

Holy Communion on Christmas Eve

*Please stand when the singing bowl sings!
And gather around the altar for our said service*

Introduction

Night stars gleam o'er mountains high,
God almighty journeys nigh.
The soles of his feet have touched the earth,
the soles of the Son of glory.

Gathering song

**Glory to you, our God this night,
for all that's dawning on our sight.
Glory to you, dear Mary's Son
who scatters far our dark and gloom.**

**O Babe of Heaven, defenceless Love,
you left for us your home above.
You come to take us in your hand.
Let all give thanks throughout the land.
Tune: Tallis' Canon**



Joyful thanks

Marvellous exchange! The Creator takes flesh!
Truly human, God is now with us. **Alleluia!**
Tonight we may rest in peace. **Alleluia!**
You who is born of the Virgin Mary: **be born in us tonight.**
God with us, gently enfold us: **as we rest in trustful calm.**

The Lighting of the Christ Candle

The five candles in the Advent wreath are lit one at a time:

Jesus, born of Mary: **Light up our darkness**
Jesus, proclaimed by angels: **Light up our darkness**
Jesus, worshipped by the shepherds: **Light up our darkness**
Jesus, adored by wise people: **Light up our darkness**
Jesus, God who is with us now: **Light up our darkness**

The Gathering Confession

There is one God and one mediator
between heaven and earth, the babe Christ Jesus,
who came to give Himself as a ransom for all.
Whoever is on the Lord's side, let them join with me,
that we may come to the visions of God.

**Create a clean heart within me, O God,
so that it may become Your chosen shelter
and the resting place of the Holy Spirit.
I make the cross of Christ upon my breast
+ over the tablet of my hard heart,
and I beseech the living God of the universe,
may the Light of lights come to my dark heart
so that I may live in the power of Your love.**

Pause for quiet reflection

**I know indeed that You are beautiful.
Put forth to me the power of Your love,
be leaping over the mountains of my transgressions,
and wash me in the true blood of conciliation.**

Pour down upon us from heaven
the rich blessings of Your forgiveness.
Grant to us, O Saviour of Glory, the fear of God,
the love of God and His affection,
and the will of God to do on earth
at all times as angels and saints do in heaven.
In the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Collect for Christmas Eve

After a moment's silence, this special prayer collects up all our prayers

Eternal God,
who made this most holy night to shine
with the brightness of your one true light:
bring us who have known the revelation of that
light on earth,
to see the radiance of your heavenly glory;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**



Ministry of the word

Please sit

Epistle: Titus 3.4-7

⁴ But when the goodness and loving-kindness of God our Saviour appeared, ⁵ he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. ⁶ This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Saviour, ⁷ so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life

This is the word of the Lord: **Thanks be to God.**

The Gospel is announced:

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ:

Glory to you, O Lord.

Luke 2:1-7 (NRSV)

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ² This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³ All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴ Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem,

because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵ He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷ And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

This is the Gospel of the Lord:

Praise to you, O Christ.

Reflection

A sharing of reflections on the Word of God just heard

Declaration of Faith

Stand for the Apostles' Creed

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ,
his 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,
he 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.**

Praying for Others

Sit or kneel

Child of glory, Child of Mary,
born in a stable, King of all.
Your greatness holds the universe.

Hold also tonight:
those who are sleeping rough,
those who feel shut out of society,
those who are cold and hungry,
the people of all faiths of the land known as holy,
and these we name before you now . . .
May the light of Bethlehem shine
on these dear ones tonight.
Lord in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

**Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.
Thy Kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us:
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

The Peace

Stand to greet one another

This holy night the angels sang, 'Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace to all in whom he delights.' My sisters and
brothers, the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.
And also with you.

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord is with us
And his Spirit is here.

We give you thanks
because, in the incarnation of the Word,
new light has dawned upon the world;
you have become one with us and made room for us,
that we might become one with you in your glorious kingdom.

Look with kindness on Your people
gathered here before You.
Send forth the power of Your Spirit
so that these gifts may become for us
the Body and Blood of Your beloved Son,
Jesus, the Christ,
in whom we have become your own.

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

O God, You are always
thinking about Your people.
You never forget us.
You sent Your Son, Jesus,
who gave His life for us
and who came to forgive us
and taught us to forgive each other.

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

On the very night he was betrayed,
Jesus broke bread and gave You thanks.



He broke it and gave it to His disciples, saying,
'Take, eat, this is My body
which is given to 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.'

Christ has died;
Christ is risen;
Christ will come again.

Almighty God, our Heavenly Father,
in Your tender mercy,
send us the Spirit of the Lamb.

Jesus, Lamb of God: have mercy on us.
Jesus, bearer of our sins: have mercy on us.
Jesus, redeemer of the world, give us Your peace.

If you are thirsty,
drink the Fount of Life.
If you are hungry,
eat the Bread of Life.
Blessed are all who hunger for this Bread
and thirst for this Fount.

*Please stand. In a circle gathered around the altar,
we give the bread and wine to one another, saying:
'The body of Christ.'
'The blood of Christ.'*

Prayer after Communion

Stand

God our Father,
in this night you have made known to us again
the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ:
confirm our faith and fix our eyes on him
until the day dawns
and Christ the Morning Star rises in our hearts.
To him be glory both now and for ever. **Amen.**

**Almighty Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
eternal, ever-blessed, gracious God:
to me, the least of saints,
to me allow that I may keep a door in Paradise;
that I may keep even the smallest door,
the furthest, darkest, coldest door,
the door that is least used, the stiffest door –
if so it be but in Your house, O God,
if so it be that I can see Your glory, even afar,
and hear Your voice, O God,
And know that I am with You, my God. Amen.**

Blessing

I bless you, in the name of the Father,
the Son and the Sacred Spirit: the One and the Three.
As it was in the stillness of the morning,
so may it be in the silence of the night.
As it was in the hidden vitality of the womb,
so may it be in the hidden life of our sleep.
Prince of peace, your peace be on us at the ending of this day.
In the fellowship of Mary and Joseph,
in the joy of the shepherds,
the angels and the Lord, we shall lie down in peace.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord: **In the name of Christ,
Amen.**