



THE PARISH EUCHARIST FOR CHRISTMAS

Welcome to St John's for this Service.

Whether this is your first time in St John's, or you are a regular member of the congregation, you are most welcome as we give thanks to God for the new life we have in him through the gift of his Son, Jesus Christ. In faith and confidence we come before the God of love in assurance of his forgiveness and ask for his blessing on our lives. We give thanks especially for the birth of the Christ child in whom God was incarnate and lived among us. We rejoice in the Prince of Peace and pray that his light, love, and life may be present with us this day and throughout the world.

We hope you will be able to join in with the Hymns and everything that is in **bold** type. Hymn numbers are shown on the Boards and in the Newsletter.

The posture directions in this Order of Service are optional. Please stand, sit, or kneel as you prefer.

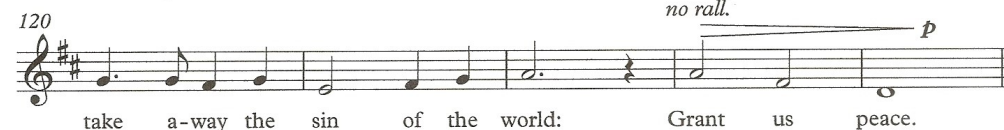
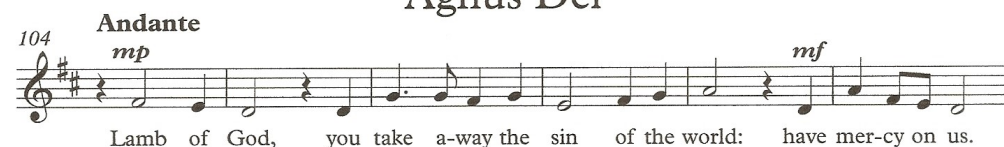
A Collection is received during the Service. UK tax payers are asked to complete a GiftAid envelope to enhance the value of your giving.

Children are welcome to stay in church for the whole Service but, should you need it, there is a Children's Room next to the church entrance. Our Junior Church (ages 3 -11) meets every Sunday morning during the Service (except on the 1st Sunday of the month when we have an All Age Eucharist) for fun, stories, and craft in the Hall. Children are invited to go to Junior Church after the Notices and return in time for Communion. Children of secondary school age leave for "Youth Meets" after the Gospel, also returning at the Peace.

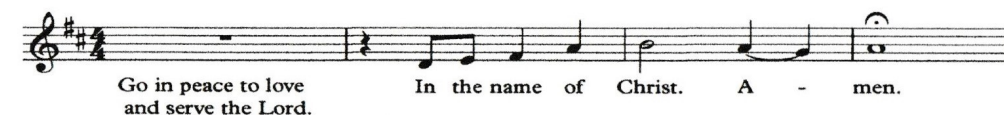
The Mass Setting by David Thorne can be found at the back of this Order of Service.

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Agnus Dei



DISMISSAL



Gospel Acclamations

66 **Maestoso**

 Glo - ry to you O - Lord. Praise to you O Christ

Sanctus

70 **Moderato**

 Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might, Hea - ven and earth are
 full of your glo - ry Ho - san - na, Ho - san - na,
 Ho - san - na - in the - high - est.

Benedictus

81 **mf**

 Ble - ssed is he who comes - in the name - of the - Lord. Ho -
 san - na, Ho - san - na, Ho - san - na - in the - high - est.

Acclamation 1

89 **Maestoso**

 Christ has died: Christ is - ri - sen: Christ will come - a - gain.

Final Acclamation

93 **Maestoso**

 Bles - sing and ho - nour and glo - ry and power be yours for - e - ver and e - ver. A - men.

THE GATHERING

*A period of quiet prayer precedes the service as the organ is played.
Please stand at the entry of the cross.*

A Hymn is sung.

Hymn numbers are on the boards and in the Newsletter.

The Greeting

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

I bring you good news of great joy.

A Saviour has been born to you. Alleluia.

Unto us a child is born,

Unto us a Son is given. Alleluia.

He is Christ the Lord. Alleluia.

We worship and adore him. Alleluia.

The Notices

*Please sit for the Parish Notices, Banns of Marriage, and any other announcements.
Junior Church leave for their time together in the Hall.*

Prayer of Preparation

**Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hidden:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy name;
through Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

All kneel or remain seated to say:

Prayers of Penitence

Hear the words of the angel to Joseph :

“You shall call his name Jesus,

for he will save the people from their sins”.

Therefore, let us seek the forgiveness of God
through Jesus the Saviour of the world.

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

May almighty God have mercy on you,
 forgive you your sins,
 and bring you to everlasting life,
 through Jesus Christ our Lord.
 Amen.

All stand to join the Song of the Angels in praise of the birth of Jesus as we sing

The Gloria

♪ **Glory to God, Glory to God,
 Glory to God in the highest. (* Repeated as a refrain)**
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.]

Mass of St Thomas by David Thorne

Gloria

Moderato

13 **ff** Glo-ry to God, Glo-ry to God, Glo-ry to God in the High - est. **f** Glo-ry to God in the

18 High - est, and peace to his peo-ple on earth. Lord God, Heav'n ly King, Al-

23 migh-ty God and Fa - ther, we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your

28 **f** glo - ry. Glo-ry to God, Glo-ry to God, Glo-ry to God in the High - est.

33 **mf** Lord, Je - sus Christ, on - ly son of the Fa - ther Lord God, Lamb of God, you

39 take - a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us; You are sea - ted at the right

44 hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer. **f** Glo-ry to God, Glo-ry to God,

49 Glo-ry to God in the High - est. For you a - lone are the Ho - ly one, You a - lone are the

54 Lord. You a - lone are the most high, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly

59 Spi - rit, in the Glo-ry of God the Fa - ther. **ff** Glo - ry to God,

63 Glo - ry to God, Glo - ry to God in the High - est.

THE DISMISSAL

All stand for

The Blessing

May the joy of the angels,
the eagerness of the shepherds,
the perseverance of the wise men,
the obedience of Joseph and Mary,
and the peace of the Christ child
be yours this Christmas;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.
Amen.

All remain standing to sing

The Final Hymn

The Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

♪ **In the name of Christ. Amen.**

Please remain standing until the choir and ministers have departed.

*You are most welcome to stay for a cup of tea or coffee
at the back of church after the Service.*

Please take home today's Newsletter but return this Order of Service.

***Our worship has ended; let our service begin.
Thanks be to God!***

The Collect

Following a moment of quiet, a special Prayer for the Day is said, and all respond

Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Bible Readings

All sit for the Reading(s). At the end the reader may say:

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

All stand to sing the

Gradual Hymn

The Gospel

All turn to where the Gospel is proclaimed.

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

Alleluia!

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to *St N.*

♪ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

At the end the reader says

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

♪ **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Those of Secondary School age may leave for "Youth Meets" at this point.

The Sermon

All sit after the opening prayer.

The Nicene Creed

All stand to profess our faith in the Living God.

**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.

All sit or kneel for

The Prayers of Intercession

This response may be used:

Lord, in your mercy	<i>or</i>	Lord, hear us
hear our prayer.		Lord, graciously hear us.

At the end:

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

All remain kneeling or seated to sing

Agnus Dei

♪ **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.**

All are welcome to receive Communion. If you do not usually receive Communion in your own Church, you are welcome to receive a Blessing. To indicate this, please bring this booklet with you. Gluten Free wafers are available on request.

Hymn(s) and an Anthem are sung whilst Communion is administered. (*seated*)

All remain seated or kneeling to say

The Prayer after Communion

**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.**

or:

**Father of all,
we give you thanks and praise,
that when we were still far off
you met us in your Son and brought us home.
Dying and living, he declared your love,
gave us grace, and opened the gate of glory.
May we who share Christ's body live his risen life;
we who drink his cup bring life to others;
we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world.
Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us,
so we and all your children shall be free,
and the whole earth live to praise your name;
through Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

All sit for

Junior Church Presentation

Our younger members share with the congregation what they have been doing.

All sit and kneel to say

The Lord's Prayer

Rejoicing in the presence of God here among us, as our Saviour has taught us, so we are bold 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.
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.**

Rejoicing in the presence of God here among us, let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us:

**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 who 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.**

The 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.**

The Giving of Communion

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

or:

Draw near with faith.
Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ which he gave for you,
and his blood which he shed for you.
Eat and drink in remembrance that Christ died for you,
and feed on him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

All stand for

The Peace

The President says:

Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given,
and his name shall be called the Prince of Peace.
The peace of the Lord be always with you.
and also with you.

All may exchange a sign of peace, most commonly a handshake.

All remain standing to sing

The Offertory Hymn

during which the bread and wine are brought to the Altar table and a Collection for the work of the Church is received.

The Preparation of the Table

These prayers may be said:

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation:
through your goodness we have this bread to offer,
which earth has given and human hands have made.
It will become for us the bread of life.

Blessed be God for ever.

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation:
through your goodness we have this wine to offer,
fruit of the vine and work of human hands.
It will become for us the cup of salvation.

Blessed be God for ever.

or:

Blessed be God, by whose grace creation is renewed,
by whose love heaven is opened,
by whose mercy we offer our sacrifice of praise.

Blessed be God for ever.



All remain standing for

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord is here.

♪ **His Spirit is with us.**

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.**

These or similar words are said or sung

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,
was born of the Virgin Mary by the power of your Spirit,
and lived as one of us.

In the 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:

♪ **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.**

Accept our praises, heavenly Father,
through your son our Saviour Jesus Christ,
and as we follow his example and obey his command
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit
these gifts of bread and wine
may to be us his body and his blood;

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.

Therefore, heavenly Father,
we remember his offering of himself made once for all upon the cross;
we proclaim his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension;
we look for the coming of your kingdom,
and with this bread and this cup
we make the memorial of Christ your Son our Lord.

Great is the mystery of faith:

♪ **Christ has died:**

Christ is risen:

Christ will come again.

Accept through him, our great high priest,
this our sacrifice of thanks and praise,
and as we eat and drink these holy gifts
in the presence of your divine majesty,
renew us by your Spirit, inspire us with your love,
and unite us in the body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
with all who stand before you in earth and heaven,
we worship you, Father Almighty, in songs of everlasting praise:

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

