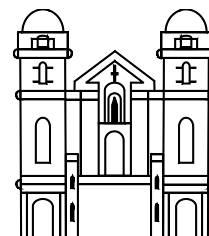


St James the Greater
Leicester



Sung Eucharist
in the Seasons of
Christmas
and
Epiphany



The celebration of Christ's incarnation at Christmas is one of the two poles of the Christian year. The wonderful mystery of God's dwelling among us in the fullness of humanity, as Emmanuel, foretold by the prophets and born of Mary, provides the material of the feast:

Hark, hark, the wise eternal word,
like a weak infant cries!
In form of servant is the Lord,
and God in cradle lies.

(Thomas Pestel)

Christmas is much more than simply the celebration of Jesus' birth, and the task of the Christmas liturgy is to recall us, amid all the joyful customs and celebrations of Christmas, to this central truth of the Word made flesh for our salvation.

In the Western churches, the Epiphany ('manifestation') became an occasion to celebrate one element in the story of Christ's birth, the visit of the far-travelled magi, understood as the manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles. Matthew's account speaks simply of 'wise men from the east'; later tradition fixed their number at three, made them kings and recalled their resonant names – Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar. In this perspective, Epiphanytide is an apt season to pray for the worldwide mission of the Church. The feast of the Conversion of St Paul, the Apostle to the Gentiles, appropriately falls in the Epiphany season, as does the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. In the Eastern churches, the Epiphany is, rather, the celebration of Christ's baptism at the hands of John, when the heavens were opened and a voice from heaven declared Jesus to be God's beloved Son. The miracle of Cana in Galilee, where Jesus 'first manifested his glory', follows immediately:

Manifest at Jordan's stream,
Prophet, Priest, and King supreme;
and at Cana wedding-guest
in thy Godhead manifest.

(Christopher Wordsworth)

The season of joyful celebration that begins at Christmas now continues through the successive Sundays of Epiphany, and the festal cycle ends only with the Feast of the Presentation (Candlemas). The child who has been manifested to the magi at his birth is now recognized by Simeon and Anna, when he comes to be presented in the Temple according to the Law of Israel. He is both 'a light to lighten the Gentiles' and 'the glory of God's people Israel'. But the redemption he will bring must be won through suffering; the Incarnation is directed to the Passion; and Simeon's final words move our attention away from the celebration of Christmas and towards the mysteries of Easter.

Please join in with the responses which are in bold on the Order of Service.

Please return this booklet to the back of the Church at the end of the service.

**A large print version of this booklet is available,
please ask a Churchwarden.**

It can also be downloaded from www.stjamesthegreater.org.uk

The Gathering

*Stand for the OPENING HYMN - see hymn board or leaflet for the number.
During the hymn the choir move into the chancel.*

The Greeting

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

Amen.

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

Prayer of Preparation

**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.**

Prayers of Penitence

A minister gives an invitation to confession with these or other suitable words:

In the Christmas season: Hear the words of the angel to Joseph:

'You shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.'

Therefore let us seek the forgiveness of God through Jesus the Saviour of the world.

In the Epiphany Season: 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 confess our sins.

Please kneel or sit for the Confession.

**Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
we have sinned against you
and against our neighbour
in thought and word and deed,**

through negligence, through weakness,
through our own deliberate fault.

We are truly sorry

and repent of all our sins.

For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,

who died for us,

forgive us all that is past

and grant that we may serve you in newness of life

to the glory of your name.

Amen.

<i>Choir:</i>	Kyrie eleison	Lord have mercy
	Christe eleison	Christ have mercy
	Kyrie eleison	Lord have mercy

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.

Amen.

Gloria in Excelsis

Please stand – the following refrain may be sung by the congregation:

Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo.

Gloria, gloria in excelsis Deo.

A different setting may be sung by choir and congregation from a separate card.

The Collect

The Collect is said, and all respond:

Amen.

The Liturgy of the Word

Please sit for the reading.

At the end of the reading, the speaker says:

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Please stand for the Gradual Hymn – see hymn board or leaflet for the number.

Gospel Reading

Please turn to face the Gospel reader.

Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

After the Gospel:

This is the Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Sit for the Sermon.

The Creed

Please stand.

[Sung to an 87 87 or 87 87D tune]

**We believe in God the Father,
God almighty, by whose plan
earth and heaven sprang to being,
all created things began.**

**We believe in Christ the Saviour,
Son of God in human frame,
virgin-born, the child of Mary
upon whom the Spirit came.**

**Christ, who on the cross forsaken,
like a lamb to slaughter led,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
he descended to the dead.**

**We believe in Jesus risen,
heaven's king to rule and reign,
to the Father's side ascended
till as judge he comes again.**

**We believe in God the Spirit;
in one Church, below, above:**

**saints of God in one communion,
one in holiness and love.
So by faith, our sins forgiven,
Christ our Saviour, Lord and friend,
we shall rise with him in glory
to the life that knows no end.**

Prayers of Intercession

Please kneel or sit for the prayers.

This response 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

Please stand.

The president introduces the Peace with these or other suitable sentences:

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

In the Epiphany Season: Our Saviour Christ is the Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and of peace there shall be no end.

and then says:

The peace of the Lord be always with you
and also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

All may exchange a sign of peace.

Preparation of the Table

The Offertory Hymn is sung: see hymn board or leaflet for the number.

A collection is taken. If you are visiting and are a UK tax payer please use one of the gift aid envelopes (completing the details.)

The gifts of the people are gathered and presented.

The table is prepared – bread and wine are placed upon it.

The Priest takes the bread and wine:

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 [A]

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

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.

From Christmas Day until the Eve of the Epiphany:

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:

From the Epiphany until the Eve of the Presentation:

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:

On the Feast of the Baptism of Christ:

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

You celebrated your new gift of baptism in signs and wonders at the Jordan. Your voice was heard from heaven to awaken faith in the presence among us of your Word made flesh.

Your Spirit was seen as a dove, revealing Jesus as your servant, and anointing him with the oil of gladness to preach the good news to the poor.

Therefore, as we celebrate the union of earth and heaven, we rejoice to echo the song of the angels in heaven for ever praising you and singing:

Choir: 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.

Kneel or sit

Accept our praises, heavenly Father,
through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ,
and as we follow his example and obey his command,
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit

these gifts of bread and wine
may be to us his body and his blood;
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.
Therefore, heavenly Father,
we remember his offering of himself
made once for all upon the cross;
we proclaim his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension;
we look for the coming of your kingdom,
and with this bread and this cup
we make the memorial of Christ your Son our Lord.

Christ is the bread of life:

**When we eat this bread and drink this cup,
we proclaim your death, Lord Jesus,
until you come in glory.**

Accept through him, our great high priest,
this our sacrifice of thanks and praise,
and as we eat and drink these holy gifts
in the presence of your divine majesty,
renew us by your Spirit,
inspire us with your love
and unite us in the body of your Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through him, and with him, and in him,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
with all who stand before you in earth and heaven,
we worship you, Father almighty,
in songs of everlasting praise:

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

The Lord's Prayer

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us:

**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 Priest breaks the consecrated bread.

Every time we eat this bread and drink this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Choir:

The 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

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.

Communicant members of all Christian denominations are welcome to receive. Alternatively you are welcome to come forward for a blessing – bring this service booklet to indicate that a blessing is requested. The steps to the left and right of the altar have a hand rail. Follow the Churchwardens' directions to go forward.

An Anthem may be sung by the choir.

See hymn board or leaflet for the Communion Hymn number.

Prayer after Communion

Kneel or sit.

The Post Communion prayer is said, then the following:

**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

The President may use this or another suitable blessing:

In the Christmas season:

May the Father, who has loved the eternal Son from before the foundation of the world, shed that love upon you his children. **Amen.**

May Christ, who by his incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, fill you with joy and peace. **Amen.**

May the Holy Spirit, by whose overshadowing Mary became the God-bearer, give you grace to carry the good news of Christ. **Amen.**

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

In the Epiphany Season:

May God the Father, who led the wise men by the shining of a star to find the Christ, the Light from light, lead you also in your pilgrimage to find the Lord. **Amen.**

May God, who has delivered us from the dominion of darkness, give us a place with the saints in light in the kingdom of his beloved Son. **Amen.**

May the light of the glorious gospel of Christ shine in your hearts and fill your lives with his joy and peace. **Amen.**

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

Notices follow here.

Please stand for the Recessional Hymn – see hymn board or leaflet for the number. As the Procession passes ALL TURN to face the door of the church in readiness to go out as witnesses

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ. Amen.

Organ voluntary. Please remain standing whilst the Choir depart and be aware of those remaining to listen.

Please return this Order of Service to the back of church before you leave. Everyone is invited to remain for refreshments in the hall downstairs (do ask for directions if needed!)

The Church of St James the Greater
Leicester



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