



The Eucharist of Christmas Day

2022

We gather to worship

*Please join in all parts of the service printed in **bold** type.*

Please stand where indicated only if you wish.

When the bell rings we stand to sing,

**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...**

**See how the shepherds
summoned to his cradle,
leaving their flocks, draw nigh with lowly fear;
we too will thither bend our joyful footsteps:
O come, let us adore...**

**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...**

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

The Greeting

We turn to the crib and the priest says,

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

Amen.

The priest introduces the worship; the deacon lights the Christmas candle. We say,

**Lord Jesus, Light of Light, you have come among us.
Help us who live by your light to shine as lights in the world.
Glory to God in the Highest.**

Then the priest says,

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.

We keep a time of silence as we call to mind our sins; the priest continues,

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

Lord, have mercy.

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.

Christ, have mercy.

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

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 Gloria

We turn to sing this song as the ministers come to the front,

Glory to God, Glory to God, Glory to God in the highest!

**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.**

Glory to God, Glory to God, Glory to God in the highest!

**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.**

Glory to God, Glory to God, Glory to God in the highest!

**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.**

Glory to God, Glory to God, Glory to God in the highest!

The priest says the Collect, the prayer set for today,

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.

Amen.

We hear God's Word

We sit for the first Reading

Titus 3.4-7

When the goodness and loving-kindness of God our Saviour appeared, he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Saviour, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

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

The cantor sings verses from psalm 96. We all join in the refrain:



Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all you lands.
Sing to the Lord; bless his name.

Today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.

Announce his salvation, day after day.
Tell his glory among the nations; among all peoples, his wondrous deeds.

Today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.

Let the heavens be glad and the earth rejoice;
let the sea and what fills it resound;
let the plains be joyful and all that is in them!
Then shall all the trees of the forest exult.

Today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.

They shall exult before the Lord, for he comes;
for he comes to rule the earth.
He shall rule the world with justice and the peoples with his constancy.

Today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.

We stand and sing after the cantor,

Alleluia...

Alleluia...

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

Alleluia...

We turn to face the reader,

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke

Glory to you, O Lord.

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. 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. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. 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.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 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: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.'
And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favours!

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.' So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. 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. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

We sit for the Sermon

We stand to say the Creed together,

**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.**

The Prayers of the People

During the prayers this response is used,

Jesus, Saviour
Hear our prayer

At the end,
**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.**

We sit, and the notices are given.

We celebrate Jesus in Bread and Wine

The Peace

We stand. The priest introduces the exchange of the peace of Christ, where we greet one another in fellowship,

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

The deacon says,

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

We all exchange a sign of peace.

We sing this hymn, during which the plate and card reader will be available for contactless and cash donations. Please indicate if you wish to make an offering.

**While shepherds watched their flocks by night,
all seated on the ground,
the angel of the Lord came down,
and glory shone around.**

**‘Fear not’, said he (for mighty dread
had seized their troubled mind);
‘Glad tidings of great joy I bring
to you and all mankind.**

**‘To you in David’s town this day
is born of David’s line
a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord;
and this shall be the sign:**

**‘The heavenly babe you there shall find
to human view displayed,
all meanly wrapped in swathing bands,
and in a manger laid.’**

**Thus spake the seraph; and forthwith
appeared a shining throng
of angels praising God, who thus
addressed their joyful song:**

**‘All glory be to God on high,
and to the earth be peace;
good will henceforth from heaven to men
begin and never cease.’**

The priest offers the bread and wine, saying,

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

Please remain standing during the Eucharistic Prayer if it is comfortable for you.

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 priest praises God for his gift of Jesus, then we sing,

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.
Blessèd is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.**

*The priest continues alone, recalling the Last Supper
where Jesus promised his presence with us in Bread and Wine..*

Then the Deacon says,

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith.

We sing,

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

The prayer continues, and ends...

... for ever and ever.

We sing,

Amen, amen, amen.

We say the Lord's Prayer together ,

**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.

The priest breaks the consecrated bread and says,

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.

We sing,

**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.**

We share in Communion

The priest says,

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

The people receive communion. Those who do not wish to receive are warmly invited to come forward for an individual blessing. Gluten free wafers are available. Please come to the front and form a queue. Please be mindful of the safety of others and remain distanced. Communion will be administered in both kinds, on the hand and from the chalice (optional). Please do not intinct (dip) the wafer in the chalice. Communion will be brought to those seated in the south aisle.

During communion we sing,,

**Good Christians all, rejoice with heart and soul and voice!
Listen now to what we say, Jesus Christ is born today:
ox and ass before him bow and he is in the manger now!
Christ is born today; Christ is born today.**

**Good Christians all, rejoice with heart and soul and voice!
Hear the news of endless bliss, Jesus Christ was born for this:
he has opened heaven's door and we are blessed for evermore!
Christ was born for this; Christ was born for this.**

**Good Christians all, rejoice with heart and soul and voice!
Now you need not fear the grave; Jesus Christ was born to save:
come at his most gracious call to find salvation one and all!
Christ was born to save; Christ was born to save.**

Then the choir sings,

Past Three O'Clock Words: G.R. Woodward Music: arr. Charles Wood

The priest says this prayer,

God our Father, whose Word has come among us
in the Holy Child of Bethlehem:
may the light of faith illumine our hearts
and shine in our words and deeds;
through him who is Christ the Lord.
Amen.

We say this prayer together,

**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.**

We are sent out

We sing the final hymn.

**Hark! The herald angels sing
'Glory to the new-born King;
Peace on earth and mercy mild;
God and sinners reconciled.'
Joyful, all ye nations rise,
Join the triumph of the skies;
With the angelic host proclaim,
'Christ is born in Bethlehem!'**

***Hark the herald angels sing,
'Glory to the new-born King.'***

**Christ by highest heaven adored,
Christ the everlasting Lord:
Late in time, behold Him come,
Offspring of a virgin's womb.**

**Veiled in flesh the Godhead see,
Hail the incarnate Deity!
Pleased as man with man to dwell,
Jesus our Emmanuel.**

*Hark! the herald angels sing,
'Glory to the new-born King.'*

**Hail the heaven born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
Risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by,
Born that man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth,
Born to give them second birth.**

*Hark! the herald angels sing,
'Glory to the new-born King.'*

The Blessing

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

We bow our heads and pray for God's blessing,
May the Father, who has loved the eternal Son
from before the foundation of the world,
shed that love upon you his children.
Amen.

May Christ, who by his incarnation gathered into one
things earthly and heavenly, fill you with joy and peace.
Amen.

May the Holy Spirit, by whose overshadowing Mary became the God-bearer,
give you grace to carry the good news of Christ.
Amen.

And the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.
Amen.

The deacon says,

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

Organ voluntary

Please remain standing until the choir and ministers have left.

Our regular Sunday Services

8.00am	Said Holy Communion
10.00am	Parish Eucharist (Common Worship Order 1)
5.00pm	Choral Evensong <i>or</i> Sung Evensong (see website)

*You can find more about our services
and our parish life on our website at:*

www.allsaintshighwycombe.org
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