



**Epiphany Sunday
Sunday 5th January 2025
All Age Eucharist
Mass of St. Thomas - Thorne**



An informal welcome is offered before the service begins.

Processional Hymn

**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
evermore be led to thee.**

**As with joyful steps they sped,
to that lowly manger-bed,
there to bend the knee before
him whom heaven and earth adore,
so may we with willing feet
ever seek thy mercy-seat.**

**As they offered gifts most rare
at that manger rude and bare,
so may we with holy joy,
pure, and free from sin's alloy,
all our costliest treasures bring,
Christ, to thee our heavenly King.**

**In the heavenly country bright
need they no created light;
thou its Light, its Joy, its Crown,
thou its Sun which goes not down:
there for ever may we sing
alleluias to our King.**

The Gathering

We meet in the name of the Father
and of the Son
and of the Holy Spirit.
The Lord be with you
And also with you.

Introduction

Please sit

The theme of the service is introduced informally.

There is one body and one spirit,
There is one hope to which we were called;
One Lord, one faith, one baptism.
One God and Father of all.

Penitence

Lord Jesus, you are mighty God and Prince of Peace:
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you are Son of God and Son of Mary:
Christ, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you are Word made flesh
and splendour of the Father:
Lord have mercy
Lord, have mercy.

*Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy.
Christ have mercy, Christ have mercy.
Lord have mercy, lord have mercy.*

Absolution

May almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you your sins,
and bring you to everlasting life. **Amen.**

Gloria

please stand

Refrain: Glory to God, Glory to God, Glory to God in the Highest.

**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.
*Refrain***

**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.**

Refrain

**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.**

Refrain

The 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.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Gospel Reading *Matthew 2: 1-12*

We all stand and turn to face the gospel as it is read.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

A sentence from scripture is sung and then we respond singing

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

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.

A Sermon and Prayers for All Ages

The Presentation of the Candidates for Baptism

Faith is the gift of God to his people.

In baptism the Lord is adding to our number those whom he is calling.

People of God, will you welcome *N* and uphold them in their new life in Christ?

With the help of God, we will.

The parents and godparents are asked questions to which they respond:

The Church receives *N*, with joy.

Today we are trusting God for their growth in faith.

Will you pray for them, draw them by your example into the community of faith and walk with them in the way of Christ?

With the help of God, we will.

In baptism *N* begins their journey in faith.

You speak with them today.

Will you care for them, and help them to take their place within the life and worship of Christ's Church?

With the help of God, we will.

The Decision

The president addresses the congregation and candidates for baptism

In baptism, God calls us out of darkness into his marvellous light.

To follow Christ means dying to sin and rising to new life with him.

Therefore I ask:

Do you turn away from sin?

I do.

Do you reject evil?

I do.

Do you turn to Christ as Saviour?

I do.

Do you trust in him as Lord?

I do.

Signing with the Cross

The minister of baptism or another minister makes the sign of the cross on the child with the oil of baptism.

Christ claims you for his own. Receive the sign of his cross.

Do not be ashamed of Christ. You are his for ever.

**Stand bravely with him against all the powers of evil,
and remain faithful to Christ to the end of your life.**

May almighty God deliver you from the powers of darkness,
and lead you in the light and obedience of Christ.

Amen.

Please stand for the procession to the font.

Prayer over the Water

The minister stands before the water of baptism and says:

We praise you, loving Father, for the gift of your Son Jesus.

He was baptized in the River Jordan,

where your Spirit came upon him and revealed him as the Son you love.

He sent his followers to baptize all who turn to him.

Now, Father, we ask you to bless this water that those who are baptized in it may be cleansed in the water of life, and, filled with your Spirit,

may know that they are loved as your children, safe in Christ for ever.

Amen.

Profession of Faith

Let us affirm together, our common faith in Jesus Christ.

Do you believe and trust in God the Father,

source of all being and life, the one for whom we exist?

I believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Son,

who took our human nature, died for us and rose again?

I believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit,

who gives life to the people of God and makes Christ known in the world?

I believe and trust in him.

This is the faith of the Church.

This is our faith.

We believe and trust in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Baptism

N, I baptise you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

May God, who has received you by baptism into his Church, pour upon you the riches of his grace, that within the company of Christ's pilgrim people

you may daily be renewed by his anointing Spirit, and come to the inheritance of the saints in glory.

Amen.

The Welcome

There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism:

N, by one Spirit we are all baptized into one body.

We welcome you into the fellowship of faith;

we are children of the same heavenly Father; we welcome you.

The Peace

We are all one in Christ Jesus.
We belong to him through faith,
heirs of the promise of the Spirit of peace.
The peace of the Lord be always with you
and also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Offertory Hymn

During which the collection will be taken

**O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness!
Bow down before him, his glory proclaim;
with gold of obedience, and incense of lowliness,
kneel and adore him, the Lord is his name!**

**Low at his feet lay thy burden of carefulness,
high on his heart he will bear it for thee,
comfort thy sorrows, and answer thy prayerfulness,
guiding thy steps as may best for thee be.**

**Fear not to enter his courts in the slenderness
of the poor wealth thou wouldst reckon as thine:
truth in its beauty, and love in its tenderness,
these are the offerings to lay on his shrine.**

**These, though we bring them in trembling and fearfulness,
he will accept for the name that is dear;
mornings of joy give for evenings of tearfulness,
trust for our trembling and hope for our fear.**

**O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness!
Bow down before him, his glory proclaim;
with gold of obedience, and incense of lowliness,
kneel and adore him, the Lord is his name!**

THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

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:

**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.**

The president recalls the last supper, and we use this acclamation:

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

The prayer continues and ends with praise to God to which everyone responds:

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

Lord's Prayer

please sit

**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 this bread to share in the body of Christ
**Though we are many,
we are one body because we all share in the one bread.**

Agnus Dei

*Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, grant us peace.*

Giving of Communion

The president invites the people 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.**

The Communion

You are very welcome to receive Communion at St Leonards but if prefer not please come to the Altar for a blessing, holding this service book as a sign.

Anthem

Bethlehem Down – Warlock

Prayer After Communion

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.

Notices, Blessing of the Chalk and Birthdays

Giving of a lighted Candle

The newly baptised is brought forward and receives a lighted candle.

God has delivered us from the dominion of darkness
and has given us a place with the saints in light.

You have received the light of Christ; walk in this light all the days of your life.
Shine as a light in the world to the glory of God the Father.

The Blessing

The God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ Jesus,
establish, strengthen and settle you in the faith;
and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Hymn

please stand

**We three kings of Orient are,
bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain, moor and mountain,
following yonder star.**

Refrain:

***O star of wonder, star of night,
star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy Perfect Light.***

**Born a King on Bethlehem's plain,
gold I bring to crown Him again:
king forever, ceasing never,
over us all to reign.**

Refrain

**Frankincense to offer have I;
incense owns a Deity nigh:
pray'r and praising, all men raising,
worship Him, God most high.**

Refrain

**Myrrh is mine, its bitter perfume
breathes of life of gathering gloom;
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,
sealed in the stone-cold tomb.**

Refrain

**Glorious now behold Him arise,
king and God and sacrifice.
heaven sings: 'Alleluia';
'Alleluia' the earth replies.**

Refrain

Dismissal

Go in the light and peace of Christ.
Thanks be to God.

Organ Voluntary

Please stay and join us for refreshments!