A Eucharist on the First Sunday of Advent

The Gathering

The Greeting

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

The light and peace of Jesus Christ be with you and also with you.

The president welcomes everyone and introduces the service

Hymn

Come, thou long-expected Jesus born to set thy people free; from our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in thee.

Israel’s strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art; dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver; born a child and yet a king; born to reign in us for ever; now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal Spirit,  
rule in all our hearts alone:  
by thy all-sufficient merit,  
raise us to thy glorious throne.

Charles Wesley 1707-88  
Tune CROSS OF JESUS John Stainer 1840-1901

Everyone says

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

When the Lord comes,  
he will bring to light things now hidden in darkness,  
and will disclose the purposes of the heart.

Therefore in the light of Christ let us confess our sins.

Silence is kept

In a dark and disfigured world  
we have not held out the light of life.  
Lord, have mercy,  
Lord, have mercy,

Silence is kept
In a hungry and despairing world
we have failed to share our bread.
Christ, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

*Silence is kept*

In a cold and loveless world,
we have kept the love of God to ourselves.
Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

*Silence is kept before the president says the absolution*

May almighty God,
who sent his Son into the world to save sinners,
bring you his pardon and peace,
now and for ever.

**Amen.**

**The Collect**

*The president prays the collect for the day, in its original form from the Book of Common Prayer*

ALMIGHTY God,
gegive us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness,
and put upon us the armour of light,
now in the time of this mortal life,
in which thy Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility;
that in the last day,
when he shall come again in his glorious Majesty,
to judge both the quick and the dead,
we may rise to the life immortal;
through him who liveth and reigneth
with thee and the Holy Spirit, now and ever.

**Amen.**
O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, 
so that the mountains would quake at your presence—
2 as when fire kindles brushwood 
and the fire causes water to boil—
to make your name known to your adversaries, 
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!
3 When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, 
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.
4 From ages past no one has heard, 
no ear has perceived, 
no eye has seen any God besides you, 
who works for those who wait for him.
5 You meet those who gladly do right, 
those who remember you in your ways.

But you were angry, and we sinned; 
because you hid yourself we transgressed.
6 We have all become like one who is unclean, 
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.
We all fade like a leaf, 
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.
7 There is no one who calls on your name, 
or attempts to take hold of you; 
for you have hidden your face from us, 
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.
8 Yet, O LORD, you are our Father; 
we are the clay, and you are our potter; 
we are all the work of your hand.
9 Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD, 
and do not remember iniquity forever. 
Now consider, we are all your people. 

Isaiah 64.1-9

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

The Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! 
Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight, 
and all flesh shall see the salvation of God. 

cf Isaiah 40.3-5

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

The Gospel Reading

The reader announces

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark 
Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said

24 “But in those days, after that suffering, 
the sun will be darkened, 
and the moon will not give its light, 
25 and the stars will be falling from heaven, 
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. 
26 Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. 
27 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.
“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. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

“But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.

Mark 13.24-32

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

The Sermon

The Affirmation of Faith

The president says

Let us affirm our common faith in Jesus Christ.

Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God almighty, who was, and is, and is to come.

We believe in God the Father, who created all things: for by his will they were created and have their being.

We believe in God the Son, who was slain: for with his blood he purchased us for God, from every tribe and language, from every people and nation.

We believe in God the Holy Spirit: the Spirit and the Bride say, ‘Come!’ Even so come, Lord Jesus! Amen.
The Prayers of Intercession

The prayers end

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

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

The Peace

The president introduces the Peace, ending

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

The Offertory

The table is prepared

Material here about giving
The Anthem

Come, O Blessed Lord, Thou Light of Life
Unto Thee O Lord do we lift up our souls.

Come, O blessed Lord, Thou Light of life,
Do Thou lead and ever guide us.
Come, O blessed Lord, Thou Bread of life
Do Thou feed and ever strengthen us.
Come, O blessed Lord, Thou Fount of life,
Do Thou revive and ever refresh us.

Glory be unto Thee the Father Almighty,
Glory be to Thee for ever and for ever.

Alleluia!

*English text of unknown origin, the music originally a setting of Ныне Силы Небесныя (Now the heavenly powers) a Russian Orthodox Eucharistic hymn for Lent, by Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky 1840-1893.*

*Recorded Sunday 3 December 2017*

Prayer at the Preparation of the Table

The president prays

Look upon us in mercy not in judgement;
draw us from hatred to love;
make the frailty of our praise a dwelling place for your glory.

Amen.
The Eucharistic Prayer

The president leads, and everyone responds

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.

The president praises God for his mighty acts and the choir sings

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts,
heaven and earth are full of thy glory.
Glory be to thee, O Lord most high. Amen.

Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

From Communion Setting in F by Herbert Sumson 1899-1995

The president recalls the Last Supper, and this acclamation is used

Praise to you, Lord Jesus:
Dying, you destroyed our death,
Rising, you restored our life:
Lord Jesus, come in glory.

The Prayer continues and leads into the doxology, and everyone sings

Honour, glory, might, and blessing
to the Father and the Son,
with the everlasting Spirit,
while eternal ages run.
Amen.
The Lord’s Prayer

The president says

Awaiting the coming of the kingdom,
let us pray with confidence as our Saviour taught us

Our Father,
who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come; thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.

Breaking of the Bread

The president breaks the consecrated bread

Every time we eat this bread and drink this cup,
we proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.

Invitation to Communion

Spiritual Communion
Agnus Dei

The Choir sings

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.
O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.
O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, grant us thy peace.

The Prayers after Communion

The president prays this prayer

O Lord our God,
mke 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.

Hymn

Lo, he comes with clouds descending,
once for favoured sinners slain;
thousand thousand saints attending
swell the triumph of his train:
Alleluia!
Christ appears on earth to reign.
Every eye shall now behold him
robed in dreadful majesty;
those who set at naught and sold him,
pierced and nailed him to the Tree,
deeply wailing,
shall the true messiah see.

Those dear tokens of his passion
still his dazzling body bears,
cause of endless exultation
to his ransomed worshippers:
with what rapture
gaze we on those glorious scars!

Yea, Amen, let all adore thee,
high on thine eternal throne;
Saviour, take the power and glory,
claim the kingdom for thine own:
Alleluia!
shalt reign, and thou alone.

Charles Wesley 1707-88 and John Cennick 1718-55
Tune HELMSLEY melody by Thomas Olivers 1725-1799

The Dismissal

The president gives the blessing, ending

The Blessing

… and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.
Amen.
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Other material was written by Canon Adrian Daffern.