



HOLY COMMUNION CHRISTMAS and EPIPHANY

A **SONG** *may be sung.*

THE GATHERING

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

Amen.

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

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

A minister introduces the confession in these or other words:

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.

**Father eternal, giver of light and grace,
we have sinned against you and against our neighbour,
in what we have thought,
in what we have said and done,
through ignorance, through weakness,
through our own deliberate fault.**

**We have wounded your love
and marred your image in us.
We are sorry and ashamed
and repent of all our sins.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, who died for us,
forgive us all that is past
and lead us out from darkness
to walk as children of light. Amen.**

Or

**Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
we have sinned against you
and against our neighbour
in thought and word and deed,
through negligence, through weakness,
through our own deliberate fault.
We are truly sorry and repent of all our sins.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, who died for us,
forgive us all that is past
and grant that we may serve you in newness of life
to the glory of your name. Amen.**

Or

The KYRIE ELEISON may be used with suitable sentences:

Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

The minister uses this or another absolution:

Almighty God,
who forgives all who truly repent,
have mercy upon *you*,
pardon and deliver *you* from all *your* sins,
confirm and strengthen *you* in all goodness,
and keep *you* in life eternal;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS *may be used*

A song of praise to God which people have used since the earliest days of Christianity. Some words are repeated in various musical settings.

**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

A special prayer for the day.

All respond: Amen.

Please sit

READING(S)

Either or both the Old Testament and the New Testament Reading. At the end there may be this response:

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

Please stand

A **SONG** *may be sung.*

GOSPEL READING

Gospel means 'Good News'. This reading comes from one of the four accounts of the life of Jesus in the Bible.

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

A minister will speak about the readings we have just heard and what they might mean for us and our faith today.

THE CREED or AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

A common statement of belief shared by Christians throughout the world, used on Sundays and Festivals.

**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.**

Or

We proclaim the Church's faith in Jesus Christ.

**We believe and declare that our Lord Jesus Christ,
the Son of God, is both divine and human.**

God, of the being of the Father,
the only Son from before time began;
human from the being of his mother, born in the world;
**fully God and fully human;
human in both mind and body.**

As God he is equal to the Father,
as human he is less than the Father.

**Although he is both divine and human
he is not two beings but one Christ.**

One, not by turning God into flesh,
but by taking humanity into God;
**truly one, not by mixing humanity with Godhead,
but by being one person.**

For as mind and body form one human being
so the one Christ is both divine and human.

**The Word became flesh and lived among us;
we have seen his glory,
the glory of the only Son from the Father,
full of grace and truth.**

from the Athanasian Creed

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Someone will lead us in prayer. This might include a response:

Lord in your mercy

Hear our Prayer.

Or

Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

At the end the Intercessor may say:

Merciful Father,

Accept these prayers

for the sake of your Son,

our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

The Peace is introduced in these or other words:

Christ is our peace.

If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation.

The old has passed away: behold, everything has become new.

The peace of the Lord be always with you

and also with you.

A **SONG** *may be sung.*

OFFERTORY PRAYER

As our offerings are presented at the altar, we may pray:

Humble Lord,

you surrendered the riches of heaven's palace

for the poverty of Bethlehem's manger:

as we offer you our gifts in thanksgiving for your gift,

make us imitators of you in generosity and love,

for the sake of the world you love so much,

and for your Father's glory. Amen

Or

Loving God, we follow the Magi in giving you gifts,

praying that as you receive our acts of offering, you

would shine the light of Christ in our hearts to lead

us in lives which serve you more deeply. Amen

PREPARATION OF THE ALTAR

Prayers such as the following may be used:

Word made flesh, life of the world,

in your incarnation you embraced our poverty:

by your Spirit may we share in your riches. **Amen.**

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

A prayer of thanksgiving during which the bread and wine are made holy.

The Lord is here

His Spirit is with us.

Or

The Lord be with you

and also with you.

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.

The Eucharistic Prayer continues....

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 Eucharistic Prayer continues....

Jesus Christ is Lord:

Lord, by your cross and resurrection

you have set us free.

You are the Saviour of the world.

The Eucharistic Prayer continues....

....we worship you, Father almighty,

in songs of everlasting praise:

Blessing and honour and glory and power

be yours for ever and ever.

Amen.

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 this bread
to share in the body of Christ.
**Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.**

AGNUS DEI (LAMB OF GOD)

**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.**

Or

**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

The minister invites the people to receive Communion, in these or other words:

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.

- DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION -

A **SONG** *may be sung.*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

The Prayer for the day is said.

*All 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 and Banns of Marriage may be given here.

*A **SONG** may be sung.*

BLESSING and DISMISSAL

This or another blessing may be used:

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.
Amen.

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