

Midnight Mass



**The Eucharist
on Christmas Eve
24th December**

The Gathering & Welcome

The glory of the Lord has been revealed
and all flesh shall see it together.

As a candle is lit

Jesus Christ is the light of the world:
a light no darkness can quench.

The shepherds kept watch by night,
and your glory shone round about them.

The darkness is not dark to you,
the night is as bright as the day.

Let your light scatter the darkness
and fill your Church with your glory.

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

Prayers of Penitence

please sit or kneel for the confession.

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.

Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

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.

Amen.

The Collect

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

Silence is kept.

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 forever. **Amen.**

Gloria in Excelsis

**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 Liturgy of the Word

Readings

At the end of the reading the reader will say

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

Gospel Reading

Alleluia, alleluia.

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

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

At the end

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

The Creed

We stand as we declare our faith in God:

**We believe in God the Father,
from whom every family
in heaven and on earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son,
who lives in our hearts through faith,
and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
who strengthens us
with power from on high.**

**We believe in one God;
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**

Amen.

Please sit or kneel.

Prayers of Intercession

During the prayers we respond to one of the following biddings:

Holy God,
hear our prayer.

OR

Lord hear us,
Lord graciously hear us.

The Peace

This holy night the angels sang,
'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on
earth peace to all in whom he delights.'

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

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

All may exchange a sign of peace.

Eucharistic Prayer

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.

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,
and on this night 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:

**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.**

We praise and bless you, loving Father, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; and as we obey his command, send your Holy Spirit, that broken bread and wine outpoured may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper with his friends and, taking bread, he praised you. He broke the bread, gave it to them and said: Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine. Again he praised you, gave it to them and said: 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.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did, in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice made once for all upon the cross.

Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation, we proclaim his death and resurrection until he comes in glory.

Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died:

Christ is risen:

Christ will come again.

Lord of all life,
help us to work together for that day when your
kingdom comes and justice and mercy will be
seen in all the earth.

Look with favour on your people,
gather us in your loving arms
and bring us with St John and all the saints to
feast at your table in heaven. Through Christ,
and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of
the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory are yours, O
loving Father, for ever and ever.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Rejoicing in the presence of God here among us,
let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has
taught us:

**Our Father, which art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done,
in earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
As we forgive them that 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.

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

Giving of Communion

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

Lord, give us this bread always.

*All are welcome to receive communion or come forward
(holding a service sheet) for a prayer of blessing.*

Prayer after 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.
Amen.**

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 Blessing

May the joy of the angels,
the eagerness of the shepherds,
the perseverance of the wise men,
the obedience of Joseph and Mary,
and the peace of the Christ-child
be yours this Christmas;
and the blessing of God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
be with us all, this day and always
Amen.

The Dismissal

Go in peace.

Proclaim the Word made flesh.

Glory, thanks and praise to God.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

