**Holy Communion | Christmas 1 | 31 December 2023 8:30 am**

**Approach**

**Greeting**

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

**Collect for Purity**

**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**

As we come to the Lord near the start of this New Year,  
let us seek his grace to number our days,  
that we may apply our hearts to wisdom  
as we confess our sins in penitence and faith.

**Penitential Sentences**

Lord God, mighty God, you are the creator of the world.  
Lord, have mercy.  
**Lord, have mercy.**  
Lord Jesus, Son of God and Son of Mary, you are the Prince of Peace.  
Christ, have mercy.  
**Christ, have mercy.**  
Holy Spirit, by your power the Word was made flesh and came to dwell among us.  
Lord, have mercy.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

**Absolution**

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

**Gloria in Excelsis *please stand***

**Glory to God in the highest,**  
**and peace to God’s 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 of the Day**

Let us pray  
The First Sunday of Christmas  
Almighty God,  
who wonderfully created us in your own image  
and yet more wonderfully restored us  
through your Son Jesus Christ:  
Grant that, as he came to share in our humanity,  
so we may share the life of his divinity;  
who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

**The Epistle**

Galatians 4:4–7 (NIV (UK 2011))  
4But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, 5to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship. 6Because you are his sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, ‘\_Abba\_, Father.’ 7So you are no longer a slave, but God’s child; and since you are his child, God has made you also an heir.

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

**The Gospel Acclamation**

Alleluia, alleluia.  
There is one body and one Spirit, one Lord, one faith, one baptism,  
one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.  
**Alleluia.**

**The Gospel**

Hear the Gospel of our Saviour Christ, according to Luke chapter 2 beginning at verse 15  
**Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**  
Luke 2:15–21 (NIV (UK 2011))  
15When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, ‘Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.’  
16So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. 17When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, 18and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. 19But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. 20The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.  
21On the eighth day, when it was time to circumcise the child, he was named Jesus, the name the angel had given him before he was conceived.

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

**Sermon**

**Nicene Creed *page 205***

*Let us affirm our Faith in God*

**We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is,  
seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father, God from God,  
Light from Light, true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father.**

**Through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary,  
and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures**;

**he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

**Prayers of the People**

Let us worship the Saviour with joy  
and make our prayer to our heavenly Father.  
The magi came from the east to worship your Son:  
Father, grant to Christians everywhere  
the spirit of adoration …  
Lord of glory,  
**hear our prayer.**  
The infant Christ received gifts of gold, incense and myrrh:  
Father, accept the offering of our hearts and minds  
[*at the beginning of this year*] …  
Lord of glory,  
**hear our prayer.**  
The kingdoms of this world have become  
the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ:  
Father, grant an abundance of peace to your world …  
Lord of glory,  
**hear our prayer.**  
The Holy Family lived in exile and in the shadow of death:  
Father, look in mercy on all who are poor and powerless,  
and all who suffer …  
Lord of glory,  
**hear our prayer.**  
Your Son shared the life of his home and family at Nazareth:  
Father, protect in your love our neighbours,  
our families and this community of which we are a part …  
Lord of glory,  
**hear our prayer.**  
Father, we rejoice in our fellowship  
with the shepherds, the angels, the magi,  
the Virgin Mary, Saint Joseph  
and all the faithful departed.  
In your unfailing love for us and for all people,  
hear and answer our prayers through your Son,  
our Saviour Jesus Christ.  
**Amen.**

**Prayer of Humble Access**

**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.**

**The Peace *please stand***

Christ came and proclaimed the gospel:  
peace to those who are far off  
and peace to those who are near.

The Peace of the Lord be always with you  
**and also with you**

**Prayers at the Preparation of the Table**

God of power and love,  
by your Holy Spirit,  
draw the scattered flock of Christ into a visible unity  
and make your Church a sign of hope to our divided world;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Taking the Bread & Wine**

Christ our passover has been sacrificed for us  
**therefore let us celebrate the feast.**

**Great Thanksgiving 1**

**Great Thanksgiving 2**

**Great Thanksgiving 3**

**The Lord’s Prayer**

As our Saviour Christ has 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 for ever. Amen.**

**Breaking Bread**

The bread which we break  
is a sharing in the body of Christ.  
**We being many are one body,  
for we all share in the one bread.**

**Invitation**

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.  
Remember that he died for you,  
and feed on him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

**Receiving Communion**

Please come forward to receive the Bread and Wine.

**Prayers after Communion**

The First Sunday of Christmas  
Heavenly Father,  
you have refreshed us with this heavenly sacrament.  
As your Son came to live among us,  
grant us grace to live our lives,  
united in love and obedience,  
as those who long to live with him in heaven;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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.**

**…**

**Almighty God,  
we thank you for feeding us  
with the spiritual food  
of 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 and Dismissal**

The Lord Jesus Christ,  
Son of the living God,  
teach you to walk in his way more trustfully,  
to accept his truth more faithfully,  
and to share his life more lovingly;  
that by the power of the Holy Spirit  
you may come as one family to the kingdom of the Father  
and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be with you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

**…**

Let us go out in God’s light to love and serve our Lord  
**in the name of Christ. Amen.**