



# St Paul's Church

Parish Eucharist

7<sup>th</sup> December 2025

**Second Sunday of Advent**



*Welcome to St Paul's! It is a joy to worship with you this morning. Please join in with words printed in **bold**.*

*We stand to sing the **OPENING HYMN (527)***

*We remain standing for THE GREETING*

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

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

*We remain standing for the lighting of the second candle on the Advent Wreath.*

*We remain standing for THE PRAYERS OF PENITENCE.*

*The Priest or Deacon invites us to make our confession.*

**Almighty God, our heavenly Father, we have sinned against you and against our neighbour in thought and word and deed, through negligence, through weakness, through our own deliberate fault. We are truly sorry and repent of all our sins. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, who died for us, forgive us all that is past and grant that we may serve you in newness of life to the glory of your name. Amen.**

*We remain standing to sing the KYRIE ELEISON*

**Lord, have mercy! Lord, have mercy!  
Christ, have mercy! Christ, have mercy!  
Lord, have mercy! Lord, have mercy!**

*The Priest pronounces the absolution, after which we all say  
**Amen.***

*First reading: Isaiah 11:1–11*

*A reading from the book of Isaiah.*

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious. On that day the Lord will extend his hand yet a second time to recover the remnant that is left of his people, from Assyria, from Egypt, from Pathros, from

Ethiopia, from Elam, from Shinar, from Hamath, and from the coastlands of the sea.

*Psalm 72:1–7, 18–19*

**Response: Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous things.**

Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to a king's son. May he judge your people with righteousness, and your poor with justice. **R**

May the mountains yield prosperity for the people, and the hills, in righteousness. May he defend the cause of the poor of the people, give deliverance to the needy, and crush the oppressor. May he live while the sun endures, and as long as the moon, throughout all generations. **R**

May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass, like showers that water the earth. In his days may righteousness flourish and peace abound, until the moon is no more. **R**

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous things. Blessed be his glorious name forever; may his glory fill the whole earth. Amen and Amen. **R**

*Second reading: Romans 15:4–13*

*A reading from the letter to the Romans.*

For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, "Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles, and sing praises to your name"; and again he says, "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people"; and again, "Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him"; and again Isaiah says, "The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the Gentiles; in him the Gentiles shall hope." May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

*We stand for the THE GOSPEL (Matthew 3:1–12)*

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.'" Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and

all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. "I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

*We sit for* THE SERMON

*We stand for* THE 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.**

*We sit or kneel for* THE INTERCESSIONS

Merciful Father, **accept these prayers for the sake of your son, our saviour, Jesus Christ.**

*We stand for* THE PEACE, *then sit to sing the* **OFFERTORY HYMN (128)**

**Yours, Lord, is the greatness, the power, the glory, the splendour, and the majesty; for everything in heaven and on earth is yours. All things come from you, and of your own do we give you.**

*The Priest praises God for their goodness and all respond:* **Blessed be God for ever.**

*We stand and the Priest says:* Pray, my friends, that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father. *To which we all respond:* **May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good, and the good of all his Church.**

*We remain standing for* 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.**

*The Priest says* THE PREFACE *in which God is praised for their mighty acts, after which we sing the* SANCTUS:

**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!**

*The Priest recalls the Last Supper, and this acclamation is said:*

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

*The Prayer continues and concludes with the doxology, to which all respond boldly:* **AMEN.**

*We remain standing for* THE LORD'S PRAYER

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 sin of the world. Have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world. Have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world. Grant us peace.**

Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Blessed are they who are called to his supper. **Lord, I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word, and I shall be healed.**

*Please come forward to receive communion. If you wish to receive a blessing instead, please keep your head bowed and your hands lowered.*

*We sit to sing the* **COMMUNION HYMN (555)**

**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.**

*We stand to sing* THE DOXOLOGY

*We remain standing for* **THE RECESSIONAL HYMN (137)**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord! In the name of Christ. **Amen.**

*Refreshments will be served in the hall after Mass; please come and join us.*

#### NOTICES

*Our regular mid-week bible study and prayer group takes place in the parish office on Wednesday at 10:30. Come and join us for breakfast, prayer, study, and fellowship.*

*Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> December: The Christmas Fayre will take place in the hall from 12pm to 4pm.*

*Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> December: Crib Service at 9.30am followed by the decoration of the church.*

*Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> December: Christmas Carols at 7pm.*