



Saint Matthew's Church
Big Lamp ~ Summerhill Street
Newcastle

**Solemn Evensong and Benediction for Advent Sunday (30th
November) 2025**

The angel of the Lord brought the tidings to Mary:

[And she conceived by the Holy Ghost.](#)

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee; blessed art thou amongst women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.

[Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.](#)

Behold the handmaid of the Lord:

[Be it unto me according to Thy Word.](#)

Hail Mary &c

The Word was made flesh:

[And dwelt among us.](#)

Hail Mary &c

Pray for us, O holy Mother of God:

[That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.](#)

Let us pray:

Pour forth Your Grace into our hearts, we beseech You O Lord, that as we have known the Incarnation of Your Son, Jesus Christ, by the message of an angel, so by His Cross and Passion, we may be brought to the glory of His Resurrection; in and through the same Jesus Christ our Lord.

[Amen.](#)

O Lord, open thou our lips.

And our mouth shall shew forth thy praise.

O God, make speed to save us.

O Lord, make haste to help us.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Praise ye the Lord.

The Lord's Name be praised.

Creator of the stars of night,
Thy people's everlasting light,
O Jesu, Saviour of us all,
Regard Thy servants when they call.

Thou, grieving at the bitter cry
Of all creation doomed to die,
Didst come to save a ruined race
With healing gifts of heavenly grace.

Thou camest, Bridegroom of the bride,
As drew the world to evening-tide,
Proceeding from a virgin shrine,
The Son of Man, yet Lord divine.

At Thy great Name, exalted now,
All knees must bend, all hearts must bow,
And things in Heaven and earth shall own
That Thou art Lord and King alone.

To Thee, O holy One, we pray,
Our Judge in that tremendous day,
Preserve us, while we dwell below,
From every onslaught of the foe.

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All praise, eternal Son, to Thee,
Whose advent sets Thy people free,
Whom with the Father we adore,
And Spirit blest, for evermore.

(44) WE have heard with our ears, O God, our fathers have told us :
what thou hast done in their time of old;

2 How thou hast driven out the heathen with thy hand, and planted
them in : how thou hast destroyed the nations and cast them out.

3 For they gat not the land in possession through their own sword :
neither was it their own arm that helped them;

4 But thy right hand, and thine arm, and the light of thy countenance :
because thou hadst a favour unto them.

5 Thou art my King, O God : send help unto Jacob.

6 Through thee will we overthrow our enemies : and in thy Name will
we tread them under, that rise up against us.

7 For I will not trust in my bow : it is not my sword that shall help
me;

8 But it is thou that savest us from our enemies : and putttest them to
confusion that hate us.

9 We make our boast of God all day long : and will praise thy Name
for ever.

10 But now thou art far off, and putttest us to confusion : and goest
not forth with our armies.

11 Thou makest us to turn our backs upon our enemies : so that they
which hate us spoil our goods.

12 Thou lettest us be eaten up like sheep : and hast scattered us
among the heathen.

13 Thou sellest thy people for nought : and takest no money for them.

14 Thou makest us to be rebuked of our neighbours : to be laughed to
scorn, and had in derision of them that are round about us.

15 Thou makest us to be a by-word among the heathen : and that the
people shake their heads at us.

16 My confusion is daily before me : and the shame of my face hath
covered me;

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17 For the voice of the slanderer and blasphemer: for the enemy and avenger.

18 And though all this be come upon us, yet do we not forget thee : nor behave ourselves frowardly in thy covenant.

19 Our heart is not turned back : neither our steps gone out of thy way;

20 No, not when thou hast smitten us into the place of dragons : and covered us with the shadow of death.

21 If we have forgotten the Name of our God, and holden up our hands to any strange god : shall not God search it out? for he knoweth the very secrets of the heart.

22 For thy sake also are we killed all the day long : and are counted as sheep appointed to be slain.

23 Up, Lord, why sleepest thou : awake, and be not absent from us for ever.

24 Wherefore hidest thou thy face : and forgettest our misery and trouble?

25 For our soul is brought low, even unto the dust : our belly cleaveth unto the ground.

26 Arise, and help us : and deliver us for thy mercy's sake.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

A Reading from the Book of the Prophet Micah.

It shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the house of the LORD shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised up above the hills; and peoples shall flow to it, and many nations shall come, and say: "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and we may walk in his paths." For out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. He shall judge between many peoples, and shall decide for strong nations afar off; and they shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning hooks;

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nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more; but they shall sit every man under his vine and under his fig tree, and none shall make them afraid; for the mouth of the LORD of hosts has spoken. For all the peoples walk each in the name of its god, but we will walk in the name of the LORD our God for ever and ever. In that day, says the LORD, I will assemble the lame and gather those who have been driven away, and those whom I have afflicted; and the lame I will make the remnant; and those who were cast off, a strong nation; and the LORD will reign over them in Mount Zion from this time forth and for evermore.

Here endeth the first lesson.

Shew us Thy mercy, O Lord.

Shew us Thy mercy, O Lord.

And grant us Thy Salvation.

Shew us Thy mercy, O Lord.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost:

Shew us Thy mercy, O Lord.

As the MAGNIFICAT is sung, the Presence of God (signified by the Altar) is honoured with incense.

Lift up thine eyes, O Jerusalem, and see the power of the King: behold the Saviour cometh to loose thee from thy chain.

MY soul doth magnify the Lord : and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.

For he hath regarded : the lowliness of his hand-maiden.

For behold, from henceforth : all generations shall call me blessed.

For he that is mighty hath magnified me : and holy is his Name.

And his mercy is on them that fear him : throughout all generations.

He hath shewed strength with his arm : he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.

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He hath put down the mighty from their seat : and hath exalted the humble and meek.

He hath filled the hungry with good things : and the rich he hath sent empty away.

He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel : as he promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed, for ever.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son : and to the Holy Ghost;

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be : world without end. Amen.

Lift up thine eyes, O Jerusalem, and see the power of the King: behold the Saviour cometh to loose thee from thy chain.

A Reading from the former Letter of Saint Paul to the Church in Thessalonika.

As to the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves know well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. When people say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them as travail comes upon a woman with child, and there will be no escape. But you are not in darkness, brethren, for that day to surprise you like a thief. For you are all sons of light and sons of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober. For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk are drunk at night. But, since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us so that whether we wake or sleep we might live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.

Here endeth the second lesson.

LORD, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace : according to thy word.

For mine eyes have seen : thy salvation;

Which thou hast prepared : before the face of all people;

To be a light to lighten the Gentiles : and to be the glory of thy people Israel.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son : and to the Holy Ghost;

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be : world without end. Amen.

I BELIEVE in God

the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth: And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord, Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, Born of the Virgin Mary, Suffered under Pontius Pilate, Was crucified, dead, and buried: He descended into hell; The third day he rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, And sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; The holy Catholick Church; The Communion of Saints; The Forgiveness of sins;

The Resurrection of the body,
And the Life everlasting. Amen.

The Lord be with you.

And with thy spirit.

Let us pray.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

OUR Father,

which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, in earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; And forgive us our trespasses, As we forgive them that trespass against us;

And lead us not into temptation,

But deliver us from evil. Amen.

O Lord, shew thy mercy upon us.

And grant us thy salvation.

O Lord, save the King.

And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.

Endue thy Ministers with righteousness.

And make thy chosen people joyful.

O Lord, save thy people.

And bless thine inheritance.

Give peace in our time, O Lord.

Because there is none other that fighteth for us, but only thou, O God.

O God, make clean our hearts within us.

And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.

Almighty God, give 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 in the unity of the Holy Ghost, God, throughout all ages world without end.

Amen.

O GOD, from whom all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works do proceed: Give unto thy servants that peace which the world cannot give; that both our hearts may be set to obey thy commandments, and also that by thee we being defended from the fear of our enemies may pass our time in rest and quietness; through the merits of Jesus Christ our Saviour.

Amen.

LIGHTEN our darkness, we beseech thee, O Lord; and by thy great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night; for the love of thy only Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Amen.

The Lord be with you.

And with thy spirit.

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

May the souls of the departed, through the mercy and love of God,
rest in peace.

Amen.

The Altar is prepared for Benediction during the hymn that precedes the Liturgy. A bell rings and the Sacrament is brought to the Altar.

1. Lo! He comes with clouds descending,
Once for favoured sinners slain;
Thousand thousand saints attending
Swell the triumph of His train.
Alleluia ... !
God appears, on earth to reign.

2. 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.

3. Those dear tokens of His Passion
Still His dazzling body bears,
Cause of endless exaltation
To His ransomed worshippers:
With what rapture ...
Gaze we on those glorious scars!

4. Yea, Amen! Let all adore Thee,
High on Thine eternal Throne;
Saviour, take the power and glory:
Claim the Kingdom for Thine own:
O come quickly ...!
Alleluya! Come, Lord, come.

Words: Charles Wesley 1707 - 88

Music: Helmsley

Melody noted in by T Olivers 1725 - 99

Included in Wesley's Select Hymns 1765

The Presence of Christ in the Sacrament is honoured with incense as the following hymn is sung:

O salutaris Hostia,
Quae caeli pandis ostium:
Bella premunt hostilia,
Da robur, fer auxilium.

*O saving Victim, opening wide
The gate of Heaven to man below, Our
foes press hard on every side, Thine aid
supply, Thy strength bestow.*

Uni trinoque Domino
Sit sempiterna gloria,
Qui vitam sine termino
Nobis donet in patria.
Amen.

*All praise and thanks to Thee ascend
For evermore, blest One in Three,
And grant us life that shall not end,
In our true native land with Thee.
Amen.*

A Period of silence follows.

Visita, quæsumus, Dómine,
habitatiónem istam, et omnes
insídias inimíci ab ea longe
repélle: Angeli tui sancti hábitent
in ea, qui nos in pace custódiant;
et benedíctio tua sit super nos
semper. Per Dóminum nostrum
Jesum Christum.

Amen.

*Visit, we beseech Thee, O Lord,
this dwelling and drive far from it
all assaults of the enemy; let Your
holy angels dwell herein that we
may be kept in peace and Your
blessing always rest upon us,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

Amen.

Benedictus Deus.
Benedictum Nomen Sanctum eius
Benedictus Iesus Christus,
verus Deus et verus homo
Benedictum Nomen Iesu
Benedictus Iesus
in sanctissimo altaris Sacramento
Benedictus Sanctus Spiritus,
Paraclitus
Benedictus Deus in Angelis suis,
et in Sanctis suis

*Blessed be God.
Blessed be His holy Name.
Blessed be Jesus Christ, true God
and true man.
Blessed be the Name of Jesus.
Blessed be Jesus in the most holy
Sacrament of the Altar.
Blessed be the Holy Ghost,
the Paraclete.
Blessed be God
in His angels and in His saints.*

Sit Benedicatus laudatusque
sanctificatusque et adoratus Jesus
Christus in cathedram gloriae Suae.
Et in sanctissimo altaris Sacramento

*Blessed, praised, hallowed and
adored be Jesus Christ on His
throne of glory.
And in the most holy Sacrament
of the Altar.*

*The Presence of Christ is then honoured with incense again during the
following hymn:*

Tantum ergo Sacramentum
Veneremur cernui:
Et antiquum documentum
Novo cedat ritui:
Præstet fides supplementum
Sensuum defectui.

*Therefore, we before Him bending,
This great Sacrament revere;
Types and shadows have their ending,
For the newer rite is here;
Faith our outward sense befriending
Makes the inward vision clear.*

Genitori, Genitoque
Laus et Jubilatio,
Salus, honor, virtus quoque
Sit et benedictio:
Procedenti ab utroque
Compar sit laudatio.
Amen.

*Glory let us give and blessing,
To the Father and the Son,
Honour, might and praise addressing
While eternal ages run;
Ever to His love confessing,
Who from Both with Both is One.
Amen.*

Panem do caelo praestitisti eis

*Thou gavest them Bread
from Heaven.*

Omne delectamentum
in se habentem.

Containing in Itself all sweetness.

Oremus:

Let us pray:

Deus, qui nobis sub Sacramento
mirabili Passionis, mortisque et
Resurrectionis gloriosae tuae
memoriam reliquisti; tribue, ita
nos Corporis et Sanguinis tui sacra
mysteria venerari, ut redemptionis
tuae fructum in nobis iugiter
sentiamus: Qui vivis et regnas in
saecula saeculorum.

*O God, Who under a wonderful
Sacrament hast left unto us a
memorial of Thy wonderful
Passion and Death and glorious
Resurrection; grant us so to
venerate the Sacred Mysteries of
Thy Body and Blood that evermore
perceive within ourselves the fruit
of Your Redemption: Who lives
and reigns for ever and ever.*

Amen.

Amen.

*The priest goes to the Altar and gives Benediction, during which a bell
rings three times.*

As the Sacrament is returned to the Tabernacle, all sing:

Adoremus in aeternum
sanctissimum Sacramentum.

*Let us adore for ever
the most holy Sacrament.*

Laudate Dominum omnes gentes :
laudate eum omnes populi.
Quoniam confirmata est super nos
misericordia ejus : et veritas
Domini manet in aeternum.
Gloria Patri et Filio : et Spiritui
Sancto;
Sicut erat in principio, et nunc, et
semper : et in saecula saeculorum.
Amen.

*O praise the Lord all ye nations,
praise Him all ye peoples. Let us
adore for ever the most holy
Sacrament.*

*Glory be to the Father and to the
Son and to the Holy Ghost: as it
was in the beginning, is now and
ever shall be, world without end.
Amen. Let us adore for ever the
most holy Sacrament.*

Adoremus &c

Adoremus &c