

# Christmas Midnight Communion



Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> December  
2013

Processional Carol:

**4 As with gladness men of old**

*We remain standing for the  
Greeting:*

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

*We sit: words of welcome or  
introduction may be said.*



## 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.

# Prayers of Penitence

## Invitation to confession

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.



Lord God, our maker and our redeemer, this is your world and we are your people: come among us and save us.

We have wilfully misused your gifts of creation;

Lord, be merciful:

*All* **forgive us our sin.**



We have seen the ill-treatment  
of others  
and have not gone to their aid;  
Lord, be merciful:  
*All* **forgive us our sin.**



We have condoned evil and  
dishonesty  
and failed to strive for justice;  
Lord, be merciful:  
*All* **forgive us our sin.**



We have heard the good news  
of Christ,  
but have failed to share it with  
others;  
Lord, be merciful:  
*All* **forgive us our sin.**



We have not loved you with all  
our heart,  
nor our neighbours as  
ourselves;  
Lord, be merciful:  
*All* **forgive us our sin.**



May the God of all healing and forgiveness draw us to himself, and cleanse us from all our sins that we may behold the glory of his Son, the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord.

*All Amen.*

## Gloria in Excelsis (*All Stand*)

*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 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

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.

*All*    **Amen.**

*We sit for the first reading,  
Isaiah 9:2-7;*

*at the end the reader may say:*

This is the word of the Lord.

**All Thanks be to God.**

*We stand to sing our second carol,*  
**13 Silent night, holy night,**

*and remain standing for the*  
*Gospel Reading,*  
**John 1:1-14**



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

**All Alleluia.**

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

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

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

# Sermon

*We stand to affirm our faith  
with the Nicene 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

*These responses may be used:*

Lord, in your mercy:

**All hear our prayer.**

*And at the end we say:*

Merciful Father,

**All accept these prayers for**

**the sake of your Son,**

**our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**



*We stand for 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.*

*We sing our Offertory carol*

**6 Away in a manger**

Preparation of the Table

Taking of the Bread and Wine



# Eucharistic Prayer

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.**



Father, we give you thanks and praise through your beloved Son Jesus Christ, your living Word, through whom you have created all things; who was sent by you in your great goodness to be our Saviour.

By the power of the Holy Spirit he took flesh; as your Son, born of the blessed Virgin, he lived on earth and went about among us;

he opened wide his arms for us  
on the cross; he put an end to  
death by dying for us;  
and revealed the resurrection  
by rising to new life;  
so he fulfilled your will and  
won for you a holy people.



And now we give you thanks because, by the power of the Holy Spirit, He took our nature upon him and was born of the Virgin Mary his mother, that being himself without sin, he might make us clean from all sin.

Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we proclaim your great and glorious name, for ever praising you and *saying*:

**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.**



Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness; grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit, and according to your holy will, these gifts of bread and wine may be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;



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.



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



And so, Father, calling to mind  
his death on the cross,  
his perfect sacrifice made once  
for the sins of the whole world;  
rejoicing in his mighty  
resurrection and glorious  
ascension,  
and looking for his coming in  
glory, we celebrate this  
memorial of our redemption.



As we offer you this our sacrifice  
of praise and thanksgiving,  
we bring before you this bread  
and this cup and we thank you  
for counting us worthy to stand  
in your presence and serve you.  
Send the Holy Spirit on your  
people and gather into one in  
your kingdom all who share this  
one bread and one cup,



so that we, in the company of all  
the saints, may praise and  
glorify you for ever, through  
Jesus Christ our Lord; by whom,  
and with whom, and in whom,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all  
honour and glory be yours,  
almighty Father, for ever and  
ever.

*All* Amen.

# The Lord's Prayer (*we sit or kneel*)

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

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.



*All* We do not presume  
to come to this your table, merciful  
Lord, trusting in our own  
righteousness, but in your  
manifold and great mercies.

We are not worthy so much as to  
gather up the crumbs under your  
table.

But you are the same Lord whose  
nature is always to have mercy.

**Grant us therefore, gracious Lord,  
so to eat the flesh of your dear Son  
Jesus Christ and to drink his  
blood, that our sinful bodies  
may be made clean by his body  
and our souls washed through his  
most precious blood, and that we  
may evermore dwell in him and he  
in us.**

**Amen.**

*The president and people  
receive communion or a  
blessing.*

*(Please keep your arms at your  
sides to indicate that you  
require a blessing)*

*We respond by saying: **Amen.***

Prayer after Communion (*Silence is kept*).

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**

**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.**

Blessing

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.*

*We stand to sing our final carol*

**12 O come all ye faithful**  
(including the final verse!)

*The minister says:*

Go in the joy and peace of  
Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.

**All Thanks be to God.**  
**Alleluia, alleluia.**

