

**Welcome to
a service of Holy Communion
First Sunday of Epiphany
The Baptism of Christ**

12th January 2025

The Greeting

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

Christ is made the sure foundation

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

Because God was merciful,
he saved us through the water of rebirth
and the renewing power of the Holy Spirit.

But through sin,
we have fallen away from our baptism.

Let us return to the Lord
and renew our faith in his promises by confessing our sins in
penitence.

Titus 3.5

Confession

**Almighty and most merciful Father,
we have wandered and strayed from your ways
like lost sheep.**

**We have followed too much the devices and desires
of our own hearts.**

**We have offended against your holy laws.
We have left undone those things
that we ought to have done;
and we have done those things
that we ought not to have done;
and there is no health in us.**

**But you, O Lord,
have mercy upon us sinners.
Spare those who confess their faults.
Restore those who are penitent,
according to your promises
declared to mankind
in Christ Jesus our Lord.
And grant, O most merciful Father,
for his sake,
that we may live a disciplined,
righteous and godly life,
to the glory of your holy name.
Amen.**

Absolution

May God who loved the world so much
that he sent his Son to be our Saviour
forgive *you your* sins
and make *you* holy to serve him in the world,
through 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

Isaiah 43. 1 – 7 or Acts 8.14–17

Do not be afraid

Gospel Reading

Luke 3.15 – 17, 21, 22

Alleluia, alleluia.

This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.

Alleluia.

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

Amazing grace

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.

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

The Peace

We are the body of Christ.
In the one Spirit we were all baptised
 into one body.
Let us then pursue all that makes for peace
and builds up our common life.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

I will sing the wondrous story

Preparation of the Table

Open the heavens, Holy Spirit,
for us to see Jesus interceding for us;
may we be willing to share his baptism,
ready to share his cup
and strengthened to serve him for ever.
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.

It is truly right and just,
our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
holy Father, almighty and eternal God.
You celebrated your new gift of baptism
in signs and wonders at the Jordan.
Your voice was heard from heaven
to awaken faith in the presence among us
of your Word made flesh.

Your Spirit was seen as a dove,
revealing Jesus as your servant,
and anointing him with the oil of gladness
to preach the good news to the poor.
Therefore, as we celebrate the union of earth and heaven,
we rejoice to echo the song of the angels in heaven
for ever praising you and saying:

**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

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

Jesus is the Lamb of God
who takes away the sin of the world.
Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

**Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,
but only say the word, and I shall be healed.**

During administration

Prayer After Communion

The President prays after communion, 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

May God, who in Christ gives
us a spring of water
welling up to eternal life,
perfect in you the image of his glory;
and the blessing ...

One more step along the world I go

The Dismissal

One in heart and one in mind,
and empowered by the Spirit,
go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ.

Amen.

Exit Music: River of Life

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