. ¹⁰And by that will, we have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.
This is the Word of the Lord: **Thanks be to God.**

SONG Mary did you know Words & Music: Buddy Greene & Mark Lowry

Mary did you know / That your baby boy
Would one day walk on water
Mary did you know / That your baby boy
Would save our sons and daughters
Did you know / That your baby boy
Has come to make you new
This Child that you delivered / Will soon deliver you
Mary did you know / That your baby boy
Would give sight to the blind man
Mary did you know / That your baby boy
Would calm a storm with His hand
Did you know / That your baby boy
Has walked where angels trod
And when you kiss your little baby / You've kissed the face of God

Bridge The blind will see / The deaf will hear
The dead will live again
The lame will leap / The dumb will speak
The praises of the Lamb

Oh Mary did you know / That your baby boy
Is Lord of all creation
Mary did you know / That your baby boy
Will one day rule the nations
Did you know / That your baby boy / Is heaven's perfect Lamb
And the sleeping Child you're holding / Is the great- I- Am

Luke 1:39-55 (NIV) *Mary visits Elizabeth*

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

1:³⁹ At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea, ⁴⁰ where she entered Zechariah's home and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹ When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. ⁴² In a loud voice she exclaimed: 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! ⁴³ But why am I so favoured, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? ⁴⁴ As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵ Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfil his promises to her!' ⁴⁶ And Mary said:

'My soul glorifies the Lord ⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour, ⁴⁸ for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed, ⁴⁹ for the Mighty One has done great things for me – holy is his name. ⁵⁰ His mercy extends to those who fear him, from generation to generation. ⁵¹ He has performed mighty deeds with his arm; he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts. ⁵² He has brought down rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the humble. ⁵³ He has filled the hungry with good things but has sent the rich away empty. ⁵⁴ He has helped his servant Israel, remembering to be merciful ⁵⁵ to Abraham and his descendants for ever, just as he promised our ancestors.'

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

Sermon

Affirmation of Faith (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, 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

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.

Preparation of the Table

SONG **There is a longing** Words & Music: Anne Quigley

Chorus There is a longing in our hearts, O Lord,
 for you to reveal yourself to us.
 There is a longing in our hearts for love
 we only find in you, our God.

For justice, for freedom, for mercy: hear our prayer.

In sorrow, in grief, be near, hear our prayer, O God. *Chorus*

For wisdom, for courage, for comfort: hear our prayer.

In weakness, in fear, be near, hear our prayer, O God. *Chorus*

For healing, for wholeness, for new life: hear our prayer.

In sickness, in death, be near, hear our prayer, O God. *Chorus*

Lord save us, take pity, light in our darkness.

We call you, we wait, be near, hear our prayer. *Chorus*

Taking of the Bread and Wine **(Prayer E)**

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 and good to give you thanks and praise, almighty God and everlasting Father, through Jesus Christ your Son. He is the one foretold by all the prophets, whom the Virgin Mother bore with love beyond all telling. John the Baptist was his herald and made him known when at last he came. In his love Christ fills us with joy as we prepare to celebrate his birth, so that when he comes again he may find us watching in prayer, our hearts filled with wonder and praise. And so, with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we proclaim your glory, and join in their unending hymn of praise:

**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.**

Awaiting his coming in glory, 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.**

SONG I speak Jesus Words & Music: J Reeves, D Smith, A Benton, C Prince & R Pratt

I just want to speak the Name of Jesus
Over ev'ry heart and ev'ry mind
'Cause I know there is peace within Your presence / I speak Jesus

I just want to speak the Name of Jesus
'Til ev'ry dark addiction starts to break
Declaring there is hope and there is freedom / I speak Jesus

Chorus ('Cause) Your Name is power / Your Name is healing
Your Name is life / Break ev'ry stronghold
Shine through the shadows / Burn like a fire

I just want to speak the Name of Jesus
Over fear and all anxiety
To ev'ry soul held captive by depression / I speak Jesus
Shout Jesus from the mountains / Jesus in the streets
Jesus in the darkness over ev'ry enemy
Jesus for my fam'ly / I speak the holy Name Jesus

NOTICES

HYMN Tell out my soul Words: T Dudey-Smith, Music: W Greatorex

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord!
Unnumbered blessings, give my spirit voice;
Tender to me the promise of his word;
In God my Saviour shall my heart rejoice.

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his name!
Make known his might, the deeds his arm has done;
His mercy sure, from age to age the same;
His holy name - the Lord, the Mighty One.

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his might!
Powers and dominions lay their glory by.
Proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight,
The hungry fed, the humble lifted high.

Tell out, my soul, the glories of his word!
Firm is his promise, and his mercy sure.
Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord!
To children's children and for evermore!

Blessing

May God the Father, who loved the world so much that he sent his only Son, give you grace to prepare for life eternal. **Amen.**

May God the Son, who comes to us as redeemer and judge, reveal to you the path from darkness to light. **Amen.**

May God the Holy Spirit, by whose working the Virgin Mary conceived the Christ, help you bear the fruits of holiness. **Amen.**

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.



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:

- Wednesday 25 December, 10:30: All Age Grace Christmas Service (with Holy Communion), Old Catholic Church.
- Sunday 5 January, 17:00: Grace & Martini International Service, Martinikerk.
- Sunday 12 January, 10:30: Grace Service of the Word (Baptism), Old Catholic Church.
- Sunday 26 January, 10:30: Grace Holy Communion, Old Catholic Church.

Movie Nights: January 17th: t.b.a.; January 31st: Merchants of Doubt. SKLO Bldg.

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