



A SERVICE OF

Holy Communion

FOR THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD, OR THE BIRTH-
DAY OF CHRIST COMMONLY CALLED

Christmas Day

You are welcome

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A warm welcome to St. Michael at the North Gate, this Christmas Day.

Eating together has always been a sign of sharing, community and reconciliation; it is perhaps unsurprising that the central ceremony in Christian worship is a meal. This Sacrament is known by so many names – the Eucharist, the Mass, The Lord’s Supper, and Communion, among others – but at the heart of it is the simplicity of bread and wine. Every day, for nearly two thousand years, people have taken bread and wine, have remembered Jesus, and have been nourished by him.

At Christmas we celebrate the self-giving of God, as he reaches out to humanity in the baby born at Bethlehem. In Communion we once again celebrate this self-giving. For nearly two thousand years, Christians have met to share bread and drink wine in obedience to the words spoken by Jesus at the Last Supper. St Paul, writing to the Church in Corinth around the year 54 AD, records that on the night of his betrayal, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, ‘This is my body which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.’ In the same way also the cup, after supper, saying, ‘This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.’

On the following day Jesus was crucified. Christians believe that on the third day he was raised from death. Through the power of this sacrifice, in this dying and rising, death and evil are defeated by life and love. Sin is overcome, forgiveness is assured, and we ourselves are called to give thanks by living a new life in Christ, following the pattern of his self-giving and helping to advance his saving work in the world.

At St Michael’s our service of Holy Communion follows the pattern according to the Book of Common Prayer. Hymns of praise are sung; sins are confessed and forgiven; Scripture is read and God’s Word is proclaimed; prayers are offered for the Church and for the world Christ died to save; we are invited to gather in faith at the Lord’s Table.

All the things we do, sing, and say are an invitation to celebrate the real, living, active presence of Jesus in our midst. He welcomes us.

The minister says the words in normal type, we all say what is in **bold**.
Blue font is used to explain who does what.

THE WELCOME AND PREPARATION

*We stand to sing the **PROCESSIONAL HYMN** as the Minister(s) enter.*

Words of welcome are said.

*We sit or kneel to say **THE COLLECT FOR PURITY***

**Almighty God, unto whom all hearts be open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid; Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy Name; through Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

*We sit or kneel for **THE SUMMARY OF THE LAW***

Our Lord Jesus Christ said: This is the first commandment:
'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is one Lord;
and thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart,
and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength.'
This is the first and great commandment.

And the second is like unto it, namely this:
'Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.'
There is none other commandment greater than these.
On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

**Lord, have mercy upon us,
and write all these thy laws in our hearts, we beseech thee.**

Let us pray.

Almighty God, who hast given us thy only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him, and as at this time to be born of a pure Virgin: Grant that we being regenerate, and made thy children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by thy Holy Spirit; through the same our Lord Jesus Christ, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the same Spirit, ever one God, world without end.

All **Amen.**

We sit for our New Testament **LESSON** (*Scripture reading*)

The Epistle is written in the first chapter of the letter to the Hebrews beginning at the first verse.

God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds; who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high; being made so much better than the angels, as he hath by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they.

For unto which of the angels said he at any time, Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee? And again, I will be to him a Father, and he shall be to me a Son? And again, when he bringeth in the first-begotten into the world, he saith, And let all the angels of God worship him. And of the angels he saith, Who maketh his angels spirits, and his ministers a flame of fire.

But unto the Son he saith, Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever; a sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of thy kingdom: Thou hast loved righteousness, and hated iniquity; therefore God, even thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows. And, Thou, Lord, in the beginning hast laid the foundation of the earth; and the heavens are the works of thine hands: they shall perish, but thou remainest; and they all shall wax old as doth a garment; and as a vesture shalt thou fold them up, and they shall be changed; but thou art the same, and thy years shall not fail.

Here endeth the Epistle

We stand for a reading from **THE GOSPEL**

The holy Gospel is written in the first chapter of the Gospel according to Saint John, beginning at the first verse.

All **Glory be to thee, O Lord.**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness, and the darkness comprehended it not.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the light, that all men through him might believe. He was not that light, but was sent to bear witness of that light. That was the true light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. He came unto his own, and his own received him not.

But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his Name: which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only-begotten of the Father) full of grace and truth.

This is the Gospel of Christ.

All **Thanks be to thee, O Lord.**

We remain standing for **THE CREED**

I believe in one God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, And of all things visible and invisible: And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten son of God, Begotten of his Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, Very God of Very God, Begotten, not made, Being of one substance with the Father, By whom all things were made: Who for us men, and for our salvation came down from heaven, And was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary, And was made man, And was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried, And the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures, And ascended into heaven, And sitteth on the right hand of the Father. And he shall come again with glory to judge both the quick and the dead: Whose kingdom shall have no end. And I believe in the Holy Ghost, The Lord and giver of life, Who proceedeth from the Father and the Son, Who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified, Who spake by the Prophets. And I believe one Catholick and Apostolick Church. I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins. And I look for the Resurrection of the dead, And the life of the world to come. Amen.

We sit to hear **THE SERMON**

We stand to sing our **OFFERTORY HYMN** *during which the table is prepared with bread and wine.*

We sit or kneel for our **PRAYERS**

Let us pray at this Christmas-tide for our world, so loved by God that the Christ-child was born at Bethlehem

We humbly beseech thee most mercifully (to accept our alms and oblations, and) to receive these our prayers, which we offer unto thy Divine Majesty; beseeching thee to inspire continually the universal Church with the spirit of truth, unity, and concord: And grant, that all they who do confess thy holy Name may agree in the truth of thy holy Word, and live in unity, and godly love.

We beseech thee also to save and defend all Christian Kings, Princes, and Governors; and specially thy Servant Charles our King; that under him we may be godly and quietly governed: and grant unto his whole Council, and to all that are put in authority under him, that they may truly and indifferently minister justice, to the punishment of wickedness and vice, and to the maintenance of thy true religion, and virtue.

Give grace, O heavenly Father, to all Bishops and Curates, that they may both by their life and doctrine set forth thy true and lively Word, and rightly and duly administer thy holy Sacraments.

And to all thy people give thy heavenly grace; and specially to this congregation here present; that, with meek heart and due reverence, they may hear, and receive thy holy Word; truly serving thee in holiness and righteousness all the days of their life.

And we most humbly beseech thee, of thy goodness, O Lord, to comfort and succour all them, who in this transitory life, are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity.

And we also bless thy holy Name for all thy servants departed this life in thy faith and fear; beseeching thee to give us grace so to follow their good examples, that with them we may be partakers of thy heavenly kingdom: Grant this, O Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our only Mediator and Advocate.

All **Amen.**

We remain in prayer as we hear and respond to **THE INVITATION TO CONFESSION**

St Luke writes: And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

Ye that do truly and earnestly repent you of your sins, and are in love and charity with your neighbours, and intend to lead a new life, following the commandments of God, and walking from henceforth in his holy ways; Draw near with faith, and take this holy Sacrament to your comfort; and make your humble confession to Almighty God, meekly kneeling upon your knees.

Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Maker of all things, judge of all men; We acknowledge and bewail our manifold sins and wickedness, Which we, from time to time, most grievously have committed, By thought, word, and deed, against thy Divine Majesty, Provoking most justly thy wrath and indignation against us. We do earnestly repent, And are heartily sorry for these our misdoings; The remembrance of them is grievous unto us; The burden of them is intolerable. Have mercy upon us, have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; For thy Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake, Forgive us all that is past; And grant that we may ever hereafter Serve and please thee in newness of life, To the honour and glory of thy Name; Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy hath promised forgiveness of sins to all them that with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto him; Have mercy upon you; pardon and deliver you from all your sins; confirm and strengthen you in all goodness; and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

THE COMFORTABLE WORDS

Hear what comfortable words our Saviour Christ saith unto all that truly turn to him.

Come unto me all that travail and are heavy laden,
and I will refresh you.

St. Matthew 11. 28.

So God loved the world, that he gave his only-begotten Son,
to the end that all that believe in him should not perish,
but have everlasting life.

St. John 3. 16.

Hear also what Saint Paul saith.

This is a true saying, and worthy of all men to be received,
That Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.

1 Timothy 1. 15.

Hear also what Saint John saith.

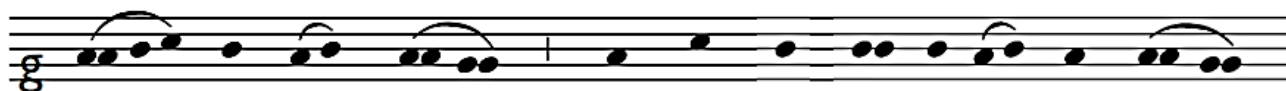
If any man sin, we have an Advocate with the Father,
Jesus Christ the righteous; and he is the propitiation for our sins.

St. John 2. 1.

We stand for the EUCHARISTIC PRAYER



The Lord be with you **R.** and with thy spi - rit.



Lift up your hearts. **R.** We lift them up un-to the Lord.



Let us give thanks un - to our Lord God.



R. It is meet and right so to do.

Then shall the Priest turn to the Lord's Table, and say:

It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, Holy Father, Almighty, Everlasting God.

Because thou didst give Jesus Christ thine only Son to be born as at this time for us; who, by the operation of the Holy Ghost, was made very man of the substance of the Virgin Mary his mother; and that without spot of sin, to make us clean from all sin. Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and saying,

**Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts, heaven and earth are full of thy glory: Glory be to thee, O Lord most High.
Amen.**

We sit or kneel for **THE PRAYER OF HUMBLE ACCESS**

We do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord, whose property is always to have mercy: Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body, and our souls washed through his most precious blood, and that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us.

Amen.

THE PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of thy tender mercy didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to suffer death upon the Cross for our redemption; who made there (by his one oblation of himself once offered) a full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice, oblation, and satisfaction, for the sins of the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death, until his coming again;

Hear us, O merciful Father, we most humbly beseech thee; and grant that we receiving these thy creatures of bread and wine, according to thy Son our Saviour Jesus Christ's holy institution, in remembrance of his death and passion, may be partakers of his most blessed Body and Blood: who, in the same night that he was betrayed, took Bread; and, when he had given thanks, he brake 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.

Likewise after supper he took the Cup; and, when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of this; for this is my Blood of the New Testament, which is shed for you and for many for the remission of sins: Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me.

All **Amen.**

THE GIVING OF COMMUNION

Everyone is welcome to come forward and receive the bread and wine of Communion. If you would prefer to receive a blessing, please hold your hands down at the Communion rail.

After we receive Communion, we kneel or sit to pray, starting with **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Our Father, which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, in earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, As we forgive them that 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.

Almighty and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee, for that thou dost vouchsafe to feed us, who have duly received these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Saviour Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favour and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, which is the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs through hope of thy everlasting kingdom, by the merits of the most precious death and passion of thy dear Son. And we most humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honour and glory, world without end.

All **Amen.**

We stand for **THE GLORIA**

Glory be to God on high, and in earth peace, good will towards men. We praise thee, we bless thee, we worship thee, we glorify thee, we give thanks to thee for thy great glory, O Lord God, heavenly King, God the Father Almighty. O Lord, the only begotten Son Jesu Christ; O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us. Thou that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us. Thou that takest away the sins of the world, receive our prayer. Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us. For thou only art holy; thou only art the Lord; thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost, art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

We remain standing for **THE BLESSING and THE RECESSIONAL HYMN**

The peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his son Jesus Christ our Lord: and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be amongst you and remain with you always.

All **Amen.**

The Minister(s) and people depart

A very Merry Christmas to us all.



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