

**Welcome to  
a service of Holy Communion  
First Sunday of Christmas  
29<sup>th</sup> December 2024**

**The Greeting**

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

**Hark the herald angels sing**

**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.**

## Invitation to confession

The sun of righteousness has dawned  
with healing in his wings.  
Let us come to the light of Christ,  
confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

*cf Malachi 4.2*

## Confession

Lord of grace and truth,  
we confess our unworthiness  
to stand in your presence as your children.  
We have sinned:  
**forgive and heal us.**

The Virgin Mary accepted your call  
to be the mother of Jesus.  
Forgive our disobedience to your will.  
We have sinned:  
**forgive and heal us.**

Your Son our Saviour  
was born in poverty in a manger.  
Forgive our greed and rejection of your ways.  
We have sinned:  
**forgive and heal us.**

The shepherds left their flocks  
to go to Bethlehem.

Forgive our self-interest and lack of vision.

We have sinned:

**forgive and heal us.**

The wise men followed the star  
to find Jesus the King.

Forgive our reluctance to seek you.

We have sinned:

**forgive and heal us.**

### **Absolution**

May the God of all healing and forgiveness  
draw you to himself  
and cleanse you from all your sins,  
that you may behold the glory of his Son,  
the Word made flesh,  
Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

### **Gloria in Excelsis**

**Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to his people on earth.**

**Lord God, heavenly King,  
almighty God and Father,  
we worship you, we give you thanks,  
we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,  
Lord God, Lamb of God,**

**you take away the sin of the world:  
have mercy on us;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:  
receive our prayer.**

**For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father.  
Amen.**

### **The Collect**

*The Collect is said, and the people respond:*  
**Amen.**

### **Old Testament Reading**

#### **1 Samuel 2.18-20, 26**

*At the end:*

This is the Word of the Lord  
**Thanks be to God**

### **New Testament Reading**

#### **Colossians 3.12-17**

*At the end:*

This is the Word of the Lord  
**Thanks be to God**

See amid the winter's snow

Gospel Reading

Luke 2.41-end

Hear the Gospel of our Lord  
Jesus Christ according to Luke.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*At the end:*

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

Sermon

O come all ye faithful

Profession of faith

Let us declare our faith in God.

**We believe in God the Father,  
from whom every family  
in heaven and on earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son,  
who lives in our hearts through faith,  
and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,  
who strengthens us  
with power from on high.**

**We believe in one God;  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

## Prayers of Intercession

*These responses may be used:*

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

*At the end:*

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

## The Peace

Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given,  
and his name shall be called the Prince of Peace.

*Isaiah 9.6*

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**And also with you.**

## Joy to the world

## Preparation of the Table

Word made flesh, life of the world,  
in your incarnation you embraced our poverty:  
by your Spirit may we share in your riches.  
**Amen.**

## Eucharistic prayer A

The Lord is here.

**His Spirit is with us.**

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.**

All glory and honour be yours always and everywhere,  
mighty creator, ever-living God.

We give you thanks and praise for your Son,  
our Saviour Jesus Christ,  
who for love of our fallen race humbled himself,  
and was born of the Virgin Mary  
by the power of your Spirit,  
and lived as one of us.

In this mystery of the Word made flesh  
you have caused his light to shine in our hearts,  
to give knowledge of your glory in the face of Jesus Christ.  
In him we see our God made visible  
and so are caught up in the love of the God we cannot see.

Therefore with all the angels of heaven  
we lift our voices to proclaim the glory of your name  
and sing our joyful hymn of praise:

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

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

Accept our praises, heavenly Father,  
through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ,  
and as we follow his example and obey his command,  
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit  
these gifts of bread and wine  
may be to us his body and his blood;  
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.

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.

Therefore, heavenly Father,  
we remember his offering of himself  
made once for all upon the cross;  
we proclaim his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension;  
we look for the coming of your kingdom,  
and with this bread and this cup  
we make the memorial of Christ your Son our Lord.  
Great is the mystery of faith:



**Christ has died:  
Christ is risen:  
Christ will come again.**

Accept through him, our great high priest,  
this our sacrifice of thanks and praise,  
and as we eat and drink these holy gifts  
in the presence of your divine majesty,  
renew us by your Spirit,  
inspire us with your love  
and unite us in the body of your Son,  
Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through him, and with him, and in him,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
with all who stand before you in earth and heaven,  
we worship you, Father almighty,  
in songs of everlasting praise:

**Blessing and honour and glory and power  
be yours for ever and ever.**

**Amen.**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

Rejoicing in the presence of God here among us,  
as our Saviour taught us, so we pray

**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 for ever.  
Amen.**

### **Breaking of the Bread**

We break the bread of life,  
and that life is the light of the world.  
**God here among us,  
light in the midst of us,  
bring us to light and life.**

### **Agnus Dei**

**Jesus, Lamb of God,  
have mercy on us.  
Jesus, bearer of our sins,  
have mercy on us.  
Jesus, redeemer of the world,  
grant us peace.**

### **Giving of Communion**

Christ is the true bread  
which has come down from heaven.  
**Lord, give us this bread always.**

## During administration

### Prayer After Communion

*The prayer after communion is said, and the people respond:*  
**Amen.**

**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.**

### Notices

#### The Blessing

Christ, who by his incarnation gathered into one  
things earthly and heavenly,  
fill you with peace and goodwill  
and make you partakers of the divine nature;  
and the blessing ...

## Go tell it on the mountain

### Acclamation

The people who walked in darkness  
**have seen a great light.**

For to us a child is born  
**to us a Son is given.**

His name will be called  
Wonderful counsellor, mighty God,  
**the everlasting Father,**  
**the Prince of Peace.**

Glory to God in the highest  
**and peace to his people on earth.**

### The Dismissal

Go in peace.  
Proclaim the Word made flesh.  
**Glory, thanks and praise to God.**

### Exit Music

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