



# Epiphany Holy Communion

**Welcome**

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

**And also with you**

**Song: The first nowell the angel did say,**  
was to Bethlehem's shepherds  
in fields as they lay;  
in fields where they  
lay keeping their sheep  
on a cold winter's night  
that was so deep:

*Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell,  
Born is the King of Israel!*

2. Then wise men from a country far  
Looked up and saw a guiding star;  
They travelled on by night and day  
To reach the place where Jesus lay:

*Nowell, nowell . . .*

3. At Bethlehem they entered in,  
On bended knee they worshipped Him;  
They offered there in His presence  
Their gold and myrrh and frankincense:

*Nowell, nowell . . .*

4. Then let us all with one accord  
Sing praises to our heavenly Lord;  
For Christ has our salvation wrought  
And with His blood mankind has bought:

*Nowell, nowell . . .*

## **Prayer of Preparation**

**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.**

## **Confession**

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.

**Almighty God, our heavenly Father,  
we have sinned against you  
and against our neighbour  
in thought and word and deed,  
through negligence, through weakness,  
through our own deliberate fault.  
We are truly sorry  
and repent of all our sins.  
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,  
who died for us,  
forgive us all that is past  
and grant that we may serve you in newness of life  
to the glory of your name.  
Amen.**

Almighty God,  
who forgives all who truly repent,  
have mercy upon you,  
pardon and deliver you from all your sins,  
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,  
and keep you in life eternal;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**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.**

## **Collect**

O God,  
who by the leading of a star  
manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth:  
mercifully grant that we,  
who know you now by faith,  
may at last behold your glory face to face;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.  
**Amen**

## **Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 60:1-6**

This is the Word of the Lord  
**Thanks be to God**

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

## **Matthew 2: 1-2**

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

**Song: We three kings of Orient are,**  
Bearing gifts we travel afar,  
Field and fountain, moor and mountain,  
Following yonder star:  
*O star of wonder, star of night,  
Star with royal beauty bright,  
Westward leading, still proceeding,  
Guide us to the perfect light.*

2. Born a King on Bethlehem plain,  
Gold I bring to crown Him again:  
King for ever, ceasing never,  
Over us all to reign.  
*O star of wonder . . .*

3. Frankincense for Jesus have I,  
God on earth yet Priest on high;  
Prayer and praising all men raising:  
Worship is earth's reply.  
*O star of wonder . . .*

4. Myrrh is mine: its bitter perfume  
Tells of His death and Calvary's gloom;  
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,  
Sealed in a stone-cold tomb.  
*O star of wonder . . .*

5. Glorious now, behold Him arise,  
King, and God, and sacrifice!  
Heaven sings out, 'Alleluia!'  
'Amen!' the earth replies.  
*O star of wonder . . .*

## **Talk**

### **The Creed**

Let us declare our faith in God.

**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.**

## Prayers of Intercession

### We share God's Peace

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.**

### Song: As with gladness men of old

Did the guiding star behold;  
As with joy they hailed its light,  
Leading onward, beaming bright  
So, most gracious God, may we  
Led by You for ever be.

2. As with joyful steps they sped,  
Saviour, to Your lowly bed,  
There to bend the knee before  
You whom heaven and earth adore,  
So may we with one accord,  
Seek forgiveness from our Lord.
3. As the offered gifts most rare,  
Gold and frankincense and myrrh,  
So may we, cleansed from our sin,  
Lives of service now begin,  
As in love our treasures bring,  
Christ, to You our heavenly King.
4. Holy Jesus, every day  
Keep us in the narrow way;  
And when earthly things are past,  
Bring our ransomed souls at last  
Where they need no star to guide,  
Where no clouds Your glory hide.
5. In the heavenly country bright  
Need they no created light;  
You its light, its joy, its crown,  
You its sun which goes not down.  
There for ever may we sing  
Hallelujahs to our King.

## **The Eucharistic Prayer**

The Lord is here.

**His Spirit is with us.**

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.**

It is indeed right,  
it is our duty and our joy,  
at all times and in all places  
to give you thanks and praise,  
holy Father, heavenly King,  
almighty and eternal God,  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.

And now we give you thanks  
because, in the wonder of the incarnation,  
your eternal Word has brought to the eyes of faith  
a new and radiant vision of your glory.  
In him we see our God made visible  
and so are caught up in 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  
Hosannah in the highest.**

We praise and bless you, loving Father,  
through Jesus Christ, our Lord;  
and as we obey his command,  
send your Holy Spirit,  
that broken bread and wine outpoured  
may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper with his friends and,  
taking bread, he praised you.  
He broke the bread, gave it to them and said:  
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;  
do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine.  
Again he praised you, gave it to them and said:  
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.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did,  
in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice  
made once for all upon the cross.  
Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation,  
we proclaim his death and resurrection  
until he comes in glory.

Great is the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died:  
Christ is risen:  
Christ will come again.**

Lord of all life,  
help us to work together for that day  
when your kingdom comes  
and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth.

Look with favour on your people,  
gather us in your loving arms  
and bring us with all the saints  
to feast at your table in heaven.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father,  
forever and ever.

**Amen**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

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 forever. Amen.**

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

**Though we are many, we are one body,  
because we all share in one bread.**

Draw near with faith.

Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ  
which he gave for you, and his blood which he shed for you.  
Eat and drink in remembrance that he died for you,  
and feed on him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

**Song during communion. Christ be our light.**

Longing for light, we wait in darkness.  
Longing for truth, we turn to you  
Make us your own, your holy people,  
Light for the world to see.

*Christ be our light! Shine in our hearts.*

*Shine through the darkness.*

*Christ be our light! Shine in your church  
Gathered today.*

2. Longing for peace, our world is troubled.  
Longing for hope, many despair.  
Your word alone has pow'r to save us.  
Make us your living voice.

*Christ be our light . . . .*

3. Longing for food, many are hungry.  
Longing for water, many still thirst.  
Make us your bread, broken for others,  
Shared until all are fed.

*Christ be our light . . .*

4. Longing for shelter, many are homeless.  
Longing for warmth, many are cold.  
Make us your building sheltering others,  
Walls made of living stone.

*Christ be our light . . .*

5. Many the gifts, many the people,  
Many the hearts that yearn to belong.  
Let us be servants to one another,  
Making your kingdom come.

*Christ be our light . . .*

## **Post Communion Prayer**

Lord God,  
the bright splendour whom the nations seek:  
may we who with the wise men have been drawn by your light  
discern the glory of your presence in your Son,  
the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**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.**

## **Song: Lord, the light of Your love is shining,**

In the midst of the darkness, shining:  
Jesus, Light of the world, shine upon us;  
Set us free  
By the truth You now bring us –  
Shine on me, shine on me.

*Shine, Jesus shine,  
Fill this land with the Father's glory;  
Blaze, Spirit, blaze,  
Flow, river, flow,  
Flood the nations with grace and mercy;  
Send forth Your word, Lord,  
And let there be light!*

2. Lord, I come to Your awesome presence,  
From the shadows into Your radiance;  
By Your blood  
I may enter Your brightness;  
Search me, try me,  
Consume all my darkness –  
Shine on me, shine on me.

*Shine, Jesus, shine . . .*

3. As we gaze on Your kingly brightness  
So our faces display Your likeness,  
Ever changing from glory to glory;  
Mirrored here,  
May our lives tell Your story –  
Shine on me, shine on me.

*Shine, Jesus, shine . . .*

## **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 in your pilgrimage to find the Lord.

**Amen.**

May God, who has delivered us from the dominion of darkness,  
give us a place with the saints in light  
in the kingdom of his beloved Son.

**Amen.**

May the light of the glorious gospel of Christ  
shine in your hearts and fill our lives  
with his joy and peace.

**Amen.**

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

**Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**In the name of Christ, Amen.**