

# Sung Eucharist

## Christmas and Epiphany



We have beheld his glory, glory as of the only Son of the Father, full of grace and truth.

*John 1:14*

Welcome to our worship online.

Worship is at the heart of our church life. Everything we are, and everything we do together as the people of God flows from our worship.

We use the Ancient and Modern hymn book for this service. The hymn numbers are available on a link on our website. If you are joining us regularly through the livestream, we are pleased to deliver you a hymnbook to your home so you can join in with the singing. Please contact Rev'd Vicky about this [stjameswe.vicar@gmail.com](mailto:stjameswe.vicar@gmail.com).

*Christmas is one of the great festivals of the church year when we celebrate the birth of Jesus, our Lord and Saviour. It is a season of joy and hope.*

*Epiphany means manifestation. It has become associated in the western churches with the visit of the three wise men to Jesus, which symbolises Jesus being revealed to the peoples of the world. This makes it an appropriate time in the church's year to pray for the worldwide church and the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity falls during this season. In the eastern churches, Epiphany is the celebration of the baptism of Jesus by John the Baptist when a voice from heaven reveals that Jesus is 'God's beloved Son' and we also celebrate Jesus' baptism during this season.*

*Having spent the weeks of advent preparing for this important festival we now spend 40 days celebrating it. The season continues until the Feast of the Presentation of Christ on the 2<sup>nd</sup> February when we remember Jesus brought to the temple for the first time as a 40 day old baby. The church colour for Christmas and Epiphany is white. The church is filled with flowers and the crib is a focus in church throughout the season.*

*Before the service you may like to reflect on one or more of the following:*

*'I am bringing you good news of great joy for all people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ, the Lord.'* Luke 2:10,11

*'I will give you as a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.'* Isaiah 49:6

*A voice from heaven said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.'* Matthew 3:17

*A welcome and any notices are given before the service begins.*

**HYMN** *The ministers process in.*

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.**

*The minister prays with the children before they leave for their worship.*

## **PRAYERS OF PENITENCE**

*We are invited to reflect on our sins. (We sit)*

*Deacon* The grace of God has dawned upon the world through our Saviour Jesus Christ, who has sacrificed himself for us to purify a people as his own. Let us confess our sins. *cf Titus 2:11-14*

**All Almighty God, our heavenly Father,  
we have sinned against you  
and against our neighbour  
in thought and word and deed,  
through negligence, through weakness,  
through our own deliberate fault.  
We are truly sorry and repent of all our sins.  
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, who died for us,  
forgive us all that is past  
and grant that we may serve you in newness of life  
to the glory of your name.  
Amen.**

*We receive God's forgiveness in the words of the absolution:*

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent,  
have mercy upon you,  
pardon and deliver you from all your sins,  
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,  
and keep you in life eternal;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All    Amen.**

**THE GLORIA IN EXCELSIS** *(We stand to sing)*

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

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

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

**THE COLLECT** is prayed

A **BIBLE READING** is read. *(We sit)*

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

**All                                      Thanks be to God.**

**HYMN** *(We stand)*

**THE GOSPEL READING** (*We remain standing and face the gosseller*).

*The Gospel Acclamation is sung:*

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia**

*A sentence of scripture is sung by a cantor.*

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to *Matthew/Mark/Luke/John*.

**All**                    **Glory to you, O Lord.**

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

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

**SERMON** (*We sit*)

**APOSTLES CREED** (*We stand*)

**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.**

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION** (*We sit*)

*Response:*        Lord in your mercy

**All**                    **Hear our prayer.**

*At the end:*        Merciful Father,

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

**THE PEACE** *(We stand)*

*The priest introduces the Peace.*

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

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.  
*You are invited to write a greeting in the chat, perhaps 'Peace be with you'.*

**HYMN**

*During which the altar is prepared for communion.*

*A prayer may be said and the collection later offered at the altar.*

**THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER** *(We stand)*

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.**

*The priest praises God for his mighty acts and we respond singing:*

**All Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest.**

*The priest recalls the Last Supper.*

Great is the mystery of faith:

**All Christ has died:  
Christ is risen:  
Christ will come again.**

*The Prayer continues.*

*At the end we respond:*

**Amen or Blessing and honour and glory and power  
be yours for ever and ever. Amen.**

*Silence is kept.*

**THE LORDS PRAYER** (*We sit or kneel.*)

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 forever.  
Amen.**

**THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD**

We break this bread  
to share in the body of Christ.

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

**THE AGNUS DEI** (*sung*)

**All 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.**

Jesus is the Lamb of God,  
who takes away the sins of the world.  
Happy are those who are called to his supper.

**All Lord I am not worthy to receive you,  
but only say the word and I shall be healed.**

### **GIVING OF COMMUNION**

*You are invited to use the prayer for Spiritual Communion below asking Jesus to be with you now.*

Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ,  
for all the benefits you have given me,  
for all the pains and insults you have borne for me.  
Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally,  
I ask you to come spiritually into my heart.  
O most merciful redeemer, friend and brother,  
may I know you more clearly, love you more dearly,  
and follow you more nearly, day by day.  
Amen

**THE POST COMMUNION PRAYER** is prayed.

*After we pray together:*

**All 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.**

**HYMN** (*We stand*)

### **BLESSING**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**All In the name of Christ. Amen.**

*A voluntary is played and the ministers leave.*

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