

# HOLY COMMUNION



St. Matthew's Church, Irishtown

CHRISTMAS DAY

25<sup>th</sup> December 2021

[The Gathering of God's People](#)

## THE GREETING

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

**And also with you.**

*Hymn 172 – O' Come All ye Faithful*

## THE COLLECT FOR PURITY

**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**

## PENITENCE

Christ the light of the world has come  
to dispel the darkness of our hearts.  
Let us turn to the light and confess our sins.

*(Kneel or sit)*

Lord of grace and truth, we confess our unworthiness  
to stand in your presence as your children.

We have sinned:

**forgive and heal us.**

The Virgin Mary accepted your call to be the mother of Jesus.

Forgive our disobedience to your will.

We have sinned:

**forgive and heal us.**

Your Son our Saviour was born in poverty in a manger.

Forgive our greed and rejection of your ways.

We have sinned:

**forgive and heal us.**

The shepherds left their flock to go to Bethlehem.

Forgive our self-interest and lack of vision.

We have sinned:

**forgive and heal us.**

The wise men followed the star to find Jesus the King.

Forgive our reluctance to seek you.

We have sinned:

**forgive and heal us**

#### THE ABSOLUTION

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. **Amen**

#### **Hymn 163 – Infant Holy**

Infant holy, infant lowly,

for his bed a cattle stall;

oxen lowing, little knowing

Christ the babe is Lord of all.

Swift are winging, angels singing,

nowells ringing, tidings bringing;

Christ the babe is Lord of all;

Christ the babe was born for you!

#### THE COLLECT

Almighty God, you have given us your only-begotten Son

to take our nature upon him and as at this time to be born of a pure virgin:

Grant that we, who have been born again and made your children by adoption

and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit

through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

#### [Proclaiming and Receiving the Word](#)

#### THE FIRST READING – Hebrews 1: 1-4

#### *The lighting of the Christ candle*

Jesus Christ is the light of the world;

**Jesus is our Way.**

With Jesus even dark places are light;

**Jesus is the Truth.**

In Jesus we shall live for ever:

**Jesus is our Life.**

May the flame of this candle remind us that you are the light of the world and that if we follow you, we will never walk in darkness, but will have the true light of life. Amen.



#### THE HOLY GOSPEL

*(Stand)*

Hear the Gospel of our Saviour Christ, according to John- Chapter 1 beginning at verse 1

**Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

*After the Gospel:*

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

#### CHRISTMAS ADDRESS

#### AFFIRMATION of FAITH

**We believe in God the Father,  
from whom every family  
in heaven and on earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son,  
who lives in our hearts through faith,  
and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,  
who strengthens us with power from on high.**

**We believe in one God;  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

#### THE PRAYERS of the PEOPLE

Each intercession is followed by:

Jesus, Saviour,

**hear our prayer.**

## THE PEACE

Unto us a child is born, unto us a child is given  
And his name shall be called the prince of peace  
The peace of the Lord be always with you  
**and also with you.**

## CELEBRATING at the LORD'S TABLE

Wise and gracious God, you spread a table before us  
Nourish your people with the word of life and the bread of heaven. **Amen**

## THE TAKING OF THE BREAD AND WINE

Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us  
**Therefore let us celebrate the feast.**

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Eucharistic Prayer 1

The Lord is here.

**His Spirit is with us.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give you thanks and praise.**

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.**

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.**

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**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

As our Saviour Christ has taught us, so we pray

**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.**

## THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

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.**

## THE COMMUNION

The gifts of God for the people of God.

**Jesus Christ is Holy**

**Jesus Christ is Lord,**

**To the glory of God the Father.**

## THE GREAT SILENCE

[Going out as God's People](#)

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God our Father,

whose Word has come among us in the Holy Child of Bethlehem:

May the light of faith illumine our hearts

And shine in our words and deeds:

Through him who is Christ the Lord.

**Strengthen for service, Lord,  
the hands that holy things have taken;  
may the ears which have heard your word  
be deaf to clamour and dispute;  
may the tongues which have sung your praise  
be free from deceit;  
may the eyes which have seen the tokens of your love  
shine with the light of hope;  
and may the bodies which have been fed with your body  
be refreshed with the fullness of your life;  
glory to you for ever. Amen**

#### DISMISSAL

May the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds,  
The perseverance of the wise men, the obedience of Joseph and Mary and the  
peace of the Christ Child be yours this Christmas,  
and the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,  
be with you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

#### ***Hymn 160 – Hark the Herald Angels Sing***

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord  
**in the name of Christ. Amen.**

**Wishing each and everyone together with your families, a Very Happy  
and Peace filled Christmas.**

