

# Holy Communion—Christmas Season

## The Gathering



### THE GREETING

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

**All Amen.**

The Lord be with you.

**All And also with you.**

### HYMN

#### 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.**

### CONFESSION

Christ the light of the world has come  
to dispel the darkness of our hearts.  
Let us turn to the light and confess our sins.  
Lord of grace and truth,  
we confess our unworthiness  
to stand in your presence as your children.  
We have sinned:

**All Forgive us and heal us.**

The Virgin Mary accepted your call  
to be the mother of Jesus.

Forgive our disobedience to your will.

We have sinned:

**All Forgive us and heal us.**

Your Son our Saviour

was born in poverty in a manger.

Forgive our greed and rejection of your ways.

We have sinned:

**All Forgive us and heal us.**

The shepherds left their flocks

to go to Bethlehem.

Forgive our self-interest and lack of vision.

We have sinned:

**All Forgive us and heal us.**

The wise men followed the star

to find Jesus the King.

Forgive our reluctance to seek you.

We have sinned:

**All Forgive us and heal us.**

May the God of all healing and forgiveness

draw *you* to himself and cleanse *you* from all *your* sins,

that *you* may behold the glory of His Son,

the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All Amen.**

### GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

**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 Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,  
Lord God, Lamb of God,**

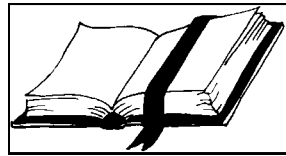
you take away the sin of the world:  
have mercy on us;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:  
receive our prayer.

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

*The COLLECT, the church's special prayer for the day, is prayed.*

## The Word of God



## BIBLE READING.

*At the end of the reading:*  
This is the word of the Lord.

**All Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL READING.

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.**

*At the end of the reading:*  
This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

## SERMON

## THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**All 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.**

## HYMN

### PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

*Our response to the prayers may be:*  
Lord in your mercy  
**Hear our prayer.**

*At the conclusion of our prayers, we may pray:*  
Merciful Father,

**All accept these prayers  
for the sake of your Son,  
our Saviour Jesus Christ.  
Amen.**



## The Eucharist

### 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.**

*We share with one another a sign of peace.*

## **THE PREPARATION OF THE TABLE**

Word made flesh, life of the world,  
in your incarnation you embraced our poverty:  
by your Spirit may we share in your riches.

**All Amen.**

## **THE 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.**

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:

**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.**

*Please sit or kneel.*

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:

**All Christ has died:  
Christ has 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 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.

**All Amen.**

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

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

**All 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.

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

**All Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us.  
Jesus, bearer of our sins, have mercy on us.  
Jesus, redeemer of the world, grant us peace.**

### **THE GIVING OF COMMUNION**

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

**All Lord, give us this bread always.**

*The bread and wine are distributed*

### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

*At the end of communion, the minister prays:*

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.

**All Amen.**

### **THE BLESSING**

Christ the Son of God, born of Mary,  
fill you with his grace to trust his promises and obey his will;  
and the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always.

**All Amen.**

Go in peace. Proclaim the Word made flesh.

**All Glory, thanks and praise to God.**