

# **Holy Communion Service**

for

## **Midnight Mass**



# The Gathering

## Hymn

*These words may be said:*

Welcome all wonders in one sight!  
Eternity shut in a span.  
Summer in winter, Day in night,  
Heaven in earth, and God in man.  
Great little one whose all-embracing birth  
Brings earth to heaven, stoops heaven to earth.

## The Greeting

*The president greets the people:*

We meet to celebrate the coming of Christ into the world.

The Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us  
*All* **and we beheld his glory.**

## Blessing of the Crib

*If there is no dedication of the crib, other words of welcome may be said, the service then continues with the Lighting of the candle and Prayers of Penitence.*

Dear friends, as we meet to celebrate the birth of Christ,  
let us pray that God will bless this crib,  
that all who worship his Son, born of the Virgin Mary,  
may come to share his life in glory.

God our Father, on this night  
your Son Jesus Christ was born of the Virgin Mary  
for us and for our salvation:  
bless this crib, ✠  
which we have prepared to celebrate that holy birth;  
may all who see it be strengthened in faith  
and receive the fullness of life he came to bring,  
who is alive and reigns for ever.

*All* **Amen.**

## Lighting the Christmas candle on the wreath.

God our Father, today the Saviour is born  
and those who live in darkness are seeing a great light.  
Help us, who greet the birth of Christ with joy,  
to live in the light of your Son and to share the good news of your love.  
We ask this through Jesus Christ,  
the light who has come into the world.

*All* **Amen.**

## Prayers of Penitence

### Invitation to confession

*A minister uses one of these invitations to confession or other suitable Words:*

Christ the light of the world has come  
to dispel the darkness of our hearts.  
In his light let us examine ourselves and confess our sins.

*Silence is kept.*

God our Father,  
you sent your Son full of grace and truth:  
forgive our failure to receive him.

Lord, have mercy.  
*All* **Lord, have mercy.**

Jesus our Saviour,  
you were born in poverty and laid in a manger:  
forgive our greed and rejection of your ways.

Christ, have mercy.  
*All* **Christ, have mercy.**

Spirit of love,  
your servant Mary responded joyfully to your call:  
forgive the hardness of our hearts.

Lord, have mercy.  
*All* **Lord, have mercy.**

*The president uses this or another authorized absolution:*

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

*All*    **Amen.**

## **Gloria in Excelsis**

*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**

*The president introduces the collect*

Let us pray in the peace of this Christmas celebration  
that our joy in the birth of Christ will last for ever.

*Silence is kept.*

*The Collect is said*

# The Liturgy of the Word

*One or two Readings are given*

*At the end the reader may say*

This is the word of the Lord.

*All* **Thanks be to God.**

**Hymn or song**

**Gospel Reading:**

This night Christ is born:

**Alleluia.**

This night the Saviour comes:

**Alleluia.**

This night the angels sing on earth:

**Alleluia. Glory to God in the highest.**

*When the Gospel is announced the reader says*

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

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

*At the end the reader may say*

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

**The Sermon**

## The Creed

*The president says:*

Let us declare our faith in God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

**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

Unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given.  
Let us set before God the needs of the world.

*These responses may be used*

Lord, in your mercy

**All** hear our prayer.

*And at the end*

Merciful Father,

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

**Or:**

Let us pray to Jesus our Saviour.  
Christ, born in a stable,  
give courage to all who are homeless:  
Jesus, Saviour,

**All** hear our prayer.

Christ, for whom the angels sang,  
give the song of the kingdom to all who weep:  
Jesus, Saviour,

**All** hear our prayer.

Christ, worshipped by the shepherds,  
give peace on earth to all who are oppressed:  
Jesus, Saviour,

**All** hear our prayer.

before whom the wise men knelt,  
give humility and wisdom to all who govern:  
Jesus, Saviour,

**All** hear our prayer.

Christ, whose radiance filled a lowly manger,  
give the glory of your resurrection to all who rest in you:  
Jesus, Saviour,

**All** hear our prayer.

**All** Lord Jesus Christ, child of Mary  
you know us and love us,  
you share our lives  
and hear our prayer.  
Glory to you for ever. Amen.

## The Liturgy of the Sacrament

### The Peace

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

*cf Isaiah 9.6*

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

Let us offer one another the sign of peace.

*All may exchange a sign of peace.*

### Preparation of the Table

### Taking of the Bread and Wine

### Hymn

*The gifts of the people may be gathered and presented.  
The table is prepared and bread and wine are placed upon it.*

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

**All** Amen.

## The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you  
**All** **and also with you.**

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 and all respond*

**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,  
and the following acclamation may be used*

Great is the mystery of faith:  
**All** **Christ has died:  
Christ is risen:  
Christ will come again.**

*The Prayer continues and leads into the doxology, to which all respond boldly*

**All** **Amen.**

## The Lord's Prayer

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

**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 the bread of life,  
and that life is the light of the world.

**All God here among us,  
light in the midst of us,  
bring us to light and life.**

## Giving of Communion

*The president says the invitation to communion*

Christ is the true bread which has come down from heaven.

**All Lord, give us this bread always.**

*The president and people receive communion.  
Authorized words of distribution may be used and the communicant replies:*

**Amen.**

*During the distribution hymns, carols or anthems may be sung.*

**Hymn**

### **Prayer after Communion**

*Silence is kept.*

*The Post Communion Prayer is said then:*

**All** **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.**

**The Dismissal**

**Hymn**

**The Blessing:** *(please stand)*

*The President gives an appropriate blessing to which all respond.*

**All** **Amen.**

*A minister says*

Go in peace. Proclaim the Word made flesh.

**All** **Glory, thanks and praise to God.**

*The ministers and people depart.*

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