

The Gathering

A hymn is sung as the choir and ministers enter the church.

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit

Amen.

The Greeting

The Lord be with you
And also with you

Please sit or kneel.

Prayer of Preparation

The kings, Lord, brought myrrh, frankincense and gold. Lord, we have nothing of our own to bring; we bring you what you have given: our lives for your life. Amen.

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.

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.

Absolution

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 sins,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The Collect

Almighty God,
you have given us your only-begotten Son
to take our nature upon him
and as at this time to be born of a pure virgin:

grant that we, who have been born again
and made your children by adoption and grace,

may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

The Liturgy of the Word

Sit

Readings

A Scripture reading precedes the Gospel reading. At the end the reader says:

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

A hymn is sung.

Sit

Address

Stand

The Affirmation of Faith

**Though he was divine,
he did not cling to equality with God, but
made himself nothing.
Taking the form of a slave,
he was born in human likeness.
He humbled himself
and was obedient to death,
even the death of the cross.
Therefore God has raised him on high, and
given him the name above every name:**

**that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bow,
and every voice proclaim that Jesus Christ
is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.
Amen.**

Please sit or kneel.

Prayers of Intercession

These or other responses may be used:

Holy God
hear our prayer.

or

Lord, hear us
Lord, graciously hear us.

And at the end:

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

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

Stand

The Peace

Prince of peace, bring in the endless Kingdom of
your peace and fulfil your purposes in us.

The peace of the Lord be always with you
and also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Preparation of the Table

A hymn is sung.

Remain standing

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

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.

Lord of all life,
you created the universe,
where all living things reflect your glory.
You give us this great and beautiful earth, to
discover and to cherish.

You give us sun and moon and star-lit sky,
everything that gives us light,
light for our eyes, our hearts, our minds.

You give us happy times
and things to celebrate.
In these we taste your kingdom,
a feast for all your children.
You made us all,
each wonderfully different,
to join with the angels, 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 thank you, loving Father,
because, when we turned away,
you sent Jesus, your Son.
He gave his life for us on the cross
and shows us the way to live.

Send your Holy Spirit
that these gifts of bread and wine
may be for us Christ's body and his blood.

Why do we share this bread and wine?

Listen, and we will hear.

On the night before he died, when darkness had
fallen,

Jesus took bread.

He gave thanks, broke it, and shared it with his
disciples, saying:

'This is my body, given for you.

Do this to remember me.'

After they had eaten, he took the cup of wine, gave thanks, and shared it with his disciples, saying:

'This is my blood, poured out for you and for many, for the forgiveness of sins.'

So Father, with this bread and this cup we celebrate his love, his death, his risen life. As you feed us with these gifts, send your Holy Spirit, and change us more and more to be like Jesus our Saviour.

How do we follow Jesus Christ?

Listen, and we will hear.

Help us, Father, to love one another, as we look forward to that day when suffering is ended, and all creation is gathered in your loving arms.

And now with all your saints we give you glory, through Jesus Christ, in the strength of the Spirit, today and for ever.

Amen.

Please sit or kneel.

The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour taught us, so we 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 forever. Amen.**

Breaking of the Bread

The priest breaks the consecrated 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.**

Christ is the true bread which has come down from heaven.

Lord, give us this bread always.

All are welcome at the Lord's Table. If you are visiting and would normally receive the bread and wine in your own church then you are welcome to receive here. If you do not want to receive the bread and wine, but wish to come forward for a blessing, please come to the altar and keep your hands below the rail.

Prayer after Communion

God our Father,
whose Word has come among us
in the Holy Child of Bethlehem:
may the light of faith illumine our hearts
and shine in our words and deeds;
through him who is Christ the Lord.
Amen.

The Dismissal

Blessing

The priest pronounces the blessing:

Father of all, you have given us your Son to be the Saviour of the world. Welcome us your children into your kingdom to enjoy your presence for ever; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always.
Amen.

A hymn is sung.

Facing the open doors, we say

Jesus, Lord of time,
hold us in your eternity.
Jesus, image of God,
travel with us the life of faith.
Jesus, friend of sinners,
heal the brokenness of our world.
Jesus, Lord of tomorrow,
draw us into your future.
Amen.