



## Invocation and Greeting

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

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

## Penitential Act

*The choir sings*

Kyrie, eleison. Christe, eleison. Kyrie, eleison.

*The presider or another minister invites the people to call their sins to mind, and to repent of them*

Christ the grace of God has dawned upon the world with healing for all.

*Silence*

Let us bring our weaknesses and infirmities to him,  
confessing our sins to the Lord in penitence and faith.

**Merciful God, our maker and our judge,  
we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed,  
and in what we have failed to do:  
we have not loved you with our whole heart;  
we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves;  
we repent, and are sorry for all our sins.  
Father, forgive us.  
Strengthen us to love and obey you in newness of life;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Almighty God,  
who has promised forgiveness to all who turn to him in faith:  
✠ pardon you and set you free from all your sins,  
strengthen you in all goodness,  
and keep you in eternal life,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## Hymn of Praise

**Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to God's 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.**

### **Collect of the Day**

Let us pray.

*All pray in silence for a while, then the presider says or sings the Collect*

Eternal Father,  
we give thanks for your incarnate Son,  
whose name is our salvation.  
Plant in every heart, we pray,  
the love of him who is the Saviour of the world,  
our Lord Jesus Christ,  
who lives and reigns with you and the same Spirit,  
one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

### THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

#### **Old Testament Reading**

Numbers 6.22–27

The LORD spoke to Moses, saying ‘Speak to Aaron and his sons, saying, “Thus you shall bless the Israelites: You shall say to them, The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the LORD lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace.” So they shall put my name on the Israelites, and I will bless them.’

For the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

#### **Responsorial Psalm**

Psalm 8

**℟. Your name, O Lord, is exalted in all the world!**

- 1 O LORD our governor,  
how exalted is your name in all the world!
- 2 Out of the mouths of infants and children  
your majesty is praised above the heavens.
- 3 You have set up a stronghold against your adversaries,  
to quell the enemy and the avenger. **℟.**
- 4 When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers,  
the moon and the stars you have set in their courses,
- 5 What are mortals, that you should be mindful of them?  
mere human beings, that you should seek them out?
- 6 You have made them little lower than the angels;  
you adorn them with glory and honour. **℟.**

- 7 You give them mastery over the works of your hands;  
and put all things under their feet,  
8 All sheep and oxen,  
even the wild beasts of the field,  
9 The birds of the air, the fish of the sea,  
and whatsoever walks in the paths of the sea.  
10 O LORD our governor,  
how exalted is your name in all the world! *R̄.*

### **New Testament Reading**

Philippians 2.5–11

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

For the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **Gospel Acclamation**

Hebrews 1.1-2

Alleluia, alleluia.

At various times in the past and in various different ways,  
God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets;  
but in our own time, the last days,  
he has spoken to us through his Son.  
Alleluia.

### **Gospel Reading**

Luke 2.15–21

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

✠ **Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

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.’ So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them. After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel.

For the Gospel of the Lord,

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

## Prayers of the People

*The presider introduces the prayers.*

*The presider concludes the prayers. The following form may be used:*

Almighty God, you have promised to hear our prayers,  
**grant that what we have asked in faith  
we may by your grace receive,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## Greeting of Peace

We are the body of Christ.

**His Spirit is with us.**

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**And also with you.**

*All stand to sing the hymn*

**On this day of celebration,  
at this time when hopes are new,  
God, we gather as your people,  
called to put our trust in you.  
You have made the world we live in;  
you have worked through history.  
In your plan we find our purpose,  
in your love, our unity.**

**Long ago, you sent our Saviour  
to this world in deep despair.  
In your Word made flesh you came, our  
life to know, our sins to bear.  
Christ has died and Christ is risen!  
At this new year we proclaim:  
Yesterday, today, forever —  
Jesus Christ is still the same!**

**Through two thousand years of changes,  
through these passing centuries,  
You have called your church to witness  
to Christ's love that claims and frees.  
Each new generation hears you,  
each must find a fresh new way  
To make known the life you offer,  
to the people in their day.**

**On this day, we pause and wonder  
what the future years will bring,  
Yet we know you clothe each flower  
and you make each sparrow sing.  
How much more will you protect us  
with your guiding, caring hand!  
By your Spirit, lead us boldly  
in the future you have planned.**

Carol Winfrey Gillette b.1961

*When the altar is prepared, the presider says*

Pray, brothers and sisters,  
that my sacrifice and yours  
may be acceptable to God, the Father almighty.

**May the Lord accept our sacrifice  
for the praise and glory of his name,  
for our good, and the good of all his Church.**

### **Prayer over the Offerings**

Gracious God,  
the name of Jesus brings salvation to the world.  
In all we offer you this day,  
may we honour him,  
who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever. **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 our thanks and praise.**

All glory and honour be yours always and everywhere,  
mighty creator, ever-living God.

You created light out of darkness,  
and brought forth life on the earth.  
You formed us in your image,  
and breathed into us the breath of life.  
When we turned away from you,  
and our love failed,  
your love remained ever steadfast.

You made a covenant to be our God,  
and spoke to us through your prophets.  
In the fullness of time  
you gave your only Son, Jesus Christ, to be our Saviour,  
and at his birth the angels sang glory to you in the highest  
and peace to your people on earth.

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

**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.**

Merciful God, you are blessed indeed,  
and blessed is your Son, Jesus Christ.

As Mary and Joseph went from Galilee to Bethlehem  
and there found no room,  
so Jesus went from Galilee to Jerusalem  
and was despised and rejected.

As in the poverty of a stable Jesus was born,  
so, by the baptism of suffering, death and resurrection  
you gave birth to your church,  
delivered us from slavery to sin and death  
and made with us a new covenant  
by water and the Spirit.

As your Word became flesh,  
born of woman on that night so long ago so,  
on the night he was betrayed, Jesus took bread;  
and when he had given you thanks,  
he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying,  
'Take, eat. This is my body given for you.  
Do this in remembrance of me'.

After supper, he took the cup,  
and again giving you thanks,  
he gave it to his disciples, saying,  
'This is my blood of the new covenant  
shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.  
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me'.

And so, in remembrance of Jesus' birth,  
his offering of himself made once for all upon the cross,  
his mighty resurrection and exaltation,  
and the promise of the life to come,  
we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving  
as a holy and living sacrifice.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and our celebration:  
may these gifts of bread and wine be for us  
the body and blood of Christ.

Make us one with Christ and with each other,  
and one in service to all the world,  
until the day of final glory comes  
and we feast at his heavenly banquet  
with all your saints for ever.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
by whom, and with whom, and in whom,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all glory is yours, eternal God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## **The Lord's Prayer**

As our Saviour Christ has taught us we are confident to 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.  
Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.**

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil,  
graciously grant peace in our days,  
that, by the help of your mercy,  
we may be always free from sin  
and safe from all distress,  
as we await the blessed hope  
and the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,  
now and for ever. Amen.**



*The presider breaks the bread*

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.  
We who are many are one body,  
**for we all share in the one bread.**

*The presider breaks the bread, while the anthem Agnus Dei is sung*

**Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us.**  
**Jesus, bearer of our sins, have mercy on us.**  
**Jesus, redeemer of the world, grant us your peace.**

*The presider invites the people to receive Holy Communion*

Behold the Lamb of God,  
behold him who takes away the sins of the world.  
Blessed are those who are called to the supper of the Lamb.  
**Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,**  
**but only say the word, and I shall be healed.**

*All receive Holy Communion*

### **Communion Antiphon**

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and for ever.

### **Prayer after Communion**

Let us pray.

Father,  
you have fed us heavenly food  
in the sacrament of the body and blood of Christ.  
Grant that we, sharing in this mystery,  
may turn always to that name which is above all others,  
Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### **Postcommunion Hymn**

**O for a thousand tongues to sing  
My dear Redeemer's praise,  
The glories of my God and King,  
The triumphs of his grace!**

**Jesus – the name that charms our fears,  
That bids our sorrows cease;  
'Tis music in the sinner's ears,  
'Tis life, and health, and peace.**

He speaks, and, listening to his voice,  
New life the dead receive,  
The mournful broken hearts rejoice,  
The humble poor believe.

Hear him, ye deaf; his praise, ye dumb,  
Your loosened tongues employ;  
Ye blind, behold your Saviour come,  
And leap, ye lame, for joy!

My gracious Master and my God,  
Assist me to proclaim,  
And spread through all the earth abroad  
The honours of thy name.

Charles Wesley 1707-88

### **Solemn Blessing for the Beginning of the Year**

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

May God, the source and origin of all blessing,  
grant you grace,  
pour out his blessing in abundance,  
and keep you safe from harm throughout the year.  
**Amen.**

May he give you integrity in the faith,  
endurance in hope,  
and perseverance in charity  
with holy patience to the end.  
**Amen.**

May he order your days and your deeds in his peace,  
grant your prayers in this and in every place,  
and lead you happily to eternal life.  
**Amen.**

And the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always.  
**Amen.**

### **Dismissal**

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