



The Cathedral Eucharist for Christmastide and Epiphany

Welcome to Coventry Cathedral

We are delighted that you have been able to join us today.

*In this service, we say the words in **bold** together, and invite you to stand and sit as indicated. However, please stay seated if you prefer.*

If you have brought small children, thank you! Feel free to explore the space with them, and to use the toys and books provided.

*Today's hymns, readings, music, prayers, choir and preacher can be found on the daily service sheet. Please **hand this book back in** at the end.*

If you are joining this service from home, you are invited to prepare to light a candle in your home to reflect the lighting of the candles on the altar.

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The Gathering

Before the service begins, the congregation is welcomed and the opening hymn introduced.

Hymn

We STAND to sing the first hymn.

The Greeting

The president introduces these or other suitable words:

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

And also with you.

Prayers of Penitence

The deacon invites us to confession with these or other suitable words:

Hear the words of the angel to Joseph:
‘You shall call his name Jesus,
for he will save his people from their sins.’
Therefore let us seek the forgiveness of God
through Jesus the Saviour of the world.

cf Matthew 1.21

(Or)

The grace of God has dawned upon the world
through our Saviour Jesus Christ,
who sacrificed himself for us to purify a people as his own.
Let us confess our sins.

cf Titus 2.11-14

After a short pause, they lead everyone in saying one of the following prayers:

God be merciful to us and bless us
And make your face shine upon us.
Lord, have mercy
Lord, have mercy.

May your ways be known upon earth
Your saving power among the nations
Christ, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.

You, Lord, have made known your salvation
And reveal your justice in the sight of the nations
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

(Or)

**God our Father,
long-suffering, full of grace and truth,
you create us from nothing and give us life.
You give your faithful people new life in the water
of baptism.
You do not turn your face from us,
nor cast us aside.
We confess that we have sinned
against you and our neighbour.
We have wounded your love and marred your image in us.
Restore us for the sake of your Son,
and bring us to heavenly joy,
in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

The president invokes the mercy of God with a prayer of Absolution using these or other authorised words:

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

Gloria in Excelsis

The choir sings the Gloria:

Gloria in excelsis Deo et in terra pax hominibus bonae voluntatis.
Laudamus te, benedicimus te, adoramus te, glorificamus te, gratias
agimus tibi propter magnam gloriam tuam. Domine Deus rex
coelestis Deus Pater omnipotens. Domine Fili unigenite Jesu Christe.
Domine Deus, Agnus Dei, Filius Patris, qui tollis peccata mundi
miserere nobis. Qui tollis peccata mundi, suscipe deprecationem
nostram. Qui sedes ad dexteram Patris, miserere nobis. Quoniam tu
solus sanctus, tu solus Dominus, tu solus altissimus, Jesu Christe cum
Sancto Spiritu in gloria Dei Patris.
Amen.

*Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, good will towards men. We
praise thee, we bless thee, we worship thee, we glorify thee, we give thanks to
thee for thy great glory, O Lord God, heavenly King, God the Father
Almighty. O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ; O Lord God, Lamb of
God, Son of the Father, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy
upon us. Thou that takest away the sins of the world, receive our prayer.
Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us.
For thou only art holy; thou only art the Lord; thou only, O Christ, with the
Holy Ghost, art most high in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.*

The Collect

The president introduces a time of silent prayer, after which they offer the Collect for the day:

Amen.

The Liturgy of the Word

The First Reading

We SIT for the first reading.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Gospel Acclamation

We STAND. As we prepare to hear the gospel reading, we join with the choir, singing the words in bold:

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!



The choir sings the acclamation, to which we respond:

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

The Gospel

We TURN to face the deacon. The deacon introduces:

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to [N]

Glory to you, O Lord.

We hear the gospel reading. At the end the deacon says:

This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

There may follow a short organ improvisation.

The Sermon

After a prayer of introduction from the preacher, we SIT for the sermon. After the sermon silence is kept for reflection.

The Affirmation of Faith

We STAND. The president introduces one of the following affirmations of faith, or other suitable words, which we say together:

We proclaim the Church's faith in Jesus Christ.
**We believe and declare that our Lord Jesus Christ,
the Son of God, is both divine and human.**

God, of the being of the Father,
the only Son from before time began;
human from the being of his mother, born in the world;
**fully God and fully human;
human in both mind and body.**

As God he is equal to the Father,
as human he is less than the Father.
**Although he is both divine and human
he is not two beings but one Christ.**

One, not by turning God into flesh,
but by taking humanity into God;
**truly one, not by mixing humanity with Godhead,
but by being one person.**

For as mind and body form one human being
so the one Christ is both divine and human.

**The Word became flesh and lived among us;
we have seen his glory,
the glory of the only Son from the Father,
full of grace and truth.
Amen.**

(Or)

**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

The president introduces the intercessions.

In the power of the Spirit and in union with Christ,
let us pray to the Father.

We sit. One of the following responses, or other suitable words, may be used:

Lord of glory
Hear our prayer

(Or)

Lord, in your mercy;
Hear our prayer.

At the end the following may be used:

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

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

The Peace

We stand. The president introduces the peace with these, or other suitable words:

Our Saviour Christ is the Prince of Peace.
Of the increase of his government and of peace
there shall be no end.
The peace of the Lord be always with you
And also with you.

The deacon says:

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Everyone shares the Peace. You might like to think of someone you know and phone them after the service to share Christ's Peace with them.

The Offertory Hymn

We REMAIN STANDING to sing the hymn, during which the gifts of the people may be presented.

The president uses these or other suitable words as they pray over the gifts.

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.

(Or)

Father, in Christ there has sprung up a light for the righteous
Accept the offering of your Church
And grant Christ may shine in us
To the praise and glory of your name
Amen.

The Eucharistic Prayer

The president introduces:

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

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.

The president praises God for his mighty acts.

The choir sings the Sanctus and Benedictus.

Sanctus, sanctus, sanctus, Dominus Deus Sabaoth.
Pleni sunt caeli et terra gloria tua. Hosanna in excelsis.
Benedictus qui venit in nomine Domini. Hosanna in excelsis.

*Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Hosts. Heaven and earth are full of thy glory.
Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.*

The president recalls the Last Supper.

The deacon introduces one of these acclamations:

Jesus Christ is Lord:
**All Lord, by your cross and resurrection
you have set us free.
You are the Saviour of the world.**

(Or)

Great is the mystery of faith:
**Christ has died:
Christ is risen:
Christ will come again.**

The prayer continues and leads into the doxology, to which all respond boldly:

Amen.

(Or)

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

Silence is kept.

The Lord's Prayer

We sit. Please feel free to say the Lord's Prayer in any language or version you feel comfortable with.

Believing the promises of God,
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 for ever.
Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread

The president breaks the consecrated bread, saying:

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.**

The Invitation to Communion

God's holy gifts
for God's holy people.
**Jesus Christ is holy,
Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.**

Agnus Dei

The Choir sings the Agnus Dei.

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis.
Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, dona nobis pacem.

*O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.
O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, grant us thy peace.*

The Giving of Communion

The ministers and the people receive communion. During the distribution, motets, anthems or hymns may be sung. If you are joining us online, you might like to say this prayer of spiritual communion.

**Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ,
for all the benefits you have given me,
for all the pains and insults you have borne for me.**

Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally,
I ask you to come spiritually into my heart.
O most merciful redeemer, friend and brother,
may I know you more clearly,
love you more dearly,
and follow you more nearly, day by day.
Amen.

The Prayers after Communion

The president offers a prayer and then introduces one of the following:

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.

(Or)

God of our pilgrimage,
you have led us to the living water:
refresh and sustain us
as we go forward on our journey,
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

The Blessing

We stand. The president gives the blessing using these or other authorised words:

Christ the Son of God perfect in you the image of his glory and
gladden your hearts with the good news of his kingdom and the
blessing....

Amen.

(Or)

May God the Father,
who led the wise men by the shining of a star
to find the Christ, the Light from Light,
lead you in your pilgrimage to find the Lord.

Amen.

May God who has brought us out of darkness
give us a place with the saints in light
in the kingdom of his Son.

Amen.

May the light of the glorious gospel of Christ
shine in your hearts and transform your lives,
to bring his light to others.

Amen.

And the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

Amen.

Hymn

We sing the closing hymn.

The Dismissal

The deacon says:

Go in peace. Proclaim the Word made flesh.

Glory, thanks and praise to God.

(Or)

We have seen his glory,

the glory revealed to all the nations.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ. Amen.

Organ voluntary

A piece of organ music will conclude the service. Do stay and listen if you are able.

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