

A Service of Holy Communion on Christmas Eve

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

Behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people for unto you is born this day in the city of David, a Saviour who is Christ the Lord. Luke 2 verses 10,11
Thanks be to God.

Hymn : 160 Hark the Herald Angels Sing

The service begins on page 201



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.

Hear what our Lord Jesus Christ says:
You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart
and with all your soul and with all your mind.
This is the first and great commandment.
And the second is like it. You shall love your neighbour as yourself.
On these two commandments depend all the law and the prophets.
Matthew 22: 37-39

Lord, have mercy on us, and write these your laws in our hearts.

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son Jesus Christ, to save us from our sins, to intercede for us in heaven, and to bring us to eternal life.

Let us then confess our sins in penitence and faith, firmly resolved to keep God's commandments and to live in love and peace:

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, we have sinned in thought and word and deed, and in what we have left undone. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us, that we may walk in newness of life to the glory of your name. Amen.

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy on you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**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.**

The Collect for Christmas Eve

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.**

The Epistle is written in the Epistle to Titus, the second chapter, beginning to read at the eleventh verse.

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

This is the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Gradual Hymn: Away in a Manger

The Holy Gospel is written in the Gospel according to Luke, the second chapter beginning to read at the first verse.

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.' And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest heaven,

and on earth peace among those whom he favours!'

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.

Alleluia, alleluia. The word became flesh and dwelt among us
And we have seen his glory. Alleluia.

Sermon : Canon Michael Parker

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 by the Holy Spirit of 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.

Intercessions

Holy God

Hear our prayer

We close our prayers as we say together:

Come Lord and help your people, bought with the price of our own blood, and bring us with your saints to glory everlasting. Amen.

We stand for The Peace

This Holy night the angels sang 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to all people of goodwill'. The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

Celebrating at the Lord's Table

Be present, be present, Lord Jesus Christ our risen high priest; make yourself known in the breaking of bread. **Amen.**

Christ our passover has been sacrificed for us

therefore let us celebrate the feast.

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 our thanks and praise.

Father, almighty and everliving God, at all times and in all places it is right to give you thanks and praise:

You have given Jesus Christ your only Son to be born of the Virgin Mary, and through him you have given us power to become the children of God:

And so with all your people, 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!

Blessed are you, Father, the creator and sustainer of all things; you made us in your own image, male and female you created us;
even when we turned away from you, you never ceased to care for us,
but in your love and mercy you freed us from the slavery of sin,
giving your only begotten Son to become man and suffer death on the cross to redeem us:
he made there the one complete and all-sufficient sacrifice for the sins of the whole world:
he instituted, and in his holy Gospel commanded us to continue,
a perpetual memory of his precious death until he comes again.
On the night that he was betrayed he took bread;
and when he had given thanks to you, 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 when he had given thanks to you,
he gave it to them, saying,
Drink this, all of you, for 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, Father, with this bread and this cup we do as Christ your Son commanded:
**we remember his passion and death, we celebrate his resurrection and ascension,
and we look for the coming of his kingdom.**

Accept through him, our great high priest, this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving; and as we eat and drink these holy gifts, grant by the power of the life-giving Spirit that we may be made one in your holy Church and partakers of the body and blood of your Son, that he may dwell in us and we in him: Through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, by whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory are yours, Almighty Father, for ever and ever. Amen.

As our Saviour Christ has 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 for ever. Amen.

The bread which we break is a sharing in the body of Christ.
We being many are one body, for we all share in the one bread.

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

The body of Christ keep you in eternal life.
The blood of Christ keep you in eternal life.

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

God our Father, in this night you have made known to us again the power and 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 spiritual food of 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

Christ, who by his incarnation gathered into one all things earthly and heavenly, fill you with his joy and peace: and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be with you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Hymn: 172 O Come all ye Faithful

Prayer of Dismissal

May we live by faith, walk in hope and be renewed in love, until the world reflects your glory and you are all in all.

Even so, come Lord Jesus. Amen.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord;

In the name of Christ. Amen.

Parish Notices - Including Christmas

As we begin six weeks of lockdown from the 26th December I understand that church services can continue with all the protective measures we need in place. Keep an eye on our online parish resources and the local news. If anything changes we shall let you know. Michael.

For folks at home. Google St Gall's Church to find our parish website. Put 'St Gall's Church' into YouTube and 'Like' and 'Subscribe' to the St Gall's channel.

Our Church Office had reopened with three volunteers. They are doing a terrific job but have moved to work from home for the next six weeks. Nanette, Mary and Helen have been reaching out and getting in touch. The office is "online" on Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 10 until 12 noon. Our office ministry in the coming weeks will be all about reaching out and getting in touch by phone. Would you like a chat? Or know someone who would? You can get in touch with Nanette on 91459756. Would you like someone to be prayed for? Is there someone in your family who is ill or in need of prayer? Get in touch with the office & the team will pray for them.

Supporting the Salvation Army - Sunday 13th December Toy Service

A huge thank you to everyone who has brought along a toy or gift to donate to the Salvation Army Christmas Appeal.

Up-Coming Services in Church

Subject to any changes due to lockdown developments. Online services still available.

25th December - Christmas Day - 10 a.m. Christmas Celebration

27th December - Sunday at 10 a.m. - Morning Prayer