

God is Love: and he enfoldeth
all the world in one embrace;
with unfailing grasp he holdeth
every child of every race.

And when human hearts are breaking
under sorrow's iron rod,
then they find that selfsame aching
deep within the heart of God.

God is Love: and though with blindness
sin afflicts the souls of all,
God's eternal loving-kindness
holds and guides us when we fall.
Sin and death and hell shall never
o'er us final triumph gain;
God is Love, so Love for ever
o'er the universe must reign.

The Blessing

Christ the Son of God, born of Mary, fill you with his grace to trust his promises and obey his will; ; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Dismissal

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

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Welcome

A churchwarden welcomes us

Opening Hymn

For the beauty of the earth
For the glory of the skies,
For the love which from our birth
Over and around us lies.

*Lord of all, to Thee we raise,
This our sacrifice of praise.*

For the beauty of each hour,
Of the day and of the night,
Hill and vale, and tree and flower,
Sun and moon, and stars of light.

Lord of all...

For the joy of human love,
Brother, sister, parent, child,
Friends on earth and friends above,
Pleasures pure and undefiled.

Lord of all...

For each perfect gift of Thine,
To our race so freely given,
Graces human and divine,
Flowers of earth and buds of Heaven.

Lord of all...

For Thy Church, that evermore
Lifteth holy hands above,
Offering up on every shore
Her pure sacrifice of love.

Lord of all...

The Greeting

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

The Prayers of Penitence

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.

**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.**

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 Gloria

**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, glory to God, glory to God in the highest
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, glory to God, glory to God in the highest
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, glory to God, glory to God in the highest

The Collect

Almighty God, give us reverence for all creation and respect for every
person, that we may mirror your likeness in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Old Testament Reading: Proverbs 8 1, 22-31

Does not wisdom call, and does not understanding raise her voice
The Lord created me at the beginning of his work, the first of his acts of
long ago. Ages ago I was set up, at the first, before the beginning of the

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

During Communion

Anthem Agnus Dei from Lotti's Mass for Three Voices.

Prayers after Communion

God our creator, by your gift the tree of life was set at the heart of the
earthly paradise, and the bread of life at the heart of your Church:
may we who have been nourished at your table on earth be transformed
by the glory of the Saviour's cross and enjoy the delights of eternity;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

We pray together

**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.**

Notices

Closing hymn

God is Love: let heav'n adore him;
God is Love: let earth rejoice;
let creation sing before him,
and exalt him with one voice.
He who laid the earth's foundation,
he who spread the heav'ns above,
he who breathes through all creation,
he is Love, eternal Love.

form us in the likeness of Christ,
and build us into a living temple to your glory.
Bring us at the last with all the saints
to the vision of that eternal splendour for which you have created us;
through Jesus Christ, our Lord,
by whom, with whom, and in whom,
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 forever and ever. Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer (we sit or kneel)

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray

**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 forever.**

Amen

Breaking of the Bread

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.**

Agnus Dei (sung by the choir)

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.

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.

earth. When there were no depths I was brought forth, when there were no springs abounding with water. Before the mountains had been shaped, before the hills, I was brought forth—when he had not yet made earth and fields, or the world's first bits of soil. When he established the heavens, I was there, when he drew a circle on the face of the deep, when he made firm the skies above, when he established the fountains of the deep, when he assigned to the sea its limit, so that the waters might not transgress his command, when he marked out the foundations of the earth, then I was beside him, like a master worker; and I was daily his delight, rejoicing before him always, rejoicing in his inhabited world and delighting in the human race.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 104.26–37

Second Reading: Colossians 1:15-20

Christ is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading John 1:1-14

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to John

Glory to you, O Lord

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him;

yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

This is the Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Prayers of Intercession

The Peace

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

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Taking of the Bread and Wine

With this bread that we bring
We shall remember Jesus.

With this wine that we bring
We shall remember Jesus.

Bread for his body, wine for his blood,
gifts from God to his table we bring.

We shall remember Jesus.

Eucharistic Prayer E (with Extended Preface)

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

Blessed are you, Lord God, our light and our salvation;
to you be glory and praise for ever.

From the beginning you have created all things
and all your works echo the silent music of your praise.

In the fullness of time you made us in your image,
the crown of all creation.
You give us breath and speech,
that with angels and archangels and all the powers of heaven
we may find a voice to sing your praise:

**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.**

How wonderful the work of your hands, O Lord.
As a mother tenderly gathers her children,
you embraced a people as your own.
When they turned away and rebelled your love remained steadfast.
From them you raised up Jesus our Saviour, born of Mary,
to be the living bread, in whom all our hungers are satisfied.
He offered his life for sinners, and with a love stronger than death
he opened wide his arms on the cross.

On the night before he died, he came to supper with his friends
and taking bread, he 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.

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 and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

**Christ has died:
Christ is risen:
Christ will come again.**

Father, we plead with confidence
his sacrifice made once for all upon the cross;
we remember his dying and rising in glory,
and we rejoice that he intercedes for us at your right hand.
Pour out your Holy Spirit
as we bring before you these gifts of your creation;
may they be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

As we eat and drink these holy things in your presence,