



# **The Holy Eucharist**

*In Christmas and Epiphany*



## Introduction

Christmas is not a *day*. It is a *season*.

At the heart of **Christmas** is the celebration of a great mystery, how God, through whom all things were created and in whom all things have their being, came to earth, and lived among us. We call this mystery the *Incarnation*, and as we celebrate the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the perseverance of the wise men, the obedience of Joseph and Mary at the birth of the Christ Child, we kneel before the throne of our God, so unlike the thrones of this world, made of rough wood and to be found in the stable.

**Epiphany** is “a time of continuing glory” (Raymond Chapman). The word “Epiphany” means showing forth, a manifestation, a revelation. It is the glory of God in the person of Christ that is revealed, and it was the marginalised and the outsiders, the shepherds and the Gentile wise men who first recognised this glory. The showing forth of Christ’s glory is found in his Baptisms, the first sign at the Wedding in Cana, the beginning of his ministry. It culminates in the great festival of lights at Candlemas, the Presentation of Christ in the Temple, and Simeon’s recognition of God’s light shining anew in the darkness of the world.

There are forty days from Christmas to Candlemas, forty days to match the forty days of Lent and the great season of Easter. Our celebration of the birth of Christ, and his glory in the Lord, should lead us, inescapably, to the commemoration of his Passion.

*While all things were in quiet silence, and night was in the midst of her swift course, thine Almighty Word, O Lord, leaped down out of thy royal throne. Alleluia!*

*Christmas Vespers, Western Rite*

# ¶ *The Gathering*

## **The Greeting**

*The president greets the people*

In the name of the Father,  
and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.

**All**    **Amen.**

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

**All**    **And also with you.**

## **Prayers of Penitence**

*The president introduces the prayers of penitence in these or other suitable words*

*Christmas*

Hear the words of the angel to Joseph:  
'You shall call his name Jesus,  
for he will save his people from their sins.'  
Therefore let us seek the forgiveness of God  
through Jesus the Saviour of the world.

*Epiphany*

The grace of God has dawned upon the world  
through our Saviour Jesus Christ,  
who sacrificed himself for us to purify a people as his own.  
Let us confess our sins.

*Silence is kept.*

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

**All 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:

**All 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:

**All forgive and heal us.**

The shepherds left their flocks  
to go to Bethlehem.  
Forgive our self-interest and lack of vision.  
We have sinned:

**All forgive and heal us.**

The wise men followed the star  
to find Jesus the King.  
Forgive our reluctance to seek you.  
We have sinned:

**All forgive and heal us.**

*The president says*

May almighty God,  
who sent his Son into the world to save sinners,  
bring you his pardon and peace, now and for ever.

**All Amen.**

## **Gloria in Excelsis**

*is said, or sung on Sundays and Festivals*

**All**    **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**

*As we remain STANDING, the president introduces a period of silent prayer.  
The Collect is said, and we all respond*

**All**    **Amen.**

*We SIT for our readings.*

## ¶ *The Liturgy of the Word*

*Two readings from Holy Scripture follow. At the end of each the reader says*

This is the word of the Lord.

**All Thanks be to God.**

### **Gospel Acclamation**

*Before the Gospel reading, the reader says the Gospel Acclamation and we all respond.*

*Christmas*

Alleluia, alleluia.

The Word became flesh and dwelt among us,  
and we have seen his glory.

**All Alleluia.**

*Epiphany*

Alleluia, alleluia.

Christ was revealed in flesh, proclaimed among the nations  
and believed in throughout the world.

**All Alleluia.**

### **Gospel Reading**

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

**All Glory to you, O Lord.**

*At the end the reader says*

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**All Praise to you, O Christ.**

**All Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

### **Sermon**

*At the end of the sermon we STAND for*

## The Creed

**All** We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is,  
seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary  
and was made man.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son  
is worshipped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come.  
Amen.

## Prayers of Intercession

In the power of the Spirit and in union with Christ,  
let us pray to the Father.

*We SIT or KNEEL. The prayers usually include these concerns and may follow this sequence:*

¶ *The Church of Christ*

¶ *Creation, human society, the Sovereign and those in authority*

¶ *The local community*

¶ *Those who suffer*

¶ *The communion of saints*

*These responses may be used*

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

*or*

**All** Lord, hear us.  
**Lord, graciously hear us.**

*or*

**All** Holy God  
**hear our prayer.**

*And at the end*

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

# ¶ *The Liturgy of the Sacrament*

We *STAND*.

## **The Peace**

*The president introduces the Peace.*

*Christmas*

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

*Epiphany*

Our Saviour Christ is the Prince of Peace.  
Of the increase of his government and of peace  
there shall be no end.

**All** The peace of the Lord be always with you  
**and also with you.**

Let us acknowledge one another with a sign of peace.

*We either offer a physical sign of peace to those of our household, or  
acknowledge in our hearts our desire to live in peace with our brothers and  
sisters from whom we are at present physically separated.*

## **Preparation of the Table Taking of the Bread and Wine**

*The gifts of the people are gathered and presented. The altar is prepared and  
bread and wine are placed upon it. The president takes the bread and wine  
and says*

Blessed be God,  
by whose grace creation is renewed,  
by whose love heaven is opened,  
by whose mercy we offer our sacrifice of praise.

**All** **Blessed be God for ever.**

# The Eucharistic Prayer

[Prayer A]

The Lord is here.  
**All His Spirit is with us.**

Lift up your hearts.  
**All We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**All It is right to give thanks and praise.**

*The president praises God for his mighty acts in these or other words:*

*(From Christmas Day until the Eve of the Epiphany)*

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,  
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:

*(From the Epiphany until Candlemas Eve)*

All honour and praise be yours always and everywhere,  
mighty creator, ever-living God,  
through Jesus Christ your only Son our Lord:  
for at this time we celebrate your glory  
made present in our midst.  
In the coming of the Magi  
the King of all the world was revealed to the nations.  
In the waters of baptism  
Jesus was revealed as the Christ,  
the Saviour sent to redeem us.  
In the water made wine  
the new creation was revealed at the wedding feast.  
Poverty was turned to riches, sorrow into joy.  
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:

**All 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.**

*The president recalls the Last Supper, in these or other words*

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.

**All To you be glory and praise for ever.**

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.

**All To you be glory and praise for ever.**

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:  
**All 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.

**All To you be glory and praise for ever.**

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:

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

*We SIT or KNEEL and silence is kept.*

## The Lord's Prayer

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour taught us

**All**    **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.**

## Breaking of the Bread

*The president breaks the consecrated bread.*

We break this bread  
to share in the body of Christ.

**All**    **Though we are many, we are one body,  
because we all share in one bread.**

## Agnus Dei

**All**    **Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world,  
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world,  
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world,  
grant us peace.**

## Giving of Communion

Draw near with faith.  
Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ  
which he gave for you,  
and his blood which he shed for you.  
Eat and drink  
in remembrance that he died for you,  
and feed on him in your hearts  
by faith with thanksgiving.

*The president receives communion, and then invites the congregation to receive communion in one kind, but also in its spiritual fullness. Please follow the directions of the stewards to maintain social distancing.*

## Prayer after Communion

*The president says*

Let us pray.

*Silence is kept. The president says the post communion prayer. This prayer may also be said.*

**All**    **Father of all,  
we give you thanks and praise,  
that when we were still far off  
you met us in your Son and brought us home.  
Dying and living, he declared your love,  
gave us grace, and opened the gate of glory.  
May we who share Christ's body live his risen life;  
we who drink his cup bring life to others;  
we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world.  
Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us,  
so we and all your children shall be free,  
and the whole earth live to praise your name;  
through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.**

## ¶ *The Dismissal*

*The president gives any notices and then we STAND for*

### **Blessing**

*The president says one of these or another blessing.*

*Christmas*

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 of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always.

**All Amen.**

*Epiphany*

Christ the Son of God perfect in you the image of his glory  
and gladden your hearts with the good news of his kingdom;  
and the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always.

**All Amen.**

*A minister says*

Go in the peace of Christ.

**All Thanks be to God.**

*The ministers and people depart.*

¶ *Collects and Post Communions for Sundays In  
Christmas and Epiphany*

25 December

**Christmas Night**

**Collect**

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,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

**Post Communion**

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.

## **Christmas Day**

### **Collect**

Almighty God,  
you have given us your only-begotten Son  
to take our nature upon him  
and as at this time to be born of a pure virgin:  
grant that we, who have been born again  
and made your children by adoption and grace,  
may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

### **Post Communion**

God our Father,  
whose Word has come among us  
in the Holy Child of Bethlehem:  
may the light of faith illumine our hearts  
and shine in our words and deeds;  
through him who is Christ the Lord.

## The First Sunday of Christmas

*This provision is not used on weekdays after 5 January.*

### **Collect**

Almighty God,  
who wonderfully created us in your own image  
and yet more wonderfully restored us  
through your Son Jesus Christ:  
grant that, as he came to share in our humanity,  
so we may share the life of his divinity;  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

### **Post Communion**

Heavenly Father,  
whose blessed Son shared at Nazareth the life of an earthly home:  
help your Church to live as one family,  
united in love and obedience,  
and bring us all at last to our home in heaven;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

## The Second Sunday of Christmas

*This provision is not used on weekdays after 5 January.*

### **Collect**

Almighty God,  
in the birth of your Son  
you have poured on us the new light of your incarnate Word,  
and shown us the fullness of your love:  
help us to walk in his light and dwell in his love  
that we may know the fullness of his joy;  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

### **Post Communion**

All praise to you,  
almighty God and heavenly king,  
who sent your Son into the world  
to take our nature upon him  
and to be born of a pure virgin:  
grant that, as we are born again in him,  
so he may continually dwell in us  
and reign on earth as he reigns in heaven,  
now and for ever.

6 January

## The Epiphany

### **Collect**

O God,  
who by the leading of a star  
manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth:  
mercifully grant that we,  
who know you now by faith,  
may at last behold your glory face to face;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

### **Post Communion**

Lord God,  
the bright splendour whom the nations seek:  
may we who with the wise men have been drawn by your light  
discern the glory of your presence in your Son,  
the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord.

# The Baptism of Christ

*The First Sunday of Epiphany*

## **Collect**

Eternal Father,  
who at the baptism of Jesus  
revealed him to be your Son,  
anointing him with the Holy Spirit:  
grant to us, who are born again by water and the Spirit,  
that we may be faithful to our calling as your adopted children;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

## **Post Communion**

Lord of all time and eternity,  
you opened the heavens and revealed yourself as Father  
in the baptism of Jesus your beloved Son:  
by the power of your Spirit  
complete the heavenly work of our rebirth  
through the waters of the new creation;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

## The Second Sunday of Epiphany

### **Collect**

Almighty God,  
in Christ you make all things new:  
transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace,  
and in the renewal of our lives  
make known your heavenly glory;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

### **Post Communion**

God of glory,  
you nourish us with your Word  
who is the bread of life:  
fill us with your Holy Spirit  
that through us the light of your glory  
may shine in all the world.  
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

## The Third Sunday of Epiphany

### Collect

Almighty God,  
whose Son revealed in signs and miracles  
the wonder of your saving presence:  
renew your people with your heavenly grace,  
and in all our weakness  
sustain us by your mighty power;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

### Post Communion

Almighty Father,  
whose Son our Saviour Jesus Christ is the light of the world:  
may your people,  
illuminated by your word and sacraments,  
shine with the radiance of his glory,  
that he may be known, worshipped, and obeyed  
to the ends of the earth;  
for he is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

## The Fourth Sunday of Epiphany

### Collect

God our creator,  
who in the beginning  
commanded the light to shine out of darkness:  
we pray that the light of the glorious gospel of Christ  
may dispel the darkness of ignorance and unbelief,  
shine into the hearts of all your people,  
and reveal the knowledge of your glory  
    in the face of Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

### Post Communion

Generous Lord,  
in word and eucharist we have proclaimed the mystery of your love:  
help us so to live out our days  
that we may be signs of your wonders in the world;  
through Jesus Christ our Saviour.

2 February

## **Candlemas**

*The Presentation of Christ in the Temple*

### **Collect**

Almighty and ever-living God,  
clothed in majesty,  
whose beloved Son was this day presented in the Temple,  
in substance of our flesh:  
grant that we may be presented to you  
with pure and clean hearts,  
by your Son Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

### **Post Communion**

Lord, you fulfilled the hope of Simeon and Anna,  
who lived to welcome the Messiah:  
may we, who have received these gifts beyond words,  
prepare to meet Christ Jesus when he comes to bring us to eternal life;  
for he is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

¶ *Collects and Post Communions for Principal Holy Days and Festivals in Christmas and Epiphany*

26 December

**Stephen**

*Deacon, First Martyr*

**Collect**

Gracious Father,  
who gave the first martyr Stephen  
grace to pray for those who took up stones against him:  
grant that in all our sufferings for the truth  
we may learn to love even our enemies  
and to seek forgiveness for those who desire our hurt,  
looking up to heaven to him who was crucified for us,  
Jesus Christ, our mediator and advocate,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

**Post Communion**

Merciful Lord,  
we thank you for the signs of your mercy  
revealed in birth and death:  
save us by the coming of your Son,  
and give us joy in honouring Stephen,  
first martyr of the new Israel;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

27 December

**John**

*Apostle and Evangelist*

**Collect**

Merciful Lord,  
cast your bright beams of light upon the Church:  
that, being enlightened by the teaching  
    of your blessed apostle and evangelist Saint John,  
we may so walk in the light of your truth  
that we may at last attain to the light of everlasting life;  
through Jesus Christ your incarnate Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

**Post Communion**

Grant, O Lord, we pray,  
that the Word made flesh  
proclaimed by your apostle John  
may, by the celebration of these holy mysteries,  
ever abide and live within us;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

## The Holy Innocents

### Collect

Heavenly Father,  
whose children suffered at the hands of Herod,  
though they had done no wrong:  
by the suffering of your Son  
and by the innocence of our lives  
frustrate all evil designs  
and establish your reign of justice and peace;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

### Post Communion

Lord Jesus Christ,  
in your humility you have stooped to share our human life  
with the most defenceless of your children:  
may we who have received these gifts of your passion  
rejoice in celebrating the witness of the Holy Innocents  
to the purity of your sacrifice made once for all upon the cross;  
for you are alive and reign, now and for ever.

*1 January*

## **The Naming and Circumcision of Jesus**

### **Collect**

Almighty God,  
whose blessed Son was circumcised  
in obedience to the law for our sake  
and given the Name that is above every name:  
give us grace faithfully to bear his Name,  
to worship him in the freedom of the Spirit,  
and to proclaim him as the Saviour of the world;  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

### **Post Communion**

Eternal God,  
whose incarnate Son was given the Name of Saviour:  
grant that we who have shared in this sacrament of our salvation  
may live out our years  
    in the power of the Name above all other names,  
Jesus Christ our Lord.

25 January

## The Conversion of Paul

### Collect

Almighty God,  
who caused the light of the gospel  
to shine throughout the world  
through the preaching of your servant Saint Paul:  
grant that we who celebrate his wonderful conversion  
may follow him in bearing witness to your truth;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

### Post Communion

Almighty God,  
who on the day of Pentecost  
sent your Holy Spirit to the apostles  
with the wind from heaven and in tongues of flame,  
filling them with joy and boldness to preach the gospel:  
by the power of the same Spirit  
strengthen us to witness to your truth  
and to draw everyone to the fire of your love;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*(or)*

Lord God, the source of truth and love,  
keep us faithful to the apostles' teaching and fellowship,  
united in prayer and the breaking of bread,  
and one in joy and simplicity of heart,  
in Jesus Christ our Lord.