



# St EDWARD

## KING & MARTYR

17 December 2023 / Third Sunday of Advent

### **Welcome to St Edward's!**

*We hope you are blessed by your time with us and we look forward to seeing you again. There is an Induction Loop in the Nave for those using a hearing aid and wheelchair access available at the West door. The toilet is available in the vestry, with an additional parent and child area for those with infants and toddlers if needed. Children are always welcome in service and will find books and activities in the back of the church.*

‘Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.’

*Isaiah 7.14*

**Hymn 26** – O Come, O Come Emmanuel (vv. 1 & 4)

## **Welcome & Greeting**

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

**And also with you.**

The light shines in the darkness.

**And the darkness has never put it out.**

A voice cries out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord'. So let us listen and turn to the Lord in penitence and faith.

## **Confession** *(Please sit or kneel)*

Turn to us again, O God our Saviour, and let your anger cease from us: Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Show us your compassion, O Lord, and grant us your salvation: Christ, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

Your salvation is near for those that fear you, that glory may dwell in our land: Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

## **Absolution**

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in life eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## **The Collect**

**O Lord Jesus Christ, who at your first coming sent your messenger to prepare your way before you: grant that the ministers and stewards of your mysteries may likewise so prepare and make ready your way by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, that at your second coming to judge the world we may be found an acceptable people in your sight; for you are alive and reign with the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.**

## **The Lighting of the Advent Wreath**

**Hymn 484** – Long Ago Prophets Knew (v. 3)

## **Old Testament Lesson** (Isaiah 61.1-4, 8-11)

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; 2 to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; 3 to provide for those who mourn in Zion – to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, to display his glory. 4 They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations. 8 For I the Lord love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. 9 Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the Lord has blessed. *(cont'd overleaf)*

10 I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being shall exult in my Go; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

11 For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

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



### **Psalm 126** (*Please remain seated as the psalm is sung*)

- 1 When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, then were we like those who dream.
- 2 Then was our mouth filled with laughter and our tongue with songs of joy.
- 3 Then said they among the nations, 'The Lord has done great things for them.'
- 4 The Lord has indeed done great things for us, and therefore we rejoiced.
- 5 Restore again our fortunes, O Lord, as the river beds of the desert.
- 6 Those who sow in tears shall reap with songs of joy.
- 7 Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed, will come back with shouts of joy, bearing their sheaves with them.

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

## **Gospel** (*We stand as we welcome the Gospel*)

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

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St John (1.6-8, 19-28). **Glory to you, O Lord.**

6 There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. 7 He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. 8 He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

19 This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' 20 He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, 'I am not the Messiah.' 21 And they asked him, 'What then? Are you Elijah?' He said, 'I am not.' 'Are you the prophet?' He answered, 'No.' 22 Then they said to him, 'Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?' 23 He said, 'I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, "Make straight the way of the Lord" ', as the prophet Isaiah said.

24 Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. 25 They asked him, 'Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?' 26 John answered them, 'I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, 27 the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.' 28 This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

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

**Sermon** 'A Voice Crying In The Wilderness' – Mark Scarlata

**Affirmation of Faith** *(We stand to declare our faith together)*

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.**

**Prayers of Intercession** *(Please sit or kneel for our intercessions)*

Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

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

**The Peace** *(We stand to share 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.**

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

**Offertory Hymn 31** – Come Thou Long Expected Jesus

## **The Eucharistic Prayer**

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.**

It is indeed right, it is our duty and our joy, at all times and in all places to give you thanks and praise, holy Father, heavenly king, almighty and eternal God, through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord. And now we give you thanks because when he humbled himself to come among us in human flesh, he fulfilled the plan you formed long ago and opened for us the way of salvation. So now we watch for the day, knowing that the salvation promised us will be ours when Christ our Lord will come again in glory. Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we proclaim your great and glorious name, for ever praising you and singing:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.**

Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness; grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit, and according to your holy will, these gifts of bread and wine may be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ; who, in the same night that he was betrayed, took bread and gave you thanks; he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me. *(cont'd overleaf)*

In the same way, after supper he took the cup and gave you thanks; he gave it to them, saying: 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.

Great is the mystery of faith: **Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the cross, his perfect sacrifice made once for the sins of the whole world; rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension, and looking for his coming in glory, we celebrate this memorial of our redemption. As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, we bring before you this bread and this cup and we thank you for counting us worthy to stand in your presence and serve you.

Send the Holy Spirit on your people and gather into one in your kingdom all who share this one bread and one cup, so that we, in the company of St Edward and all the saints, may praise and glorify you for ever, through Jesus Christ our Lord; by whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

### **The Lord's Prayer** *(Please sit or kneel)*

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us:

**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 forever. 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.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace.**

Draw near with faith. Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ which he gave for you, and his blood which he shed for you. Eat and drink in remembrance that he died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

**We do not presume to come to this your table, merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in your manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table. But you are the same Lord whose nature is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ and to drink his blood, that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body and our souls washed through his most precious blood, and that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.**

## **Giving of Communion**

*(All baptised believers are invited to receive communion here. Those who do not receive communion are invited to come forward for a blessing, with their hands downwards on the rail. If you require a gluten-free wafer, please raise one finger.)*

## **Prayer after Communion**

Father of all, we give you thanks and praise, that when we were still far off you met us in your Son and brought us home. Dying and living, he declared your love, gave us grace, and opened the gate of glory. May we who share Christ's body live his risen life; we who drink his cup bring life to others; we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world. Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us, so we and all your children shall be free, and the whole earth live to praise your name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Hymn 27** – On Jordan's Banks (*Please stand*)

## **Notices**

## **Blessing**

Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you, scatter the darkness from before your path, and make you ready to meet him when he comes in glory; and 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.**

Our Lord says, 'I am coming soon.'

**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

May the Lord, when he comes, find us watching and waiting.

**Amen.**

## Notices

### **Upcoming Services:**

Friday 22 December - 10.30am BCP Holy Communion Service

Sunday 24 December - 11am Holy Communion Service

Monday 25 December - 10am Christmas Day Service

Friday 29 December - BCP Morning Prayer

Sunday 31 December - 11am Holy Communion Service

**Advent Asceticism:** During the season of Advent, as we prepare for Christ's coming, we are circulating a list of suggested Christian ascetic practices on our weekly email that encourage prayer, meditation, charity, and good works. (Some hardcopies are also available by the west door.) You may want to take up some/all of these disciplines as we recall the heritage of the Christian church and maintain its ancient patterns to proclaim the gospel afresh to our contemporary culture.

**Charity Clothing Collection:** In the run-up to Christmas, the church will also be collecting clothing & shoes for donation to the Salvation Army second-hand clothes bank for distribution to those unable to afford clothing & shoes for themselves. If you have any clothing or shoes that you would like to donate, please bring them in a bag (bag pairs of shoes separately to clothing) and leave them in the designated location beside the organ.

**Mailing List & Volunteering:** Please sign-up to the mailing list on our website to receive regular updates on what's happening in the life of our church community. The volunteer rota will also be shared via a link on our weekly church email/blog but you can continue to sign-up on the sheet at the church door (if you can do so at least a week in advance that would be most helpful).

**Parish Giving:** We are grateful for all of your gifts! Offerings may be given during the services or for Standing Orders, via BACS [**SORT: 20-17-19 / ACCT #: 30851477 – “St Edwards Vestry Account”**]. There is also a SumUp machine by the door of the church for contactless giving: Power on, enter an amount, and tap your card.

**Contact Details**

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