

**St Peter and St Paul's Church
Aylesford**

Holy Communion



Christmas and Epiphany

**“The Word became flesh
and dwelt among us.”**

John 1:14

Welcome

to this service of Holy Communion

Anyone who is baptised or is a communicant in their own church is welcome to receive Holy Communion during this service.

If you prefer to simply come for a Blessing, please bring this leaflet with you to the altar to show that you would like to receive God's Blessing.

If you would like to have communion brought to you in your pew, please tell one of the Stewards before the service.

Welcome and Introduction

Hymn

The Greeting

Minister The Lord be with you **All:** and also with you.

Prayer of Preparation

All: 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.

Invitation to confession

Christ the light of the world shines the light of his love into our hearts, so that we may see the things that are wrong in our lives and ask his forgiveness.

Silence is kept

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

We have sinned:

All: 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:

All: 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:

All: forgive and heal us.

The shepherds left their flocks to go to Bethlehem. Forgive our self-interest and lack of vision.

We have sinned:

All: forgive and heal us.

The wise men followed the star to find Jesus the King. Forgive our reluctance to seek you.

We have sinned:

All: forgive and heal us.

The president says

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.

All Amen.

Gloria in Excelsis

All (Sung):

**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 Prayer

We all join in the collect prayer.

All: Amen.

The Liturgy of the Word

A Psalm or Anthem may be sung.

First Reading

At the end the reader says

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn

Gospel Reading

Alleluia, alleluia.

The Word became flesh and dwelt among us,
and we have seen his glory.

All: Alleluia.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to N.

All (Sung): Glory to you, O Lord.

At the end of the Gospel the reader says

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All (Sung): Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Affirmation of Faith

The president says

Let us affirm our faith in Jesus Christ the Son of God.

All: Though he was divine,
he did not cling to equality with God,
but made himself nothing.
Taking the form of a slave,
he was born in human likeness.
He humbled himself
and was obedient to death,
even the death of the cross.
Therefore God has raised him on high,
and given him the name above every
name:
that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bow,
and every voice proclaim that Jesus Christ
is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.
Amen.

cf Philippians 2.6-11

Prayers of Intercession

These responses may be used

Lord, in your mercy

All: hear our prayer.

And at the end

Merciful Father,

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

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

The Peace

Our Saviour Christ is the Prince of Peace.

Of the increase of his government and of peace
there shall be no end.

cf Isaiah 9.6,7

The peace of the Lord be always with you

All: and also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

All may exchange a sign of peace.

Offertory Hymn

A collection may be taken. Bread and wine are placed on the altar. When our gifts are presented.

All: Yours Lord, is the greatness, the power, the glory, the splendour and the majesty. For everything in heaven and on earth is yours. All things come from you and of your own do we give you.

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you

All: and also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give thanks and praise.

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, 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:

**All: (Sung) 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.**

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.

**All: (Sung) 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 [N and] 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, for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

All: 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.

Breaking of the Bread

The president breaks the consecrated bread.

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

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

Giving of Communion

The president says the invitation to 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.

This prayer may be said.

All: We do not presume to come to this your table, merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in your manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table.

But you are the same Lord whose nature is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ and to drink his blood, that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body and our souls washed through his most precious blood, and that we may evermore dwell in him and he in us. Amen.

All (sung): 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.

Communion is shared.

You are invited to come forward to receive Communion or a Blessing. During the distribution hymns and anthems may be sung.

The President will bring communion to those who have asked to receive this in their seats.



Prayer after Communion

Silence is kept. The president may lead a Post Communion Prayer.

All: Father of all, we give you thanks and praise, that when we were still far off you met us in your Son and brought us home. Dying and living, he declared your love, gave us grace, and opened the gate of glory.

May we who share Christ's body live his risen life; we who drink his cup bring life to others; we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world. Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us, so we and all your children shall be free, and the whole earth live to praise your name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Dismissal

Blessing

The president leads this or another prayer of blessing.

God our Father,
your Word has come among us
in the Holy Child of Bethlehem:
may the light of faith fill our hearts
and shine in our words and deeds.

And the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be amongst you now, and remain with you always.

All (Sung): Amen.

Hymn

A minister says

Go in the peace of Christ.

All: Thanks be to God.

***You are warmly invited
to join us for tea and coffee
after the Service
at the back of the Church***

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