



# The Eucharist of Christmas Day

2023

## *We gather in worship*

*Please join in all parts of the service printed in **bold** type. Please stand where indicated only if you wish. Collection plates are at the back of church if you would like to donate before the service begins.*

*Before we start, the priest will welcome everyone and invite us to join in prayer as we prepare ourselves for worship.*

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.

*After praying, please remain quiet until the bell rings and 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...

*J.F. Wade 1711-1786*

*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.**

Grace, mercy and peace from our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.  
**and also with you.**

*The priest introduces the worship as the Christmas candle is lit. 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.**

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 Collect*

*The priest invites us to pray. Silence is kept.*

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 listen for God's Word*

*We sit for the first reading*  
*Isaiah 62.6-12*

Upon your walls, O Jerusalem, I have posted sentinels;  
all day and all night they shall never be silent. You who remind the Lord,  
take no rest, and give him no rest until he establishes Jerusalem and makes  
it renowned throughout the earth.

The Lord has sworn by his right hand and by his mighty arm:  
I will not again give your grain to be food for your enemies, and foreigners  
shall not drink the wine for which you have laboured; but those who garner  
it shall eat it and praise the Lord,  
and those who gather it shall drink it in my holy courts.

Go through, go through the gates, prepare the way for the people; build up,  
build up the highway, clear it of stones, lift up an ensign over the peoples.

The Lord has proclaimed to the end of the earth:  
Say to daughter Zion, 'See, your salvation comes; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him.' They shall be called, 'The Holy People, The Redeemed of the Lord'; and you shall be called, 'Sought Out, A City Not Forsaken.'

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

*The cantor sings verses from Psalm 97. We all join in the refrain:*



The Lord has shown God's sal-va - tion to the na - tions.

♪ The Lord has shown God's salvation to the nations.

Sing a new song to the Lord for he has worked wonders.  
His right hand and his holy arm have brought salvation.

♪ The Lord has shown God's salvation to the nations.

The Lord has made known God's salvation  
has shown his justice to the nations.  
He has remembered his truth and love for the house of Israel.

♪ The Lord has shown God's salvation to the nations.

All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.  
Shout to the Lord all the earth, ring out your joy!

♪ The Lord has shown God's salvation to the nations.

*The Gospel:* Luke 2.8-20

*We stand and sing after the choir,*

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 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.*

### ***The Creed.***

*We stand to affirm our faith,*

**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 Intercession*

*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 celebrate and receive 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 invites,*

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

*Please offer one another a sign of peace with a handshake, warm smile, nod, or bow,  
and with the words, 'Peace be with you.'*

## *The Offering.*

*We stand to sing this hymn as a collection is taken. The plate and card reader will be available for contactless and cash donations. Please indicate if you wish to make an offering.*

In the bleak mid-winter frosty wind made moan,  
earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone:  
snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,  
in the bleak mid-winter, long ago.

Our God, heaven cannot hold him, nor earth sustain;  
heaven and earth shall flee away when he comes to reign:  
in the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed  
the Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ.

Enough for him, whom cherubim worship night and day,  
a breastful of milk and a mangerful of hay:  
enough for him whom angels fall down before,  
the ox and ass and camel which adore.

Angels and archangels may have gathered there,  
cherubim and seraphim thronged the air,  
but only his mother, in her maiden bliss,  
worshiped the Beloved with a kiss.

What can I give him, poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb,  
if I were a wise man I would do my part,  
yet what I can I give him, give my heart.

*Christina Rossetti 1830-1894*

## *The Eucharistic Prayer.*

*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.**

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

The Lord is here.

**God's Spirit is with us.**

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...*

It is indeed right and good to give you thanks and praise...  
... for ever praising you and singing:

♪ 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.*

*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.

### *Breaking the bread*

*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.

*The priest says,*

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

*The people receive communion. If you do not wish to receive, please come forward for an individual blessing - bring this with you. Gluten free wafers are available. Communion will be brought to those seated in the south aisle.*

*Please come to the front and form a queue. Communion is offered as bread, on the hand, and wine from the chalice (optional). Please do not intinct (dip) the wafer in the chalice.*

### **Communion Hymn**

*We sing the hymn:*

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.

*14th century Latin & German, Tr. J.M. Neale 1818-1866*

*Then the choir sings,*

*Past Three O'clock*

*Words: G.R. Woodward. Music: arr. Charles Wood*

*We keep silence together.*

### **Post-Communion Prayer**

*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.

*Notices may be given.*

*We go into the world to share God's love.*

*We stand to sing this 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 or Sung Evensong (see website)*

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

*[www.allsaintshighwycombe.org](http://www.allsaintshighwycombe.org)*

*[www.facebook.com/AllSaintsHW](http://www.facebook.com/AllSaintsHW)*

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