

The Eucharist of Christmas Morning



Church of the Resurrection
and St Barnabas, Eastlands

The Gathering

The congregation stands as the ministers enter

The Greeting

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

All: and also with you.

Words of welcome and introduction may be given.

The Christmas Candle Ceremony

The president introduces the Christmas Candle Ceremony

We have these candles of Light
to remind us of the coming of Jesus,
the Light of the world.

The central candle is lit and the president says

We light this candle to celebrate the birth of Christ,
for his light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness will never overcome it.

Please sit

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 day, 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.

All Amen.

Prayers of Penitence

The deacon invites the people to confess their sins using these words

The sun of righteousness has dawned
with healing in his wings.
Let us come to the light of Christ,
confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

Silence is kept.

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

All 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.

All Christ, have mercy.

Spirit of love,
your servant Mary responded joyfully to your call:
forgive the hardness of our hearts.
Lord, have mercy.

All Lord, have mercy.

The president says

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.

All **Amen.**

Glory to God

Glory to Christ, Son of Mary;
born a child,
you are one with us.

All **Glory to God in the highest.**

Glory to Christ, Son of David;
born to rule,
you reign in our hearts.

All **Glory to God in the highest.**

Glory to Christ, Son of man;
born to save,
you are the light of the world.

All **Glory to God in the highest.**

The Collect

The president says the Collect and at then end everyone says

All **Amen.**

The Liturgy of the Word

Sit

First Reading

Isaiah 52.7-20

At the end the reader says

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

Hebrews 1.1-4

At the end the reader says

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Stand

Gospel Reading

John 1.1-14

The following acclamation heralds the Gospel reading.

Today Christ is born:

All: alleluia.

Today the Saviour has come:

All: alleluia.

Today the angels sing on earth:

All: alleluia. Glory to God in the highest.

The deacon says

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

All Glory to you, O Lord.

At the end the deacon says

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

At the end of the sermon all remain seated, standing when the president stands.

The 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

The deacon leads the intercessions.

Let us pray to the Father
through Christ who is our Light and Life.

Father, on this holy day
your Son our Saviour was born in human flesh.
Renew your Church as the body of Christ.
On this holy day 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
All **hear our prayer.**

On this holy day Mary, in the pain of labour,
brought your Son to birth.
Hold in your hand all who are in pain or distress.
On this holy day your Christ came as a light shining in the
darkness. Bring comfort to all who suffer
in the sadness of our world.

Holy God
All **hear our prayer.**

On this holy day the angels sang
'Peace to God's people on earth'.
Strengthen those who work for peace and justice
in all the world.

On this holy day
shepherds in the field heard good tidings of joy.
Give us grace to preach
the gospel of Christ's redemption.

Holy God

All **hear our prayer.**

On this holy day
strangers found the Holy Family,
and saw the baby lying in the manger.
Bless our homes and all whom we love.
On this holy day 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

All **hear our prayer.**

On this holy day
Christians the world over celebrate Christ's birth.
Open our hearts that he may be born in us today.
On this holy day angels and shepherds worshipped
at the manger throne.
Receive the worship we offer
in fellowship with Mary, Joseph and the saints.

Holy God

All **hear our prayer.**

Merciful Father

All **accept these prayers**

for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen.

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

Stand

The Peace

The president introduces the Peace with this sentence

Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given,
and his name shall be called the Prince of Peace.

All 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.

Preparation of the Table Taking of the Bread and Wine

The music is played during which the altar is prepared, and the gifts of the people are gathered and presented.

The president takes the bread and wine and says

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 president says

The Lord be with you
All and also with you.

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,
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.**

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.

The deacon says or sings

Great is the mystery of faith:

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 *St Barnabas* 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.

All **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Rejoicing in the presence of God here among us,
let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

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

The president breaks the consecrated 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.**

Giving of Communion

The president says the following invitation to communion

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

All: Lord, give us this bread always.

The president lifts the priest wafer and says before receiving the bread

The Body of Christ.

All Amen.

The president lifts the wine and says before receiving the wine

The Blood of Christ.

All Amen.

The deacon leads the people at home in Act of Spiritual Communion:

**All My Jesus,
I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.
I love You above all things,
and desire to receive You into my soul.
Since I cannot at this moment
receive You sacramentally,
come at least spiritually into my heart.
I embrace You as if You were already there
and unite myself wholly to You.
Never permit me to be separated from You.
Amen.**

Prayer after Communion

The president says the Post Communion prayer and at the end all say

All Amen.

The following prayer is said

Almighty God,
All **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.**

The Dismissal

Blessing

The president says

All The Lord be with you
and also with you.

The president uses this or another suitable blessing

May the Father,
who has loved the eternal Son
from before the foundation of the world,
shed that love upon you his children.
All **Amen.**

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

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

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

All **Amen.**

The deacon says

Go in peace.
Proclaim the Word made flesh.

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

The ministers and people depart.

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