

An order of Service for Holy Communion on Christmas day during a pandemic

*Music is played before the service,
please use this as a space for quiet prayer.
When the bell is rung, please stand.*



Do I not fill heaven and earth?
says the Lord.

All **Now the Word is made flesh
and laid in a narrow manger.**

From eternity to eternity you are God,
All **and now we see you
as a new-born child.**

The president greets the people

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

All **and also with you.**

Joy to the world

All **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.**

The Greeting

Carol to listen to

Prayer of Preparation

Prayers of Penitence

The president invites the people to Confession, saying

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.

Silence is kept.

God our Father,
you sent your Son full of grace and truth:
forgive our failure to receive him. Lord, have mercy.

All **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.

All **Christ, have mercy.**

Spirit of Love,
your servant Mary responded joyfully to your call:
forgive the hardness of our hearts. Lord, have mercy.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

The president says

May the God of all healing and forgiveness
draw you to himself,
and cleanse you from all your sins
that you may behold the glory of his Son,
the Word made flesh,
Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **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, saying

Let us pray in the peace of this Christmas celebration that our joy in the birth of Christ will last for ever.

Lord Jesus Christ, your birth at Bethlehem
draws us to kneel in wonder at heaven touching earth:
accept our heartfelt praise,
as we worship you, our saviour and our eternal God. Amen

Reading

When the goodness and loving-kindness of God our Saviour appeared, he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Saviour, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

Titus 3.4-7

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Carol

Gospel Reading

We stand and turn towards the reading of the Gospel.

When the Gospel is announced the reader says

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke

All **Glory to you, O Lord.**

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. *Luke 2. 8-20*

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Address

Prayers of intercession

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.

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

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

All may exchange a wave or slight bow.

Preparation of the Altar

*The altar is prepared and bread and wine are placed upon it.
Music is played while this is done. We are invited to pray quietly.*

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

All **Amen.**

We stand

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord is here.
All **His Spirit is with us.**

Lift up your hearts.
All **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
All **It is right to give thanks and praise.**

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 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:

**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:
All **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 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.**

The Lord's Prayer

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

All **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

The president breaks the consecrated bread.

We break the bread of life,
and that life is the light of the world.

All **God here among us,
light in the midst of us,
bring us to light and life.**

Giving of Communion

*The president holds up the bread and says:
The Body of Christ, broken for you.*

All **Amen**

*Please remain in your place, standing or sitting, as you prefer.
The Host will be brought to you. Please sit once you have received.
If you would prefer a (silent) blessing please cross your hands over your chest.
We maintain SILENCE throughout.
During the distribution music may be played.*

Prayer after Communion

We sit or kneel and keep silence, and then we all say

All **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.**

We stand, as the president gives the Christmas blessing

Christ, who by his incarnation gathered into one
things earthly and heavenly,
fill you with peace and goodwill
and make you partakers of the divine nature;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

All **Amen.**

Go in peace. Proclaim the Word made flesh.

All **Glory, thanks and praise to God.**

We remain standing to say together the words of the carol.

**O come, all ye faithful,
joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to
Bethlehem;
come and behold him
born the King of Angels:**

*O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord!*

**God of God,
Light of Light,
lo, he abhors not the virgin's
womb;
very God,
begotten, not created: *O come...***

**Sing, choirs of Angels,
sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven
above;
glory to God
in the highest:**

O come, ...

**Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
Born this happy morning,
Jesu to thee be glory given.
Word of the Father,
Now in flesh appearing:**

O come...

*Please remain standing as the ministers leave, and then leave the building
immediately, maintaining social distancing.*

We wish you all a very Happy Christmas and healthy, peaceful New Year

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St. Luke's Church, orders of service, revised 2020*

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