PARISH OF ESHER
Christ Church, Esher with St George's, West End

The Eucharist in Christmas and Epiphany

'And the Word was made flesh,
and dwelt among us.'

John 1.14a

The Gathering

The Greeting

The minister greets the people.

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

On Christmas Day:

I bring you good news of great joy:
a Saviour has been born to you. Alleluia!
Unto us a Child is born, a Son is given. Alleluia!

He is Christ the Lord. Alleluia!
We worship and adore him. Alleluia!

or

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

Words of welcome or introduction may be said.

An opening hymn is sung.

Prayers of Penitence

From Christmas Day until the Eve of Epiphany:

The sun of righteousness has dawned
with healing in his wings.
Let us come to the light of Christ,
confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

From Epiphany until the Eve of the Presentation:

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 now confess our sins.

Most merciful God,
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
we confess that we have sinned
in thought, word and deed.
We have not loved you with our whole heart.
We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.
In your mercy
forgive what we have been,
help us to amend what we are,
and direct what we shall be;
that we may do justly,
love mercy,
and walk humbly with you, our God.
Amen.

The minister says

May the God of love and power
forgive you and free you from your sins,
heal and strengthen you by his Spirit,
and raise you to new life in 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.

The Collect

The Collect is said, and all respond
Amen.

The Liturgy of the Word

Readings

Either one or two readings from Scripture precede the Gospel reading. At the end of each the reader may say:

This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading

When the Gospel is announced the reader says

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

At the end:

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

Sermon

After the sermon an anthem may be sung.

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

The minister introduces the prayers.

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

One of these responses may be used:

Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

or

Lord, hear us.
Lord, graciously hear us.

And at the end:

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

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

The Peace

The minister introduces the Peace.

Christmas

Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given,
and his name shall be called the Prince of Peace.

Epiphany

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.

Preparation of the Table

A hymn is sung.

The table is prepared and bread and wine are placed on it.
One of the following prayers may be used:

Christmas

Word made flesh, life of the world,
in your incarnation you embraced our poverty:
by your Spirit may we share in your riches.
Amen.

Epiphany

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 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.

Christmas

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,
and 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:

Epiphany

All honour and praise be yours always
and everywhere,
mighty creator, ever-living God,
through Jesus Christ your only Son
our Lord:
for at this time we celebrate your glory
made present in our midst.
In the coming of the Magi
the King of all the world was
revealed to the nations.
In the waters of baptism
Jesus was revealed as the Christ,
the Saviour sent to redeem us.
In the water made wine
the new creation was revealed
at the wedding feast.
Poverty was turned to riches,
sorrow into joy.
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.
Hosanna in the highest.

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

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.
Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

We join our prayers together in the words of the Lord's Prayer:

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

The minister breaks the consecrated bread.

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.

The Agnus Dei may be used as the bread is broken:

Jesus, Lamb of God,
have mercy on us.
Jesus, bearer of our sins,
have mercy on us.
Jesus, redeemer of the world,
grant us peace.

Giving of Communion

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.

Please come forward for Holy Communion (in one kind only) as directed by the president and/or the stewards. Communion will be administered in silence, and so before the administration the president will say, 'The body and blood of Christ keep you in eternal life', and all who intend to receive are invited to reply, 'Amen'.

In line with the Church of England guidance on Spiritual Communion at this time of the Coronavirus, those unable to receive the consecrated bread and wine today may wish to use this prayer at home:

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.

During the distribution, music may be sung or played.

Prayer after Communion

Silence is kept.
The post communion prayer is said.
Then all say together:

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.

The Dismissal

Notices may be given at this point.
A closing hymn is sung.

The Blessing

Christmas

Christ, who by his incarnation gathered into one
things earthly and heavenly,
fill you with peace and goodwill
and make you partakers of the divine nature;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.
Amen.

Epiphany

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

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Christmas & Epiphany Order of Service 1 January 2023