

# Holy Communion in the Christmas Season



*St Cuthbert's Church, Allendale*

*St Mark's Church, Ninebanks*

*Holy Trinity Church, Whitfield*

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

**All Amen.**

*We stand, if able, to sing the **opening hymn.***

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

**All and also with you.**

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.

*Silence is kept.*

God our Father, you sent your Son full of grace and truth:  
forgive our failure to receive him.

Lord, have mercy.

**All Lord, have mercy.**

Jesus our Saviour, you were born in poverty and laid in a  
manger: forgive our greed and rejection of your ways.

Christ, have mercy.

**All Christ, have mercy.**

Spirit of love, your servant Mary responded joyfully to your call:  
forgive the hardness of our hearts.

Lord, have mercy.

**All Lord, have mercy.**

May the God of all healing and forgiveness draw you to himself  
and cleanse you from all your sins, that you may behold the glory  
of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All Amen.**

*We stand, if able, to sing the Gloria.*

**Glory to God, 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,  
we worship you, we give you thanks,  
we praise you for your glory.**

**Glory to God, to God in the highest,  
and peace to his people on earth.  
Glory to God, to God in the highest,  
and peace to his people on earth.**

**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, receive our prayer.**

**For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,  
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father.  
Amen, Amen.**

*The Collect*

*The Collect of the Day.*

*We sit for the reading(s), at the end the reader says:*

This is the word of the Lord.

**All Thanks be to God.**

*We stand, if able, to sing the **gradual hymn** and remain standing to hear the Gospel.*

*Gospel Reading*

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

**All Glory to you, O Lord.**

*At the end:*

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**All Praise to you, O Christ.**

*We sit while a sermon is preached and then stand to reaffirm our faith.*

*The Nicene Creed*

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty.

**All 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.

**All God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God.**

Begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father.

**All Through him all things were made.**

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and was made man.

**All** **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.

**All** **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.

**All** **The Lord, the giver of life,**

who proceeds from the Father and the Son.

**All** **With the Father and the Son he is worshipped and glorified.**

He has spoken through the prophets.

**All** **We believe in one holy, catholic and apostolic Church.**

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

**All** **We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

### *Prayers of Intercession*

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

Father, your Son our Saviour was born in human flesh.

Renew your Church as the Body of Christ.

Holy God,

**All** **hear our prayer.**

There was no room for your Son in the inn.  
Protect with your love those who have no home and all who live  
in poverty.  
Holy God,

**All hear our prayer.**

Mary, in the pain of labour, brought your Son to birth. Hold in  
your hand [...and] all who are in pain or distress.  
Holy God,

**All hear our prayer.**

Christ came as a light shining in the darkness. Bring comfort to  
[...and] all who suffer in the sadness of our world.  
Holy God,

**All hear our prayer.**

The angels sang, 'Peace to God's people on earth.' Strengthen  
those who work for peace and justice in [...and in] all the world.  
Holy God,

**All hear our prayer.**

Shepherds in the field heard good tidings of joy.  
Give us grace to preach the gospel of Christ's redemption.  
Holy God,

**All hear our prayer.**

Strangers found the Holy Family, and saw the baby lying in the  
manger. Bless our homes and all whom we love.  
Holy God,

**All hear our prayer.**

At Christmas heaven come down to earth, and earth was raised  
to heaven. Hold in your hand [...and] all those who have passed  
through death in the hope of your coming kingdom.  
Holy God,

**All hear our prayer.**

As Christians the world over have celebrated Christ's birth.  
Open our hearts that he may be born in us today.  
Holy God,

**All** **hear our prayer.**

Angels and shepherds worshipped at the manger throne.  
Receive the worship we offer in fellowship with Mary, Joseph  
and the saints through him who is your Word made flesh, our  
Saviour Jesus Christ.

**All** **Amen.**

*The Liturgy of the Sacrament  
The Peace*

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

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

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

*We stand, if able, to sing the **offertory hymn.***

*Preparation of the Table*

Word made flesh, life of the world, in your incarnation you  
embraced our poverty: by your Spirit may we share in your  
riches.

**All** **Amen.**

*The Eucharistic Prayer*

The Lord is here.

**All** **His Spirit is with us.**

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.**

It is right to praise you, Father, Lord of all creation; in your love you made us for yourself. When we turned away you did not reject us but came to meet us in your Son.

**All You embraced us as your children and welcomed us to sit and eat with you.**

In Christ you shared our life that we might live in him and he in us.

**All He opened his arms of love upon the cross and made for all the perfect sacrifice for sin.**

On the night he was betrayed, at supper with his friends he took bread, and gave you thanks; he broke it and gave it to them, saying: Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.

**All Father, we do this in remembrance of him: his body is the bread of life.**

At the end of supper, taking the cup of wine, he gave you thanks, and said: Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins; do this in remembrance of me.

**All Father, we do this in remembrance of him: his blood is shed for all.**

As we proclaim his death and celebrate his rising in glory, send your Holy Spirit that this bread and this wine may be to us the body and blood of your dear Son.

**All As we eat and drink these holy gifts make us one in Christ, our risen Lord.**



With your whole Church throughout the world we offer you this sacrifice of praise and lift our voice to join the eternal song of heaven:

**All Holy, holy, holy Lord, Lord God of hosts.  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory,  
hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name, who comes in the  
name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.**

*The Lord's Prayer*

Rejoicing in the presence of God here among us, as our Saviour taught us, so we pray.

**All 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 the bread of life, and that life is the light of the world.

**All God here among us, light in the midst of us, bring us to  
light and life.**

*Agnus Dei*

**All Jesus Lamb of God: have mercy on us.  
Jesus bearer of our sins: have mercy on us.  
Jesus Redeemer of the world: give us your peace.**

*Giving of Communion*

Christ is the true bread which has come down from heaven.

**All Lord, give us this bread always.**

*Prayer of Humble Access*

**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.**

*We come forward to receive communion, or a prayer of blessing.*

*We reply 'Amen' when given communion.*

*Post Communion Prayer.*

**All 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.**

*We stand, if able, to sing the **final hymn.***

*The Blessing*

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 time; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.

**All Amen.**

*The Dismissal*

The Word was made flesh and lived among us.

**All And we have seen his glory.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**All In the name of Christ. Amen.**