



Christmastide and Epiphanytide

(from Christmas Day to the eve of the Presentation)

We welcome you to St Matthew's Church and pray you are blessed as we worship the Lord together.

If you are with us for the first time please fill in one of our Welcome Cards. Thank you.

Don't forget to silence your mobile!

Please join in the words in bold print.

Entry Hymn:

The Gathering

Grace mercy & peace from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you;

And also with you

Do I not fill Heaven & Earth?

Says the Lord;

Now he is made flesh

and laid in a narrow manger.

From eternity to eternity you are God

And now we see you as a new born child.

Prayers of Penitence

From Christmas Day until the Eve of the Epiphany

Hear the words of the Angel to Joseph:

'You shall call his name Jesus,

For he will save his people from their sins.'

Therefore, seek the forgiveness of God

Through Jesus the Saviour of the world.

*From the Epiphany until the Eve of the
Presentation*

The grace of God has dawned upon the
world through our Saviour Jesus Christ
Who sacrificed himself for us

To purify a people as his own,
Let us confess our sins...

**Father eternal, giver of light and grace,
we have sinned against you and against
our neighbour, in what we have thought,
in what we have said and done,
through ignorance, through weakness,
through our own deliberate fault.**

**We have wounded your love and marred
your image in us. We are sorry and
ashamed 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 lead us out from darkness
to walk as children of light. Amen.**

Absolution

Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
who in his great mercy has promised
forgiveness of sins to all those who with
heartfelt repentance and true faith turn to
him: have mercy on *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. **Amen.**

Gloria in Excelsis

**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 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

*The President introduces a period of silent prayer
with the words, let us pray*

At the end all respond, Amen

The Liturgy of the Word

*Please sit for the **First Reading***

At the end the reader says

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Song:

The children may leave for Young Church;

*Please sit for the **Second Reading***

At the end the reader says

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

The Gospel Reading

From Christmas Day until The Eve of the Epiphany

Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia.

The Word became flesh and dwelt among
us, and we have seen his glory.

Alleluia.

From the Epiphany to the Eve of the Presentation

Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia.

We have seen his star at its rising,
and have come to pay him homage.

Alleluia.

Reader: The Lord be with you

And also with you

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
According to *N*

Glory to you O Lord

At the end

This is the Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you O Christ

The Sermon

*Please Stand to affirm our faith
in the words of the*

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

Lord in your mercy,
Hear our prayer

At the end;

**Merciful father, accept these prayers for
the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen**

Liturgy of the Sacrament

Please stand for **The Peace**

From Christmas day until the Eve of the Epiphany

Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given, and his name shall be called the Prince of Peace...

From the Epiphany until the Eve of the Presentation

Christ is our peace.

If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation. The old has passed away: behold, everything has become new.

Followed by;

The peace of the Lord be always with you

And also with you

Let us offer one another a sign of peace

The Preparation of the Table And the Taking of the Bread and Wine

Offertory Hymn:

Prayer of Preparation

From Christmas day until the Eve of the Epiphany

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

From the Epiphany to the Eve of the Presentation

Lord, accept your people's gifts, not gold, frankincense or myrrh, but hearts and voices raised in praise of Jesus Christ, our light and our salvation.
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

From Christmas day until the Eve of the Epiphany

All glory and honour be yours always and everywhere, mighty creator, ever-living God. We give you thanks and praise for your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ, who for love of our fallen race humbled himself, and was born of the Virgin Mary by the power of your Spirit, and lived as one of us.

In this mystery of the Word made flesh you have caused his light to shine in our hearts, to give knowledge of your glory in the face of Jesus Christ. In him we see our God made visible and so are caught up in the love of the God we cannot see.

Therefore with all the angels of heaven we lift our voices to proclaim the glory of your name and sing our joyful hymn of praise:

From the Epiphany to the Eve of the Presentation

All honour and praise be yours always and everywhere, mighty creator, ever-living God, through Jesus Christ your only Son our Lord: for at this time we celebrate your glory made present in our midst. In the coming of the magi the King of all the world was revealed to the nations.

In the waters of baptism Jesus was revealed as the Christ, the Saviour sent to redeem us. In the water made wine the new creation was revealed at the wedding feast. Poverty was turned to riches, sorrow into joy.

Therefore with all the angels of heaven we lift our voices to proclaim the glory of your name and sing our joyful hymn of praise:

**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.

Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness; grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit, and according to your holy will, these gifts of bread and wine may be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;

who, in the same night that he was betrayed, took bread and gave you thanks; he broke 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.

In the same way, after supper he took the cup and gave you thanks; he gave it to them, saying: 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.

Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died:

Christ is risen:

Christ will come again.

And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the cross, his perfect sacrifice made once for the sins of the whole world; rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension, and looking for his coming in glory, we celebrate this memorial of our redemption. As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, we bring before you this bread and this cup and we thank you for counting us worthy to stand in your presence and serve you. Send the Holy Spirit on your people and gather into one in your kingdom all who share this one bread and one cup, so that we, in the company of St Matthew and all the saints, may praise and glorify you for ever,

through Jesus Christ our Lord; by whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father, for ever and ever.
Amen.

As the children return from Young Church we sing

Chant:

The Lord's Prayer

**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.**

Agnus Dei

**Jesus, Lamb of God,
have mercy on us.**

**Jesus, bearer of our sins,
have mercy on us.**

**Jesus, redeemer of the world,
give us your peace.**

Giving of Communion

Christ is the Bread which has come down
from Heaven

Give us this Bread for ever

This prayer may be said

**Most merciful Lord,
your love compels us to come in.
Our hands were unclean, our hearts were
unprepared; we were not fit even to eat
the crumbs from under your table.
But you, Lord, are the God of our
salvation, and share your bread with
sinners. So cleanse and feed us
with the precious body and blood of your
Son, that he may live in us and we in him;
and that we, with the whole company of
Christ, may sit and eat in your kingdom.
Amen.**

*All are welcome at the Lords Table, if you
do not wish to take Communion, please
still come forward for God's blessing*

Anthem

Hymn:

Prayers after Communion

The President may say
a Post Communion Prayer

**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 Notices

Final Hymn:

The Blessing

For Christmastide

**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
God-bearer, give you grace to carry the
good news of Christ.
Amen.**

For Epiphanytide

**Christ our Lord, to whom kings bowed
down in worship and offered gifts,
reveal to you his glory and pour upon you
the riches of his grace;**

followed by

**.... And the Blessing of God Almighty, +
Father Son & Holy Spirit, be among you
and remain with you, and those that you
love, now and always. Amen**

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

Organ Voluntary

Ministers and people depart

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