

**ALL SAINTS  
WEST DULWICH**

**The Order for the Celebration of  
THE EUCHARIST**



**CHRISTMAS EVE  
Midnight Mass**



# ORDER OF SERVICE

*A minister may call the people to worship with an appropriate sentence of scripture, and a time of prayer and silence*

*Please stand*

*An introit may be sung*

*A processional hymn is sung, from the enclosed sheet*

## Blessing of the Crib

Dear friends, as we meet to celebrate the birth of Christ, let us pray that God will bless this crib, that all who worship his Son, born of the Virgin Mary, may come to share his life in glory.

God our Father, on this night  
your Son Jesus Christ was born of the Virgin Mary  
for us and for our salvation:  
bless this crib,  
which we have prepared to celebrate that holy birth;  
may all who see it be strengthened in faith  
and receive the fullness of life he came to bring,  
who is alive and reigns for ever.

**Amen.**

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

## The Greeting

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

## Prayers of Penitence

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*

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.**

## **Absolution**

May almighty God, who sent his Son into the world to save sinners,  
bring *you* his pardon and peace, now and for ever. **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 Collect**

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

Eternal God,  
in the stillness of this night  
you sent your almighty Word  
to pierce the world's darkness with the light of salvation:  
give to the earth the peace that we long for  
and fill our hearts with the joy of heaven  
through our Saviour, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

*Please sit*

## **First Reading**

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

*Isaiah 9.2,6,7*

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. 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. 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 onwards and for evermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

The word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## Second Reading

A reading from the letter of St Paul to Titus.

*Titus 2.11-14*

The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ. 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.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand*

*A gradual hymn is sung*

## The Holy Gospel

Alleluia . . .

**Alleluia . . .**

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

*John 1.14*

**Alleluia . . .**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

**Glorify to you, O Lord.**

*Luke 2.1-14*

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!'

The Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Please sit*

## **Homily**

*After a period of silent reflection, please stand*

## **The Creed**

Let us declare our faith in God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit

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

*Please kneel or sit*

## Prayers of Intercession

In peace let us pray to the Lord.  
Father, in this holy night your Son our Saviour  
was born in human flesh.  
Renew your Church as the Body of Christ.  
Holy God  
**hear our prayer.**

In this holy night there was no room for your Son in the inn.  
Protect with your love those who have no home  
and all who live in poverty.  
Holy God  
**hear our prayer.**

In this holy night Mary, in the pain of labour,  
brought your Son to birth.  
Hold in your hand all who are in pain or distress.  
Holy God  
**hear our prayer.**

In this holy night your Christ came as a light shining in the darkness.  
Bring comfort to all who suffer in the sadness of our world.  
Holy God  
**hear our prayer.**

In this holy night the angels sang, 'Peace to God's people on earth.'  
Strengthen those who work for peace and justice  
in all the world.  
Holy God  
**hear our prayer.**

In this holy night shepherds in the field heard good tidings of joy.  
Give us grace to preach the gospel of Christ's redemption.  
Holy God  
**hear our prayer.**



In this holy night strangers found the Holy Family,  
and saw the baby lying in the manger.  
Bless our homes and all whom we love.  
Holy God  
**hear our prayer.**

In this holy night heaven is come down to earth,  
and earth is raised to heaven.  
Hold in your hand all those who have passed through death  
in the hope of your coming kingdom.  
Holy God  
**hear our prayer.**

In this holy night Christians the world over celebrate Christ's birth.  
Open our hearts that he may be born in us today.  
Holy God  
**hear our prayer.**

Loving God,  
in this holy night angels and shepherds worshipped at  
the manger throne.  
Receive the worship we offer in fellowship with Mary,  
Joseph and the saints  
through him who is your Word made flesh,  
our Saviour Jesus Christ.  
**Amen.**

*Please stand*

## **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  
**and also with you.**

*Isaiah 9.6*

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

*An offertory hymn is sung*

## **Preparation of the Altar**

## Taking of the Bread and Wine

Blessèd be God, by whose grace creation is renewed,  
by whose love heaven is opened,  
by whose mercy we offer our sacrifice of praise.

**Blessèd be God for ever.**

### The 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 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.**

**Blessèd 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.

**To you be glory and praise for ever.**

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.

**To you be glory and praise for ever.**

Great is the mystery of faith:

**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 the Blessed Virgin Mary,  
and 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. **Amen.**

*Please kneel or sit*

## **The Lord's Prayer**

Rejoicing in the presence of God here among us,  
as our Saviour taught us, so we pray

**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 for ever. Amen.**

## **Breaking of the Bread**

We break the bread of life,  
and that life is the light of the world  
**Though we are many, we are one body,  
because we all share in one bread.**

## **Agnus Dei**

**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

God's holy gifts  
for God's holy people.

**Jesus Christ is holy,  
Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.**

*An anthem and a communion hymn are sung*

*Baptised and communicant members of other Christian churches  
are welcome to receive Holy Communion;  
and all are welcome to come forward to receive a blessing*

*Candles may be lit*

## 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.**

**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.**

*Please stand*

## **Blessing and Dismissal**

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. **Amen.**

Go in the peace of Christ. Proclaim the Word made flesh.  
**Thanks be to God.**

*A recessional hymn is sung*

*The ministers and people depart*

Eucharistic Prayer B with extended preface for Christmas Day until the Eve of the Epiphany.

*Common Worship: Services and Prayers for the Church of England*, material for which is included in this service, is copyright © The Archbishops' Council 2000.

The scripture quotations contained herein are from the *New Revised Standard Version*, copyright © 1989, the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Other copyright material reproduced under CCLI Licence No.471690