



An Order for Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve Thorne – Mass of St Thomas



Welcome

Just before the service, the congregation is welcomed informally.

Processional Carol

please stand

**Once in royal David's city
stood a lowly cattle shed,
where a mother laid her baby
in a manger for his bed:
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ her little child.**

**He came down to earth from heaven
who is God and Lord of all,
and his shelter was a stable,
and his cradle was a stall;
with the poor and mean and lowly
lived on earth our Saviour holy.**

**And through all his wondrous childhood
he would honour and obey,
love and watch the lowly maiden,
in whose gentle arms he lay:
Christian children all must be
mild, obedient, good as he.**

**Not in that poor lowly stable,
with the oxen standing by,
we shall see him; but in heaven,
set at God's right hand on high;
where like stars his children crowned
all in white shall wait around.**

The Greeting

Welcome all wonders in one sight!
Eternity shut in a span,
Summer in winter, day in night.
Heaven in earth and God in man.
Great little one whose all-embracing birth
brings earth to heaven and stoops heaven to earth.
Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you
and also with you.

Prayers of Penitence

Christ the light of the world has come to dispel the darkness of our hearts.
In his light let us examine ourselves and confess our sins.

*Lord have mercy. Lord have mercy.
Christ have mercy. Christ have mercy.
Lord have mercy. Lord have mercy.*

Absolution

May the God of all healing and forgiveness draw you to himself,
that you may behold the glory of his Son, the Word made flesh,
and be cleansed from all your sins, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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

Let us pray in the peace of this Christmas celebration
that our joy in the birth of Christ will last for ever.

Silence is kept

Eternal God,
who made this most holy night to shine with the brightness of your one true light:
bring us, who have known the revelation of that light on earth,
to see the radiance of your heavenly glory:
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.**

First Reading

Isaiah 52: 7-10

please sit

For the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Carol

please stand

**It came upon the midnight clear,
that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth
to touch their harps of gold:
'Peace on the earth, good will to men,
from heaven's all-gracious King!'
The world in solemn stillness lay
to hear the angels sing.**

**Still through the cloven skies they come,
with peaceful wings unfurled;
and still their heavenly music floats
o'er all the weary world;
above its sad and lowly plains
they bend on hovering wing;
and ever o'er its Babel sounds
the blessed angels sing.**

**For lo, the days are hastening on,
by prophet seen of old,
when, with the ever-circling years
comes round the age of gold;
when peace shall over all the earth
its ancient splendours fling,
and the whole world give back the song
which now the angels sing.**

Gospel Reading

We all stand and turn to face the Deacon as they prepare to read the Gospel.

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 John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

At the end:

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

The Sermon

please sit

The Creed

please stand

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.**

Amen.

Prayers of Intercessions

please sit

Holy God

Hear our prayer.

At the end:

In this holy night angels and shepherds worshipped at the manger throne. Receive the worship we offer in fellowship with Blessed Mary and all the saints.

Merciful Father,

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

The Peace

please stand

This holy night the angels sang
'Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace to all in whom he delights'.
The peace of the Lord be always with you
And also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

We turn to our neighbours and offer a sign of peace.

Offertory Carol

**O little town of Bethlehem,
how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;
the hopes and fears of all the years
are met in thee tonight.**

**O morning stars, together
proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the King,
and peace to all on earth.
For Christ is born of Mary; and, gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep
their watch of wondering love**

**How silently, how silently,
the wondrous gift is given!
So, God imparts to human hearts
the blessings of his heaven.
No ear may hear his coming; but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him still,
the dear Christ enters in.**

**O holy Child of Bethlehem,
descend to us we pray;
cast out our sin, and enter in:
be born in us to-day.
We hear the Christmas angels, the great glad tidings tell:
O come to us, abide with us,
our Lord Emmanuel.**

Preparation of the Table

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

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. The lights are brightened, and we all sing:

**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:

Amen.

The 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.

The 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 one bread.

Agnus Dei

Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.

Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.

Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, grant us peace.

The Communion

Christ is the bread which has come down from heaven.

Lord, give us this bread for ever.

You are welcome to receive Communion if you wish at St Leonard's but If you prefer you are warmly welcome to come to the altar for a blessing. Please bring your service booklet with you if this is your wish. The sidespeople will let you know when to come forward.

Anthem

O magnum mysterium – Victoria

Post Communion Prayers

Silence is kept.

God our Father,

in this night you have made known to us again the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ: confirm our faith and fix our eyes on him until the day dawns and Christ the Morning Star rises in our hearts. To him be glory both now and for ever

Amen.

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.

Blessing

please stand

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 among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Final Carol

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
come and behold him, born the King of Angels:

Refrain:

O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

God of God, Light of Light,
lo! he abhors not the Virgin's womb;
Very God, begotten, not created:
Refrain

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
'Glory to God in the highest':
Refrain

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning,
Jesu, to thee be glory giv'n;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing:
Refrain

The Dismissal

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

The choir, crucifer, acolytes, and clergy process during the voluntary.

Organ Voluntary

Wishing you Joy and Peace this Christmas-time and in the year to come.