

Epiphany Season Holy Communion



Welcome

If you are a visitor here today we hope you feel at home. The **stewards** wearing rainbow lanyards, will be happy to help you. Please introduce yourself. If you receive **communion** in any church you are welcome to receive the bread and wine here. If you need a **gluten free wafer** or wish to receive communion in your seat please let one of the stewards know.

Our services are often **live streamed**, so those at home can worship with us. If you wish to ensure

you are not seen on camera please sit on the right hand side of the church as you enter, please ask a steward if you are unsure. The cameras do not film people coming up for communion.

Children are always welcome in church and we understand that they do not always find it easy to be quiet! Please move around as you need to with them and if toddlers need a wander that is fine as long as they remain under your supervision. Church buildings are great places to explore but please be mindful of uneven floors, sharp edges and candles.

We are part of the **Inclusive Church** network and as such we seek to challenge the church where it continues to discriminate against people on grounds of disability, economic power, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, learning disability, mental health, neurodiversity, or sexuality. We believe in a Church which welcomes and serves all people in the name of Jesus Christ; which is scripturally faithful; which seeks to proclaim the Gospel afresh for each generation; and which, in the power of the Holy Spirit, allows all people to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Jesus Christ.

We are a work in progress and welcome anyone who wishes to journey with us.

More information can be found at:
www.allsaintsloughborough.org.uk

The Welcome

Before the service begins there is an informal welcome. Once the service starts please join in with the words in **bold type**. The parts in **red** are instructions or an indication of what is happening. You will find throughout the service there are notes to stand, sit or kneel. **These are invitations not commands**, so please do whatever helps you to worship.

The Gathering

The choir may sing an Introit a piece of choral music reflecting the theme of the season or the music group may play a song that similarly leads us into worship.

Processional Hymn

All stand to sing the hymn as the music begins and the servers and ministers process.

The Greeting

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

The Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us
and we beheld his glory.

Additional words of welcome from the president may be given and the theme of the service introduced.

Prayers of Penitence

The deacon or lay assistant invites us to confess our sins.

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.

A short silence is kept, you may wish to kneel.

Lord, Jesus, illuminate the darkness in our hearts:
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy

Lord, Jesus, open our eyes to your saving love:
Christ, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, unstop our ears to hear your living word:
Lord, have mercy
Lord, have mercy.

After a short silence the president says the prayer of absolution.

May 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.
Amen.

Gloria in Excelsis

We stand to sing the ancient hymn of praise together using this Peruvian setting.

Glory to God, glory to God,
glory to the Father.
**Glory to God, glory to God,
glory to the Father.**

To God be glory for ever.
To God be glory for ever.
Alleluia, amen,
Alleluia, amen,
Alleluia, amen,
Alleluia, amen

Glory to God, glory to God,
Son of the Father.
**Glory to God, glory to God,
Son of the Father.**
To God be glory for ever.
To God be glory for ever.
Alleluia, amen,
Alleluia, amen,
Alleluia, amen,
Alleluia, amen

Glory to God, glory to God,
glory to the Spirit.
**Glory to God, glory to God,
glory to the Spirit.**
To God be glory for ever.
To God be glory for ever.
Alleluia, amen,
Alleluia, amen,
Alleluia, amen,
Alleluia, amen

The Collect

The president introduces a period of silent prayer with the words 'let us pray'. All remain seated or kneeling for the period of silence and the collect - the special prayer for the day - and all respond

Amen.

The Liturgy of the Word

Readings

We sit to listen to one or two readings appointed for the day taken from the Christian scriptures, the Bible. Usually this will be one reading from the Old Testament or Hebrew Scriptures as it is also called, and then the second from the New Testament which is mostly made up of letters sent to

some of the earliest churches.

At the end of each reading the following is said:

Here ends the reading
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading

We stand and sing together **Alleluia** as the Gospel book is carried to the middle of the church and the congregation turns to face the reader. The Gospels are the books of the Bible which contain the stories and words of Jesus hence we stand to show how important they are to us.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to N.
Glory to you, O Lord.

The Gospel for the day is proclaimed.

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

We sing **Alleluia** as the gospel is carried back. We sit after the preacher offers an introductory prayer.

Sermon

After the sermon there is a brief pause for reflection and then all stand to say the Affirmation of Faith, based on the sixth century Athanasian Creed

Affirmation of Faith

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.**

Prayers of Intercession

All sit or kneel for the prayers, which are led by a member of the congregation. One of the following responses may be used or another response may be given.

Lord in your mercy or Lord hear us
hear our prayer. Lord graciously hear us

The prayers may conclude with these words:

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

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

The Peace

Christ is our peace.
If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation.
The old has passed away: behold, everything has become new.

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

Let us offer one another a sign of peace

Members of the congregation turn to one another and greet their neighbours by saying 'peace be with you' and making a sign of peace.

Offertory Hymn

During this hymn bread and wine are brought forward and the altar-table is prepared. The offertory plate is presented, symbolic of the financial gifts of the people, and the president gives thanks for these while the deacon or lay assistant is laying up the altar-table.

Taking of the Bread and Wine

When the altar-table is prepared the president offers this prayer

Gracious God,
accept the offering of your Church,
the hearts of your people
joined in praise and thanksgiving,
in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord
Amen.

The president washes their hands symbolising our desire to come together at the Lord's table with pure hearts and minds.

The Eucharistic Prayer

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 and all respond by singing (to the tune of Infant Holy)



The prayer continues recalling the Last Supper and asking the Holy Spirit to be present with us in the bread and wine. The following response may be used

Praise to you Lord Jesus
Dying you destroyed our death,
Rising you restored our life:
Lord Jesus, come in glory.

The prayer will have one of the following endings:

..for ever and ever.
Amen

OR

We worship you, Father almighty, in songs of everlasting praise:
Blessing and honour and glory and power
be yours for ever and ever.
Amen

We kneel or sit and observe a period of silence.

The Lord's Prayer

We say this prayer together, each in whichever language is closest to our hearts. It may be led by a member of the congregation using one of the global languages that make up our intercultural community.

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.**

Breaking of the 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.**

Giving of Communion

The president gives an 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.**

While the ministers break the remaining consecrated bread and the
Communion assistants come to the front we sing together



Please come forward when directed by the stewards. Christians of any church tradition are welcome to receive the bread and wine including children who have been admitted to communion, here or at another church. Alternatively you can come forward for a prayer of blessing, please indicate if this is your wish by crossing your arms across your chest.

As we share communion the choir may sing an anthem or music will be played..

Prayer after Communion

A brief silence is kept. The president says the post communion prayer for the day before we say the following prayer together:

**We thank you Lord,
that you have fed us in this sacrament,
united us with Christ,
and given us a foretaste of the heavenly banquet
prepared for all peoples.**

Notices

The Dismissal

The Blessing

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 also in your pilgrimage to find the Lord.
Amen.

May God the Son,
who turned water into wine at the wedding feast at Cana,
transform your lives and make glad your hearts.
Amen.

May God the Holy Spirit,
who came upon the beloved Son
at his baptism in the river Jordan,
pour out his gifts on you
who have come to the waters of new birth.
Amen.

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

Recessional Hymn

As we sing our final hymn the servers and ministers process. Children are welcome to join the procession. Please turn to face the ministers for the dismissal.

The Lord says, 'Go into all the world
and make disciples of all the nations.'
Go in peace to love and serve the Lord
In the name of Christ.
Amen.

Organ Voluntary

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