

**Welcome to
a Service of the Word
First Sunday of Christmas
29th 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.

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

At the end:

This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

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 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.**

The Collect

The Collect is said and the people respond:
Amen.

Notices

Thanksgiving

Blessed are you,
God our Father,
through your Son the Christ.
His name is Jesus.
God is with us. Praise the Lord.

Jesus came and shared our life.
God is with us. Praise the Lord.

Jesus' touch made people whole.
God is with us. Praise the Lord.

Jesus raised the dead to life.
God is with us. Praise the Lord.

Jesus died to set us free.
God is with us. Praise the Lord.

Jesus rose to life again.

God is with us. Praise the Lord.

Jesus is our King on high.

God is with us. Praise the Lord.

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 ...

Joy to the world & 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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