**A Service of the Word for  
The Third Sunday in Advent**

**2015**

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Daily Prayer 2009 (comprising Additional Orders of Service entitled Morning and Evening Prayer 2009), material from which is included in this service is copyright © Church in Wales Publications 2009

The Introduction

**Minister**: Welcome to our service on the third Sunday in Advent. As we approach Christmas we are thinking today about Peace. We begin with Hymn 537 – “Peace, perfect peace”.

Hymn 537

O God, make speed to save us.

O Lord, make haste to help us.

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

Bless the Lord, O my soul,

and all that is within me bless his holy name.

The Ministry of the Word

**Psalm 146: 5-0**

Praise the Lord, O my soul : while I live • will I praise the Lord;as long as I have any being : I will sing praises to my God.

Put not your trust in princes, nor in any human power : for there is no help in them.

When their breath goes forth, they return to the earth : on that day all their thoughts perish.

Happy are those who have the God of Jacob for their help : whose hope is in the Lord their God;

Who made heaven and earth, the sea and all that is in them : who keeps his promise for ever;

Who gives justice to those that suffer wrong : and bread to those who hunger.

The Lord looses those that are bound : the Lord opens the eyes of the blind;

The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down : the Lord loves the righteous;

The Lord watches over the stranger in the land; he upholds the orphan and widow : but the way of the wicked he turns upside down.

The Lord shall reign for ever : your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Alleluia.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and shall be for ever.

Amen.

A Reading from Philippians, Chapter 4:4-7

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Let the word of Christ dwell with you in all its richness.

The Apostles’ Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.

Sermon

3 The Prayers

**The collect for today**

Lord Jesus Christ, who at thy first coming didst send thy messenger to prepare thy way before thee; grant that the ministers and stewards of thy mysteries may likewise so prepare and make ready thy way, by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, that at thy second coming to judge the world we may be found an acceptable people in thy sight, who livest and reignest with the Father and the Holy Spirit, ever one God, world without end.

Give ear, Lord, to our prayers, and by thy gracious visitation lighten the darkness of our minds; through Jesus Christ, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, now and ever.

Intercessions may be included at this point.

The Lord’s Prayer is said.

Hymn 308

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
the love of God,  
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit  
be with us all, evermore. Amen.