

Holy Communion



For Christmas Night.

Greeting

Stand

The People who walked in darkness have seen a great light: those who dwell in the land of deep darkness, on them has the light shone.

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

Welcome and Opening Carol

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.

The Gloria

Stand

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.
Amen**

The Collect

We remain standing for 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 our Lord.
Amen.

Sit

Old Testament Reading:- Isaiah 62:11-12

The LORD has proclaimed to the end of the earth: Say to daughter Zion, "See, your salvation comes; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him." They shall be called, "The Holy People, The Redeemed of the LORD"; and you shall be called, "Sought Out, A City Not Forsaken."

At the end the reader says

This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

New Testament Reading :- Titus 3.4-7

When the goodness and loving-kindness of God our Saviour appeared, he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit.

This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Saviour, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

At the end the reader says

This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Stand

Carol

Gospel:- John 1:1-14

We remain standing for the Gospel

Today Christ is born:
Alleluia!

Today the Saviour has come:
Alleluia!

Today the angels sing on earth:
Alleluia! Glory to God in the highest!

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

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

At the end the reader says

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

Sermon

Sit after the opening prayer

Prayers of Intercession

We sit or kneel for our prayers

Father, in this holy night your Son our Saviour was born in human form. Renew your Church as the body of Christ.
Lord in your Mercy... **Hear our Prayer**

In this holy night 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.
Lord in your Mercy... **Hear our Prayer**

In this holy night Mary in the pain of labour brought your Son to birth. Hold in your hand all who are in pain or distress today.
Lord in your Mercy... **Hear our Prayer**

In this holy night your Christ came as a light shining in the darkness. Bring comfort to all who suffer in the sadness of our world.
Lord in your Mercy... **Hear our Prayer**

In this holy night the angels sang 'Peace to God's people on earth'.
Strengthen those who work for peace and justice in all the world.
Lord in your Mercy... **Hear our Prayer**

In this holy night shepherds in the field heard good tidings of joy.
Give us grace to preach the gospel of Christ's redemption.
Lord in your Mercy... **Hear our Prayer**

In this holy night strangers found the Holy Family, and saw the
baby lying in the manger. Bless our homes and all whom we love.
Lord in your Mercy... **Hear our Prayer**

In this holy night heaven is come down to earth, and earth is raised
to heaven. Keep in safety all those who have gone through death in
the hope of heaven.
Lord in your Mercy... **Hear our Prayer**

In this holy night angels and shepherds worshipped at the manger
throne. Receive the worship we offer in fellowship with Mary,
Joseph and all the saints.

Merciful Father, **accept these prayers for the sake of your Son
our Saviour Jesus Christ.**

Offertory Carol

Preparation of the gifts

The bread and wine are placed on the holy table.

Word made flesh, life of the world,
in your incarnation you embraced our poverty:
by your Spirit may we share in your riches.

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.

And now we give you thanks
because, in the incarnation of the Word,
a new light has dawned upon the world;
you have become one with us
that we might become one with you in your glorious kingdom.

Therefore with angels and archangels,
and with all the company of heaven,
we proclaim your great and glorious name,
for ever praising you and saying:

**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.**

We praise and bless you, loving Father,
through Jesus Christ, our Lord;
and as we obey his command,
send your Holy Spirit,
that broken bread and wine outpoured
may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper with his friends
and, taking bread, he praised you.
He broke the bread, gave it to them and said:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine.
Again he praised you, gave it to them and said:
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.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did,
in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice
made once for all upon the cross.

Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation, we
proclaim his death and resurrection
until he comes in glory.

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

Lord of all life,
help us to work together for that day
when your kingdom comes
and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth.
Look with favour on your people,
gather us in your loving arms
and bring us with [*N and*] all the saints
to feast at your table in heaven.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father,
for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Silence is kept.

The Lord's Prayer

Sit or kneel

As our Saviour taught us, so we are bold to pray

**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 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.**

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.

Giving of Communion

The president says the invitation to communion

Christ is the bread which has come down from heaven.
Lord, give us this bread for ever.

Draw near with faith.
Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ
which he gave for you,

Eat in remembrance that he died for you,
and feed on him in your hearts
by faith with thanksgiving.
Amen.

The ministers and people receive the communion and a carol will be sung

After Communion

We sit or kneel

The shepherds said, 'Let us go to Bethlehem, and see the thing
that the Lord has made known to us.'

Silence is kept.

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.

**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.**

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 Godbearer,
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 upon you and remain with you always.
Amen.

Final Carol

A minister says

Go in peace to love and serve the lord.
In the name of Christ Amen.