



**The Liturgy of**

**Midnight Mass**

## Processional Hymn – *Once in royal David's City*

### **The Gathering**

Did I not fill heaven and earth? Says the Lord  
**Now the Word is made flesh and laid in a narrow manger.**

From eternity to eternity you are God,  
**and now we see you as a newborn child.**

### **The Greeting**

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

### **Welcome**

### **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.**

### **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.

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 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 you from all your sins,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**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,  
who made this most holy night  
to shine with the brightness of your one true light  
bring us, who have known the revelation of that light on earth,  
to see the radiance of your heavenly glory;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and forever.  
**Amen.**

### **Readings**

*At the end of each, the reader may say*

This is the word of the Lord.

**All Thanks be to God**

### **The Gradual Hymn**

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

## **Gospel Reading**

*All turn to face the Book of the Gospels*

*When the Gospel is announced the reader says*

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*At the end*

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

## **Sermon**

## **The Creed**

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**

*All sit or kneel for the prayers*

### **The Peace**

This holy night the angels sang,  
'Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth peace to all in whom he delights.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
**And also with you.**

Let us offer one another a sign of peace

### **The Offertory Hymn**

### **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.  
**Amen.**

### **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 on this night 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.**

**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.

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 the 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 Mary, the Holy  
Innocents, St Mark 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**

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

**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**

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.**

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

### ***During the distribution, the choir sings***

*In the bleak midwinter (Darke); and Away in Manger (Willcocks)*

### **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 forever. Amen.**

**Almighty God,  
we thank you for feeding us  
with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.  
Through him we offer 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 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**

### **Recessional Hymn**

### **The Dismissal**

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