



EVENING PRAYER

ADVENT

Waiting to be fed



Newbury, St George & St John

**Welcome to Evening Prayer
with St George the Martyr Wash Common and
St. John the Evangelist, Newbury.**

From earliest times, Christians gathered at regular hours during each day and night to respond to God's word with praise on behalf of all creation and with intercession for the salvation of the world.

Advent is a season of expectation and preparation, as the Church prepares to celebrate the birth of Jesus, the coming of Christ, and also looks ahead to the fulfilment of God's purposes. The Advent season falls at the darkest time of the year and the natural symbols of darkness and light are power reminders of the presence of God dwells in the darkest of places.

We invite you to participate with us in this service as part of the Churches Liturgical season of Advent. The prayers are very simple to follow, and there will be a short reflection too.

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Newbury, St George & St John

The Greeting

A candle is lit.

The officiant says:

Jesus Christ is the light of the world:
a light no darkness can quench.

Stay with us, Lord, for it is evening:
and the day is almost over.

Even the darkness is not dark for you:
and the night shines like the day.

Let the light scatter the darkness:
and fill your Church with your glory.

Blessed are you, Lord God, creator of day and night:
to you be praise and glory for ever.

As darkness falls you renew your promise
to reveal among us the light of your presence.

By the light of Christ, your living Word,
dispel the darkness of our hearts

that we may walk as children of light
and sing your praise throughout the world.

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit:
Blessed be God for ever.

That this evening may be holy, good and peaceful,
let us pray with one heart and mind.

Silence is kept.

As our evening prayer rises before you, O God,
so may your mercy come down upon us
to cleanse our hearts
and set us free to sing your praise
now and for ever.

Amen.

The Word of God

First Scripture Reading *Isaiah 25. 6-10a*

*On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples
a feast of rich food, a feast of well-matured wines,
of rich food filled with marrow, of well-matured wines strained clear.*

*And he will destroy on this mountain
the shroud that is cast over all peoples,
the sheet that is spread over all nations;
he will swallow up death for ever.*

*Then the Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces,
and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth,
for the Lord has spoken.*

*It will be said on that day,
Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us.
This is the Lord for whom we have waited;
let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.*

For the hand of the Lord will rest on this mountain.

A Song of the Spirit *may be said*

Refrain:

Surely, I am coming soon.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

Behold, I am coming soon', says the Lord,
'and bringing my reward with me, •
to give to everyone according to their deeds.

2 'I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, •
the beginning and the end.'

3 Blessed are those who do God's commandments,
that they may have the right to the tree of life, •
and may enter into the city through the gates.

4 'I, Jesus, have sent my angel to you, •
with this testimony for all the churches.

5 'I am the root and the offspring of David, •
I am the bright morning star.'

6 'Come!' say the Spirit and the Bride; •
'Come!' let each hearer reply!

7 Come forward, you who are thirsty, •
let those who desire take the water of life as a gift.

Refrain:

Revelation 22.12–14, 16, 17

**Surely I am coming soon.
Amen. Come Lord Jesus!**

Second Scripture Reading

Gospel Reading

Matthew 15. 29-37

After Jesus had left that place, he passed along the Sea of Galilee, and he went up the mountain, where he sat down. Great crowds came to him, bringing with them the lame, the maimed, the blind, the mute, and many others. They put them at his feet, and he cured them, so that the crowd was amazed when they saw the mute speaking, the maimed whole, the lame walking, and the blind seeing. And they praised the God of Israel. Then Jesus called his disciples to him and said, 'I have compassion for the crowd, because they have been with me now for three days and have nothing to eat; and I do not want to send them away hungry, for they might faint on the way.'

The disciples said to him, 'Where are we to get enough bread in the desert to feed so great a crowd?' Jesus asked them, 'How many loaves have you?' They said, 'Seven, and a few small fish.' Then ordering the crowd to sit down on the ground, he took the seven loaves and the fish; and after giving thanks he broke them and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. And all of them ate and were filled; and they took up the broken pieces left over, seven baskets full.

Short Reflective Homily

Followed by a period of reflection

This responsory may follow

Lord, you will guide me with your counsel
and afterwards receive me with glory.

**Lord, you will guide me with your counsel
and afterwards receive me with glory.**

For I am always with you;
you hold me by my right hand.

And afterwards receive me with glory.

from Psalm 73

Gospel Canticle

The Magnificat (The Song of Mary) is normally said,

Refrain:

**Lord Jesus, you are the one who is to come,
the one whom we await with longing hearts.**

1 My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour; •
he has looked with favour on his lowly servant.

2 From this day all generations will call me blessed; •
the Almighty has done great things for me
and holy is his name.

3 He has mercy on those who fear him, •
from generation to generation.

4 He has shown strength with his arm •
and has scattered the proud in their conceit,

5 Casting down the mighty from their thrones •
and lifting up the lowly.

6 He has filled the hungry with good things •
and sent the rich away empty.

7 He has come to the aid of his servant Israel, •
to remember his promise of mercy,

8 The promise made to our ancestors, •
to Abraham and his children for ever.

Luke 1.46-55

**Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

Refrain:

**Lord, Jesus, you are the one who is to come,
The one whom we await with longing hearts.**

Prayers

The response below may be used at the end of each bidding.

Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Followed by the Collect

Almighty God,
As your kingdom dawns,
turn us from the darkness of sin to the light of holiness,
that we may be ready to meet you in the Christ Child
in our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

The Lord's Prayer *is said*

As our Saviour has 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.**

Closing Responses

Jesus Christ is the light of the world:
a light no darkness can quench.

Stay with us Lord, it is evening:
and the day is almost over.

The darkness is not dark to you:
the night is as bright as the day.

Let your light scatter the darkness:
and fill your church with your glory.

Let us bless the Lord
Thanks be to God.

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