

THE EUCHARIST of **CHRISTMAS NIGHT**



**The Word became flesh and dwelt
among us**



St Michael and All Angels, Tettenhall

¶ *The Gathering*

CAROL

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:

Sing, choirs of Angels,
Sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of Heaven above:
"Glory to God
in the highest":

*The final verse of the carol is sung after the blessing of the crib.
The figure of Christ is laid in the crib and the following words may be used:*

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

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

BLESSING OF THE CRIB

When peaceful silence lay over all
and night was in the midst of her swift course,
from your royal throne, O God, down from the heavens,
leapt your almighty Word. *Wisdom 18:14-15*

God's love for us was revealed
when God sent his only Son into the world
so that we could have life through him. *1 John 4:9*

Let us pray
that God our Father will bless this crib,
and 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

CAROL

Yea, Lord we greet Thee,
Born this happy morning;
Jesus, to Thee be glory given,
Word of the Father,
Now in flesh appearing:
*O come, let us adore Him,
O come let us adore Him,
O come let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord!*

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.

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.
Amen.

GLORY TO GOD

**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 re 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.

Silence is kept.

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 for ever.
Amen.

¶ **The Liturgy of the Word**

FIRST READING

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah (9:2-7)

² 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. ³ You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. ⁴ For

the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. ⁵ For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. ⁶ 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. ⁷ 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.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SUNG RESPONSORIAL PSALM 96

R To you is born this day a Saviour; who is Christ the Lord

Sing to the Lord a new song;

sing to the Lord, all the earth.

Sing to the Lord and bless his name;

tell out his salvation from day to day.

Declare his glory among the nations and his wonders among all peoples.

R

Ascribe to the Lord, you families of the peoples;

ascribe to the Lord honour and strength.

Ascribe to the Lord the honour due to his name;

bring offerings and come into his courts.

O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness;

let the whole earth tremble before him.

R

Tell it out among the nations that the Lord is king.

He has made the world so firm that it cannot be moved;

he will judge the peoples with equity.

Let the heavens rejoice and let the earth be glad;

let the sea thunder and all that is in it;

R To you is born this day a Saviour; who is Christ the Lord

Let the fields be joyful and all that is in them;
let all the trees of the wood shout for joy before the Lord.
For he comes, he comes to judge the earth;
with righteousness he will judge the world and the peoples with his truth.

R

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of Paul to Titus (2.11-14)

¹¹ The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, ¹² training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, ¹³ while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ. ¹⁴ 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.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

CAROL

O little town of Bethlehem,
How still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by;
Yet in the dark streets shineth
The everlasting Light;
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in Thee tonight.

O morning stars, together
Proclaim the holy birth,
And praises sing to God the King,
And peace to men on earth;
For Christ is born of Mary;
And, gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the Angels keep
Their watch of wondering love.

How silently, how silently,
The wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts
The blessing of His Heaven,
No ear may hear His coming;
But in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive Him still
The dear Christ enters in.

O Holy Child of Bethlehem,
Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin and enter in;
Be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas Angels
The great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us,
Our Lord Emmanuel.

GOSPEL

Gloria, gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria, gloria, alleluia, alleluia!
Gloria, gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria, gloria, alleluia, alleluia!
The Word became flesh and dwelt among us,
and we have seen his glory
Gloria, gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria, gloria, alleluia, alleluia!

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke (2:1-20)
Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ² This was the first registration and was

taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³ All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴ 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. ⁵ He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷ 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. ⁸ In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ 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: ¹¹ to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.' ¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ¹⁴ 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!' ¹⁵ 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.' ¹⁶ So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰ 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.

Gloria, gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria, gloria, alleluia, alleluia!

SERMON

THE NICENE 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

These responses may be used

Holy God

Hear our prayer.

At the end of the prayers

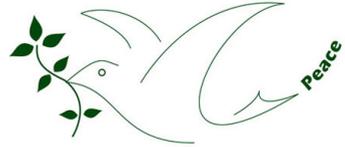
Amen.

¶ *The Liturgy of the Sacrament*

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.



CAROL

It came upon the midnight clear,
That glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth,
To touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, goodwill to all,
From heaven's all-gracious King."
The world in solemn stillness lay,
To hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come,
With peaceful wings unfurled,
And still their heavenly music floats
O'er all the weary world;
Above its sad and lowly plains,
They bend on hovering wing,
And ever o'er its Babel sounds
The blessed angels sing.

Yet with the woes of sin and strife
The world has suffered long;
Beneath the angel-strain have rolled
Two thousand years of wrong;
And man, at war with man, hears not
The love-song which they bring;
O hush the noise, ye men of strife,⁵
And hear the angels sing.

And ye, beneath life's crushing load,
Whose forms are bending low,
Who toil along the climbing way
With painful steps and slow,
Look now! for glad and golden hours
come swiftly on the wing.
O rest beside the weary road,
And hear the angels sing!

For lo! the days are hastening on,
By prophet bards foretold,
When with the ever-circling years
Comes round the age of gold
When peace shall over all the earth
Its ancient splendours fling,
And the whole world give back the song
Which now the angels sing.

TAKING OF THE BREAD AND WINE

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.
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.

The president praises God for his mighty acts and all respond
**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.**

The president recalls the Last Supper and this acclamation is used
Great is the mystery of faith
**Christ has died:
Christ is risen:
Christ will come again.**

The prayer continues and at the end we make it our own, responding boldly
Amen.

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 this bread to share in the body of Christ.

**Though we are many, we are one body
because we all share in one bread.**

**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

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

Lord, give us this bread always.

CAROL

Silent night, holy night,
all is calm, all is bright;
round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy infant so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace,
sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night,
shepherds quail at the sight:
glories stream from heaven afar,
heavenly hosts sing alleluia:
Christ the Saviour is born,
Christ the Saviour is born!

Silent night, holy night,
Son of God, love's pure light;
radiant beams thy holy face,
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

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.

¶ *The Dismissal*

BLESSING

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

Go in the peace of Christ.
Thanks be to God.

CAROL

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 ministers and people depart.