

A Service of Eucharist
for
Christmastide

The Gathering

The minister introduces the service.

All stand for the opening hymn

Of the Father's love begotten
ere the worlds began to be,
he is Alpha and Omega,
he the source, the ending he,
of the things that are, that have been,
and that future years shall see
evermore and evermore.

O, that birth forever blessed
when the virgin, full of grace,
by the Holy Ghost conceiving,
bare the Saviour of our race,
and the babe, the world's Redeemer,
first revealed his sacred face
evermore and evermore.

This is he whom seers and sages
sang of old with one accord,
whom the writings of the prophets
promised in their faithful word;
Now he shines, the long-expected:
let creation praise its Lord
evermore and evermore.

O ye heights of heav'n, adore him,
angel-hosts, his praises sing,
pow'rs, dominions, bow before him
and extol our God and King.
Let no tongue on earth be silent,
ev'ry voice in concert ring
evermore and evermore.

Opening Hymn

The Greeting

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

All Amen.

I bring you good news of great joy:

All a Saviour has been born to you. Alleluia.

Unto us a child is born,

All unto us a Son is given. Alleluia.

All He is Christ the Lord. Alleluia.

We worship and adore him. Alleluia.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

As the candle is lit, a prayer is said

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.

Prayer of Preparation

All 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.

Confession & Absolution

As we kneel with the shepherds
before the newborn Christ-child,
we open our hearts in penitence and faith.

Silence may be 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.

May God who loved the world so much
that he sent his Son to be our Saviour
forgive *us our* sins
and make *us* holy to serve him in the world,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

The Gloria

**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 sins 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

Let us pray

Lord Jesus Christ,
your birth at Bethlehem
draws us to kneel in wonder at heaven touching earth:
accept our heartfelt praise
as we worship you,
our Saviour and our eternal God.
All **Amen.**

The Liturgy of the Word

First and Second Readings

Isaiah 9:2-7

² The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness - on them light has shined. ³ You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. ⁴ For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. ⁵ For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. ⁶ For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷ His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Titus 2:11-14

¹¹ For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, ¹² training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, ¹³ while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ. ¹⁴ He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading

Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia.

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

All **Alleluia.**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke

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

Luke 2:1-20

¹ 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. ⁸ In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹ to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." ¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ¹⁴ "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!"

¹⁵ When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶ So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

This is the Gospel of the Lord
All Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Creed

Let us declare our faith

Do you believe and trust in God the Father?

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

Do you believe and trust in his Son Jesus Christ?

**All 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.**

Do you believe and trust in the Holy Spirit?

**All 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.**

Prayers of Intercession

This response, or another, may be used:

Lord in your mercy

All Hear our prayer

At the end we may say:

Merciful Father,

accept these prayers

for the sake of your Son,

our Saviour Jesus Christ, 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.

The peace of the Lord be always with you

All And also with you

Let us offer one another a sign of peace

All may exchange a sign of peace

Offertory Hymn

All stand for the Offertory Hymn

1. See amid the winter's snow,
born for us on earth below,
see, the tender Lamb appears,
promised from eternal years!

*Hail, thou ever blessed morn
Hail, redemption's happy dawn
Sing through all Jerusalem
Christ is born in Bethlehem*

2. Lo, within a manger lies
he who built the starry skies,
he who, throned in height sublime,
sits amid the cherubim!

Refrain

3. Say, ye holy shepherds, say,
what your joyful news today;
wherefore have ye left your sheep
on the lonely mountain steep?

4. 'As we watched at dead of night,
lo, we saw a wondrous light;
angels, singing "Peace on earth",
told us of a Saviour's birth.'

5. Sacred infant, all divine,
what a tender love was thine,
thus to come from highest bliss
down to such a world as this!

The Preparation of the Table

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 minister leads the people in praise for God's work

The Sanctus may be said or sung

**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 minister recalls the Last Supper
The following acclamation may be used*

Great is the mystery of faith:

**All Christ has died:
Christ is risen:
Christ will come again.**

The minister continues, leading to the Doxology. All respond

Either

... for ever and ever

All Amen.

Or

... in songs of everlasting praise:

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

Breaking of the 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.**

Agnus Dei

**All 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

Christ is the true bread which has come down from heaven.
All Lord, give us this bread always.

The president and people receive communion.

Prayer after Communion

Silence is kept.

**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.**

Notices

Offertory Hymn

All stand for the Offertory Hymn

O come, all ye faithful,
joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
come and behold him,
born the king of angels:
*O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord.*

God of God,
Light of Light,
lo, he abhors not
the Virgin's womb;
very God, begotten, not created:
O come, let us adore him...

Child, for us sinners
poor and in the manger,
fain we embrace thee,
with love and awe;
who would not love thee, loving us so dearly?
O come, let us adore him,

Sing, choirs of angels,
sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens
of heaven above;
glory to God in the highest:
O come, let us adore him,

Yea, Lord we greet thee,
born this happy morning,
Jesu, to thee be glory giv'n;
Word of the Father.
now in flesh appearing:
O come, let us adore him,

Blessing

Christ the Son of God, born of Mary,
fill you with his grace
to trust his promises and obey his will;
and the blessing of God Almighty,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.
All Amen.

Dismissal

Go in peace. Proclaim the Word made flesh.
All Glory, thanks and praise to God: Amen