

~ **Act of Contrition** ~

I confess to almighty God, & to you, my brothers & sisters, that I have greatly sinned, in my thoughts and in my words through my own fault in my thoughts & in my words, in what I have done and in what I have failed to do, through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault; therefore I ask blessed Mary, ever-virgin, all the Angels & Saints, and you, my brothers & sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God.

LORD OF LIGHT, surround us with your brightness, deliver us from the powers of darkness. In your light, may we see light: the light of your grace, the light of your goodness, the light of your glory.

Be about us and within us, that we may live as people of the light, people of the day and not of darkness. Let your light guide us in our perplexities, enlighten us in our sorrow, and surround us in our dangers.

Lord of light, Light of the world, fill us with your light.

~ **Prayer of Thanksgiving** ~

Almighty & merciful God, how wonderfully you created man & woman & still more wonderfully recreated them. You do not abandon us but seek us out with a father's love. You sent your Son into the world to destroy sin & death by his passion, & to restore life & joy by his resurrection. You sent the Holy Spirit into our hearts to make us your children & heirs of your kingdom. You constantly renew our spirit in the sacraments of your redeeming love, freeing us from slavery to sin & transforming us ever more closely into the likeness of your beloved Son. We thank you for the wonders of your mercy, & with heart & hand & voice we join with the whole Church in a new song of praise: Glory to you through Christ in the Holy Spirit, now & for ever.

Closing Hymn: ***O Come, O Come, Emmanuel***

Advent Reconciliation Service **2020**



Opening Hymn: ***Here in this place***

~ **Opening Prayer** ~

Loving and Almighty Father, you have brought us together in the name of your Son to receive your mercy and grace. Where sin has divided and scattered, may your love make us one again; where sin has brought weakness, may your power heal and strengthen; where sin has brought death, may your Spirit raise to new life. Give us a new heart to love you. May the world see the glory of Christ revealed in our lives, and come to know that he is the one whom you have sent, Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.

Hosea 11: 1-4

When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called my son. But the more they were called, the more they went away from me. They sacrificed to the Baals and they burned incense to images. It was I who taught Ephraim to walk, taking them by the arms; but they did not realize it was I who healed them. I led them with cords of human kindness, with ties of love. To them I was like one who lifts a little child to the cheek, and I bent down to feed them.

Hymn: *As the deer pants for the water*

Luke 15: 11-32

Jesus continued: "There was a man who had two sons. The younger one said to his father, 'Father, give me my share of the estate.' So he divided his property between them. Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living.

After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything. When he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.' So he got up and went to his father.

But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him. The son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his servants, 'Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and

celebrate. For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' So they began to celebrate.

Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on. 'Your brother has come,' he replied, 'and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.' The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him. But he answered his father, 'Look! All these years I've been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!' 'My son,' the father said, 'you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.'"

~ Examination of Conscience ~

Lord we reject your love ~ When we fail to see you in creation

Lord we reject your love ~ When we no longer seek your ways

Lord we reject your love ~ When we no longer call you Father

*Lord we reject your love ~ When we no longer see you in the
needs of our neighbour*

*Lord we reject your love ~ When we are content with
conflict & division*

*Lord we reject your love ~ When we seek our own ends at
the expense of our neighbour*

*Lord we reject your love ~ When we no longer treat our bodies
as temples of your Spirit*

*Lord we reject your love ~ When we bury the gifts & talents
you have given to us.*

*Lord we reject your love ~ When we no longer draw close to
you in prayer*

