

Please, when you come to the priory at the present time, wear face-covering, respect social distancing, avoid physical contact, use hand gel on arrival, and do not exchange the Peace physically. Members of the congregation, providing they are wearing face-coverings, may join in singing the usual things. Holy Communion will be given in just one kind, and with no spoken words. Please pay careful attention to directions from the 'Sidesmen'

¶ *The choir sings either the Kyrie (Lord have mercy) or a carol.
After the sacristy bell rings please STAND. All sing the ENTRANCE CAROL (29) during which the Principal Celebrant, Concelebrants and other ministers enter.*

1. It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth to touch their haps of gold.
'Peace on the earth, good-will to men, from heaven's all gracious King!
The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.

2. Still through the cloven skies they come, with peaceful wings unfurled;
And still their heavenly music floats o'er all the weary world.
Above its sad and lowly plains they bend on hovering wing;
And ever o'er its Babel sounds the blessed angels sing.

3. Yet with the woes of sin and strife the world has suffered long;
Beneath the angel-strain have rolled two thousand years of wrong;
And man, at war with man, hears not the love song which they bring:
O hush the noise, ye men of strife, and hear the angels sing.

4. For lo! The days are hastening on, by prophet bards foretold,
When, with the ever-circling years, comes round the age of gold;
When peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendours fling,
And the whole world give back the song which now the angels sing.

+ In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**
Peace be with you. **And also with you.**

¶ *The Priest introduces the celebration and he, or a deacon, invites the people to confess their sins.
Silence may be kept.*

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, we have sinned against you, through our own fault, in thought, and word, and deed, and in what we have left undone. We are heartily sorry, and repent of all our sins. For your Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake, 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 Bishop pronounces the ABSOLUTION*

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.**

¶ *The Priest intones the GLORIA IN EXCELSIS and all sit until its conclusion.*

(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.)

¶ *Stand for the Collect.*

Let us pray.

Eternal God, who made this most holy night to shine with the brightness of your one true light: bring us, who have known the revelation of that light on earth, to see the radiance of your heavenly glory; 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.**

¶ *Sit for the First Reading:*

Isaiah 9:1-7

The people that walked in darkness has seen a great light; on those who live in a land of deep shadow a light has shone. You have made their gladness greater, you have made their joy increase; they rejoice in your presence as men rejoice at harvest time, as men are happy when they are dividing the spoils. For the yoke that was weighing on him, the barb across his shoulders, the rod of his oppressor, these you break as on the day of Midian. For all the footgear of battle, every cloak rolled in blood, is burnt, and consumed by fire. For there is a child born for us, a son given to us and dominion is laid on his shoulders; and this is the name they give him: Wonder-Counsellor, Mighty-God, Eternal-Father, Prince-of-Peace. Wide is his dominion in a peace that has no end, for the throne of David and for his royal power, which he establishes and makes secure in justice and integrity. From this time onwards and for ever, the jealous love of the Lord of Hosts will do this. This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

¶ *The choir sings the psalm, with everyone joining-in with the response*

(R) Today a Saviour has been born for us, he is Christ the Lord.

O sing a new song to the Lord, sing to the Lord all the earth.

O sing to the Lord, bless his name. **(R)**

Proclaim his help day by day, tell among the nations his glory
and his wonders among all the peoples. **(R)**

Let the heavens rejoice and earth be glad, let the sea and all within it thunder praise, let the land and all it bears rejoice, all the trees of the wood shout for joy at the presence of the Lord for he comes, he comes to rule the earth. **(R)**

With justice he will rule the world, he will judge the peoples with his truth. **(R)**

¶ *Remain seated for the Second Reading:*

Titus 2:11-14

God's grace has been revealed, and it has made salvation possible for the whole human race and taught us that what we have to do is to give up everything that does not lead to God, and all our worldly ambitions; we must be self-restrained and live good and religious lives here in this present world, while we are waiting in hope for the blessing which will come with the Appearing of the glory of our great God and saviour Christ Jesus. He sacrificed himself for us in order to set us free from all wickedness and to purify a people so that it could be his very own and would have no ambition except to do good. This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

¶ *Stand as the choir begins the Gospel acclamation.*

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. **Alleluia...**

I bring you news of great joy: today a saviour has been born to us, Christ the Lord. **Alleluia...**

¶ *Remain standing for the Gospel.. [Luke 2: 1-14]*

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

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke . **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Caesar Augustus issued a decree for a census of the whole world to be taken. This census – the first – took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria, and everyone went to his own town to be registered. So Joseph set out from the town of Nazareth in Galilee and travelled up to Judaea, to the town of David called Bethlehem, since he was of David's House and line, in order to be registered together with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. While they were there the time came for her to have her child, and she birth to a son, her first born. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger because there was no room for them at the inn.

In the countryside close by there were shepherds who lived in the fields and took it in turns to watch their flocks during the night. The angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone round them. They were terrified, but the angel said, 'Do not be afraid. Listen, I bring you news of great joy, a joy to be shared by the whole people. Today in the town of David a saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. And here is a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.' And suddenly with the angel there was a great throng of the heavenly host, praising God and singing: 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace to men who enjoy his favour.' This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

¶ *SIT. A SERMON is preached.*

¶ *All Stand for the Creed. Please genuflect, kneel or bow during the section marked in red.*

I believe in one God the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible:

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of his Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made ;who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven, **and was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary, and was made man,** and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried, and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures, and ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of the Father. And he shall come again with glory to judge both the quick and the dead: whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Ghost, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceedeth from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified, who spake by the prophets.

And I believe one holy catholic and apostolic Church. I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins. And I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come.

Amen.

¶ *All kneel or sit for the Intercessions.*

¶ *The Prayers are offered and the following response is used between the petitions:*

Lord, in your mercy **Hear our prayer.**

The prayers conclude as *the Celebrant says*

Rejoicing in fellowship with the shepherds, the angels, the magi, the Blessed Virgin Mary, Saint Joseph, Saint Blaise, and Saint Benedict, we commend ourselves and one another to their prayers and to your unfailling love.

Merciful Father, **accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

All stand. The Peace is introduced:

This holy night the angels sang, 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to all in whom he delights.

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

¶ *During the following CAROL(32) the bread and wine are prepared at the altar.*

1. O little town of Bethlehem,
How still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark street shineth
The everlasting light
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight.

2. O morning stars, together
Proclaim thy holy birth
And praises sing to God the King,
And peace to men on earth;
For Christ is born of Mary;
And, gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep
Their watch of wondering love.

3. How silently, how silently,
the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts
The blessings of his heaven.
No ear may hear his coming;
But in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive him, still
The dear Christ enters in

4. O holy Child of Bethlehem,
Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in,
Be born in us to-day.
We hear the Christmas Angels
The great glad tidings tell.
O come to us, abide with us,
Our Lord Emmanuel.

Pray that our sacrifice may be acceptable to God the almighty Father.

May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands to the praise and glory of his name, for our good, and the good of all his holy Church.

¶ *The Priest sings or says the Prayer over the gifts*

May the oblation of this day's feast be pleasing to you, O Lord, we pray, that through this most holy exchange we may be found in the likeness of Christ, in whom our nature is united to you. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen.**

¶ *All stand (unless prevented by infirmity)*

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.

¶ *The Priest sings the Preface*

¶ *The choir sings*

(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.)

The Eucharistic Prayer continues..... **Amen**

¶ *All kneel or sit and the Celebrant introduces the Lord's Prayer*

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.**

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

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

¶ *The choir sings, in Latin*

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

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

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

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

The Church of England welcomes regular communicants from other main Christian Churches (who are in good standing with their own Church) to receive Holy Communion at this service. Those who are not communicants are most welcome to come forward to receive a blessing. All should follow the directions of the stewards. During communion the choir sings.

O magnus mysterium – *Moreton Laurisden*

¶ *All stand for the Post-Communion Prayer.*

God our Father, in this night you have made known to us again the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ: confirm our faith and fix our eyes on him until the day dawns and Christ the Morning Star rises in our hearts. To him be glory both now and for ever. **Amen.**

¶ *All remain standing. The Bambino (figure of the baby Jesus) is carried solemnly to the crib during this CAROL which is sung, quietly, by everyone.*

1. Silent night! Holy night! all is calm, all is bright
Round yon Virgin Mother and Child;
Holy Infant so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace! Sleep in heavenly peace!

2. Silent night! Holy night! shepherds quake at the sight.
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heavenly hosts sing alleluia.
Christ the Saviour is born! Christ the Saviour is born!

3. Silent night! Holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light.
Radiant beams from thy holy face
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord at thy birth! Jesus, Lord at thy birth!

¶ *All remain standing. The Priest proclaims the Last Gospel and then the Bishop blesses the crib.*

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.

In him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe. He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. He came unto his own, and his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

God our Father, on this night your Son Jesus Christ was born of the Virgin Mary For us and for our salvation. Bless this crib + which we have prepared to celebrate that holy birth: May all who see it be strengthened in faith and receive the fullness of life that he came to bring, who is alive and reigns for ever. **Amen.**

¶ *Incense is blessed and the crib is sprinkled with holy water and censed. All then sing*

O come, all ye faithful,
joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
come and behold him,
born the King of angels;

3. Sing, choirs of angels
sing in exultation,
sing all ye citizens of heaven above:
"Glory to God
in the highest:" *O come, let us, etc*

*O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!*

2. God of God,
Light of Light,
lo, he abhors not the virgin's womb;
very God
begotten, not created: *O come, let us, etc.*

4. Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
born this happy morning;
Jesu, to thee be glory given:
Word of the Father,
now in flesh appearing: *O come, let us, etc.*

¶ *All remain standing for the Blessing and Dismissal.*

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

.....and the blessing of God Almighty, The Father + the Son and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Go in the peace of Christ. **Thanks be to God.**

*THE PRIORY CHURCH OF
OUR LADY, SAINT BLAISE
& SAINT BENEDICT
BOXGROVE,
WEST SUSSEX*

THE 'MIDNIGHT' MASS

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