

# Epiphany Season

An Order of Service for  
Holy Communion



The Parish of St Bartholomew  
and St Christopher  
Haslemere

# *The Season of Epiphany*

The Season of Epiphany means ‘manifestation’, and became an occasion to celebrate one element in the story of Christ’s birth - the visit of the Magi, which is understood as the revelation of Christ to all peoples. Matthew’s account speaks simply of ‘wise men from the east’. In this perspective, Epiphanytide is an apt season to pray for the mission of the Church, both at home and abroad.



The arrangement of scripture for the Sundays of Epiphany deliberately draws out these aspects. The season of joyful celebration that begins at Christmas now continues through the successive Sundays of Epiphany, and the cycle ends only with the Feast of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple (Candlemas). The child who has been revealed to the Magi at his birth is now recognized by Simeon and Anna, when he comes to be presented in the Temple. He is both ‘a light to lighten the Gentiles’ and ‘the glory of God’s people Israel’.

# The Gathering

**Please stand**

*We begin our preparation for communion as we come together before God to greet each other, to reflect on our lives, to ask, receive and celebrate God's forgiveness and to pray.*

## Hymn and Procession

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

**All Amen.**

## The Welcome

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

**All and also with you.**

## Prayers of Preparation

As we invite God's presence amongst us we prepare to  
bring him our worship.

**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.**

**All Amen.**

## In Confession

Therefore, let us now confess our sins. 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.

Titus 2:11-14

**Sit or  
kneel**

*Silence is kept for us to offer our sins to God.*

**All** Almighty God, our heavenly Father,  
we have sinned against thee  
and against our neighbour,  
in thought and word and deed,  
through negligence, through weakness,  
through our own deliberate fault.  
We are heartily sorry  
and repent of all our sins.  
For the sake of thy Son Jesus Christ,  
who died for us,  
forgive us all that is past,  
and grant that we may serve thee  
in newness of life  
to the glory of thy name.

**All** Amen.

*We receive absolution and the assurance of sins forgiven.*

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

**All** Amen.

## The Gloria in Excelsis

### *Please Stand*

*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.  
Glory to God...  
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.  
Glory to God...  
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.  
Glory to God...*

**OR** 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

**Please Sit** *The collect or other community prayers may be said.  
After the prayer we all respond:*

**All** Amen.

# The Liturgy of the Word

*Our preparation continues as we hear God's word and reflect on it, responding in trust by declaring our faith and praying for the needs of the world.*

*At the end of the lesson the reader says:*

This is the word of the Lord.

**All** Thanks be to God.

**Please Stand**

**Hymn**

*As the gospel book is carried past you, please turn to face it.*

## The Gospel Reading

Alleluia, alleluia.

Christ was revealed in flesh, proclaimed among the nations and believed in throughout the world.

**All** Alleluia. 1 Timothy 3:16

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.

## The Sermon

**Please Sit**

# The Creed

**Please Stand**

**All** 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.

## Our Prayers

*You may wish to kneel as we pray for each other and our communities. The following responses may be used.*

Lord, in your mercy      (or)      Lord, hear us.

**All** hear our prayer.      **All** Lord, graciously hear us.

*A time of silence may be kept, after which we respond:*

Merciful Father,

**All** accept these prayers for the sake of your Son,

our Saviour Jesus Christ.  
Amen.

# The Liturgy of the Sacrament

## Sharing God's Peace

### *Please Stand*

Where two or three are gathered together in my name,  
says the Lord, 'there am I in the midst of them.'

*Matthew 18:20*

We meet in the name of Christ and share his peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you

**All and also with you.**

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

*Please take time to leave your seat and greet others with the  
peace*

### **Hymn**

*An offering will be taken up during the hymn.*

*If you are a UK taxpayer please use a Gift Aid envelope.*

*The bread and wine, and the gifts of the people, are brought  
forward and placed upon the altar.*

## Prayer and Preparation of the Table

Gracious God,  
accept the offering of your Church,  
the hearts of your people  
joined in praise and thanksgiving,



in the name of Jesus Christ, the Lord.

**All Amen.**

## The Holy Communion

*We remember Christ's offering of himself for us and his last supper with his disciples, blessing the bread and wine to be for us his body and blood.*

### Stand

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.**

And now we give you thanks  
because, in the incarnation of the Word,  
a new light has dawned upon the world,  
that all the nations may be brought out of darkness  
to see the radiance of your glory.  
And so with angels and archangels  
and all the company of heaven,  
we proclaim your glory  
and sing their unending hymn of praise:

**All 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.**

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.

**All To you be glory and praise for ever.**

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.

**All To you be glory and praise for ever.**

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.

Great is the mystery of faith:

**All Christ has died:**

**Christ is risen:**

**Christ will come again.**

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:

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

## The Lord's Prayer

*Sitting or kneeling, we pray:*

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

**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.**

## The 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.

**All** 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.

Or:

**All** 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.

## The Giving of Communion

Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.  
Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

**All** Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,  
but only say the word, and I shall be healed.

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.

*The choir sings an anthem.*

*If you are a visitor, and receive communion in a church you usually attend, whether it is in the Church of England or not, please feel welcome to receive communion here today.*

*If you prefer, you may receive a blessing instead: please bow your head and keep your hands by your sides when you come forward. At the giving of communion these or similar words are said:*

## The Prayer after Communion

*The Post Communion prayer is said by the President.*

**All** God of glory,  
you have nourished us with your Word  
who is the bread of life:  
now fill us with your Holy Spirit  
that through us the light of your glory  
may shine in all the world,  
to the glory of God the Father.  
Amen

# The Dismissal

Do please remain with us after the service  
for refreshments.

## Hymn

## The Blessing

Heavenly Father,  
we share together the blessing of your presence.  
Give us in this life knowledge of your truth,  
and in the world to come everlasting life.  
And the blessing of God Almighty  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit  
be among you and remain with you always.

**All Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**All In the name of Christ.**

**Amen**





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