

MIDNIGHT MASS

Please stand when the opening hymn is announced and the procession enters.

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

All The Lord be with you.
and also with you.

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.

Silence is kept.

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.**

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 your sins
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Gloria in Excelsis

All **Glory! Merrily on high in heaven the bells are ringing;
Glory! Verily the sky is riven with angels singing.
Gloria, Hosanna in Excelsis...**

**Peace to all throughout the earth from heaven in the highest
worship, thankfulness and praise we sing to God our Father.
Gloria, Hosanna in Excelsis...**

**Jesus, Only Son of God our Lord and Lamb, Messiah,
mercy, take away our sin, and hear the prayer we offer.
Gloria, Hosanna in Excelsis...**

The Collect

Please remain standing.

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

Silence is kept. The Collect is said.

All **Amen.**

Readings

We sit to hear 2 Bible readings.

At the end of each the reader will say

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

We stand to sing the Gradual hymn and remain standing to hear the Gospel, turning to face the reader.

Gospel Reading

This night Christ is born: **Alleluia.**

This night the Saviour comes: **Alleluia.**

This night the angels sing on earth:

Alleluia. Glory to God in the highest.

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

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

At the end

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

Sermon

Please sit after the opening prayer.

The Creed

Please stand.

All **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

Father, in this holy night your Son our Saviour was born as a child among us.
Renew your Church as the Body of Christ.
Holy God **hear our prayer.**

in this holy night] there was no room for your Son in the inn.
Protect with your love those who have no home and all who live in poverty.
Holy God **hear our prayer.**

in this holy night Mary, in the pain of labour, brought your Son to birth.
Hold in your hand [... and] all who are in pain or distress.
Holy God **hear our prayer.**

in this holy night your Christ came as a light shining in the darkness.
Bring comfort to [... and] all who suffer in the sadness of our world.
Holy God **hear our prayer.**

in this holy night the angels sang 'Peace to God's people on earth'.
Strengthen those who work for peace and justice in [... and in] all the world.
Holy God **hear our prayer.**

in this holy night shepherds in the field heard good tidings of joy.
Give us grace to preach the gospel of Christ's redemption.
Holy God **hear our prayer.**

in this holy night strangers found the Holy Family, and saw the baby lying in the manger.
Bless our homes and all whom we love.
Holy God **hear our prayer.**

in this holy night heaven is come down to earth, and earth is raised to heaven.
Keep in safety [... and] all those who have passed through death in the hope of heaven.
Holy God **hear our prayer.**

in this holy night Christians the world over celebrate Christ's birth.
Open our hearts that he may be born in us today.
Holy God **hear our prayer.**

Father, in this holy night angels and shepherds worshipped at the manger throne.
Receive the worship we offer in fellowship with Mary, Joseph and the saints
through him who is your Word made flesh, our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Amen.

The Peace

This holy night the angels sang,
'Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace to all in whom he delights.'

All 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

During the hymn bread and wine are brought and the altar is prepared.

When all is prepared the President prays

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.**

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you *All* **and also with you.**

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:

All **O Holy, most holy, all holy the Lord,
in power and wisdom for ever adored.
The earth and the heavens are full of your love;
our joyful hosannas re-echo above.**

**O Blessèd, most blessèd, all blessèd is he
whose life makes us whole, and whose death sets us free;
who comes in the name of the Father of light,
let endless hosannas resound in the height.**

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:

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

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 [N 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. **All Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Rejoicing in the presence of God here among us,
as our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

Please kneel or sit.

All **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.**

Breaking of the 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

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

All **Lord, give us this bread always.**

We receive Holy Communion.

During communion hymns, carols and anthems may be sung.

Prayer after Communion

Silence is kept.

God our Father,
in this night you have made known to us again the 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.

All **Amen.**

During the singing of the hymn the procession moves to the Crib.

Blessing of the Crib

We stand facing the Crib.

Dear friends, as we meet to celebrate the birth of Christ, let us pray that God will bless this crib, that all who worship his Son, born of the Virgin Mary, may come to share his life in glory.

God our Father, on this night your Son Jesus Christ was born of the Virgin Mary for us and for our salvation:

bless this crib, which we have prepared to celebrate that holy birth;
may all who see it be strengthened in faith
and receive the fullness of life he came to bring,
who is alive and reigns for ever.

All **Amen.**

The bambino is placed in the crib.

Welcome all wonders in one sight!
Eternity shut in a span.
Summer in winter, Day in night,
Heaven in earth, and God in man.

Great little one whose all-embracing birth
Brings earth to heaven, stoops heaven to earth.

Blessing

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.

And the blessing ...

All **Amen.**

Go in peace. Proclaim the Word made flesh.

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

The ministers and people depart.