



**SOLEMN EUCHARIST  
OF  
CHRISTMAS DAY**

**Friday 25 December 2020  
at 11.00 am**

## Welcome

Welcome to York Minster and to this Solemn Eucharist on Christmas Day.

We gather together at this time to celebrate the birth of Christ our Saviour. Despite the changes and challenges we have had to endure in this past year due to the pandemic, the central message of Christmas remains the same: God is with us in the form of a vulnerable infant bringing light and hope to the world.

In this service, through scripture and music we are taken back, once again, to the manger in Bethlehem to experience once again the birth of Christ. As we break bread together, God's Word leaps down from the heavens and is made flesh for our salvation. 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.

*The service is sung to the MISSA BREVIS by Jonathan Dove (b. 1959)*

*The President and Preacher is the Most Reverend and Right Honourable Stephen Cottrell, Archbishop of York.*

*Please join in saying together the words printed in bold type.*

*If you are joining us via the live stream, you might find this prayer helpful during Communion.*

## Act of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Blessed Sacrament.  
I love you above all things and I desire you in my soul.  
Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally,  
come at least spiritually into my heart.  
As though you were already there,  
I embrace you and unite myself wholly to you;  
permit not that I should ever be separated from you.  
Amen.

## Information about this Service

We have put in various measures to keep our worship safe in the light of the Covid-19 pandemic.

- ◆ We ask that people wear masks at all times if they are able, and of course we respect those who are exempt.
- ◆ If you would like to support the work of York Minster in these difficult times there are contactless donation points as you leave.
- ◆ Communion is administered in one kind only. If you normally receive communion in your own church, you are very welcome to receive communion here.
- ◆ If you do not wish to take communion but would like to receive a blessing, please come forward and let the minister know.
- ◆ Gluten-free communion wafers are available from the communion station at the front, nearest the altar. Please follow the directions of the Stewards. When the time comes to receive communion, please ask the minister for a gluten-free wafer.
- ◆ There are hand sanitizers around the Minster for your use as you enter and leave the building, and we ask that everyone maintains physical distancing at all times, and refrains from gathering or socialising with one another within the Minster.
- ◆ To help with this, at the end of this service our stewards will invite you, row by row, to exit the Minster. If you wish to remain to listen to the organ voluntary please do so, but then leave the Minster as directed, as efficiently and as quickly as possible through the door where you came in.
- ◆ Our service today is being live-streamed so that those who are unable to physically be here today can still participate. For licensing and safeguarding reasons, we ask that you do not record this service on your own personal devices.

Despite all these changes to the way we worship, we come here primarily to worship Almighty God, the Word made flesh, in this most holy season of Christmas.

## The Gathering

*The Aisle Prayers are sung and a bell is rung.*

*Please stand as the organ plays and the procession enters the Minster.*

*The Archbishop says:*

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

The Lord be with you  
**and also with you.**

## The Lighting of the Christmas Candle

*The Archbishop says:*

God our Father,  
today the Saviour is born  
and those who live in darkness are seeing a great light.  
Help us, who greet the birth of Christ with joy,  
to live in the light of your Son,  
and to share the good news of your love.  
We ask this through Jesus Christ,  
the Light who has come into the world.  
**Amen.**

*Please remain standing.*

## Prayers of Penitence

*The Deacon says:*

Christ the light of the world has come  
to dispel the darkness of our hearts.  
Let us turn to the light and confess our sins.

**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.**

*The Archbishop 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.  
**Amen.**

## Gloria in Excelsis

*The choir sings:*

Gloria in excelsis Deo, et in terra pax  
hominibus bonae voluntatis.  
Laudamus te, benedicimus te, adoramus te,  
glorificamus te, gratias agimus tibi propter  
magnam gloriam tuam.

Domine Deus, Rex coelestis, Deus  
Pater omnipotens. Domine Fili unigenite,  
Jesu Christe: Domine Deus, Agnus Dei,  
Filius Patris, qui tollis peccata mundi,  
miserere nobis, qui tollis peccata mundi,  
suscipe deprecationem nostram. Qui sedes ad  
dexteram Patris, miserere nobis.

Quoniam tu solus sanctus,  
tu solus Dominus,  
tu solus altissimus, Jesu Christe,  
cum Sancto Spiritu,  
in gloria Dei Patris. Amen.

*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.*

*Please remain standing.*

## The Collect

*The Archbishop says:*

Let us pray.

*Silence is kept.*

Almighty God,  
you have given us your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him  
and as at this time to be born of a pure virgin:  
grant that we, who have been born again  
and made your children by adoption and grace,  
may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

*Please sit.*

# The Liturgy of the Word

## New Testament Reading

A reading from the letter of Paul to Titus.

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

TITUS 2. 11-14

*At the end of the reading:*

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Organ Fanfare

*The Gospel is heralded by music played on the organ. Please stand.*

## Gospel Reading

*When the Gospel is announced the reader says:*

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

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.’ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,  
‘Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth peace among those whom he favours!’

LUKE 2. 1–14

*After the Gospel the reader says:*

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*The organist plays a musical response to the Gospel reading.*

*Please sit for the sermon.*

## **Sermon**

The Archbishop

*The organist plays a musical response to the sermon.*

*Please stand for the Creed.*



## The Creed

Let us affirm our faith in God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

**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 from the Holy Spirit and 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.**

*Please sit for the Intercessions.*

## Prayers of Intercession

*The Archbishop introduces the prayers with these words:*

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

*This response is used:*

Holy God,  
**hear our prayer.**

*The Intercessions end:*

Father, on this holy day 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. **Amen.**

*Please stand.*

## The Liturgy of the Sacrament

### The Peace

*The Archbishop says:*

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  
**and also with you.**

### Preparation of the Table

*A carol is sung by the choir, during which the table is prepared, and the gifts and the altar are censed.*

### Offertory Carol

Ding dong! merrily on high  
in heav'n the bells are ringing;  
Ding dong! verily the sky  
is riv'n with angel singing.  
*Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis!*

2. E'en so here below, below,  
let steeple bells be swungen,  
And "Io, io, io!"  
By priest and people sungen.  
*Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis!*

3. Pray you, dutifully prime  
your matin chime, ye ringers;  
may you beautifully rime  
your evetime song, ye singers.  
*Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis!*

*Words* G R Woodward (1848–1934)

*Music* Sixteenth-century French tune arr. Mack Wilberg (*b.* 1955)

## Taking of the Bread and Wine

*A prayer is said as the gifts are presented.*

As the grain once scattered in the fields  
and the grapes once dispersed on the hillside  
are now reunited on this table in bread and wine,  
so, Lord, may your whole Church soon be gathered together  
from the corners of the earth  
into your kingdom.

**Amen.**

## The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you  
**and also with you.**

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.**

All glory and honour be your 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,  
and 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:

*The choir sings:*

Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus,  
Dominus Deus Sabaoth,  
pleni sunt caeli et terra gloria tua.  
Hosanna in excelsis.

*Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.*

Benedictus qui venit in nomine  
Domini. Osanna in excelsis.

*Blessed is he who comes in the name  
of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.*

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.

*The Deacon says:*

Great is the mystery of faith:

**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 the Blessed Virgin Mary,  
Peter the Apostle, 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.

**Amen.**

*Please kneel or sit. A short silence is kept.*

## **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 glory,  
for ever and ever.  
Amen.**

## Breaking of the Bread

*The Archbishop breaks the consecrated bread, saying:*

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

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

## Giving of Communion

*The Archbishop says an invitation to communion:*

God's holy gifts

for God's holy people.

**Jesus Christ is holy,**

**Jesus Christ is Lord,**

**to the glory of God the Father.**

The body and blood of Christ keep you in eternal life.

*Communion is administered at a number of places. You will be guided by the Stewards.*

*Authorised words of administration are said, to which the communicant responds:*

**Amen.**

*During the distribution of Communion the choir sings:*

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi:  
miserere nobis.

*Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the  
world, have mercy on us.*

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi:  
dona nobis pacem.

*Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the  
world, grant us peace.*

## Prayer after Communion

*The Archbishop invites the congregation to stand and says:*

O God our Father,

whose Word has come among us

in the Holy Child of Bethlehem:

may the light of faith illumine our hearts

and shine in our words and deeds;

through him who is Christ the Lord.

**Amen.**

*All then say together:*

**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.**

## **The Dismissal**

### **The Blessing**

*The Archbishop says:*

Christ, who by his incarnation gathered into one  
things earthly and heavenly,  
fill you with peace and goodwill  
and make you partakers of the divine nature;  
and the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be upon you and remain with you always.  
**Amen.**

*The Deacon says:*

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
**In the name of Christ. Amen.**

*As the procession moves from the Nave, the choir sings Psalm 150.*

## **Organ Voluntary**

Toccata (*Symphonie V*)

Charles-Marie Widor (1844–1937)

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