**St Stephen with St John Westminster**

**www.sswsj.org**

**Registered Charity No. 1132179**
**CCL Licence: 6175**

# Celebration of the Eucharist

*Christmas Day*

*10am*

'Do I not fill heaven and earth?'
says the Lord.
**Now the Word is made flesh**
**and laid in a narrow manger.**

From eternity to eternity you are God,
**and now we see you**
**as a newborn child.**

**Entrance Hymn**

**The Greeting**

*The president greets the people*

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

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

**Blessing of the Crib**

Dear friends, as we meet to celebrate the birth of Christ,
let us pray that God will bless this crib,
that all who worship his Son, born of the Virgin Mary,
may come to share his life in glory.

God our Father, on this day 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 he came to bring,
who is alive and reigns for ever. **Amen.**

**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.

*Silence is kept*

**The Confession**

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

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

May the God of all healing and forgiveness
draw you to himself,
that you may behold the glory of his Son,
the Word made flesh,
and be cleansed from all your sins,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Lighting of the final candle on the Advent Wreath**

At last we light the candle
kept new for Christmas day.
This shines bright for Jesus,
new-born, and here to stay.

**Christ is among us.**
**The candles in the ring remind us**
**that our Saviour will light up everything.**

**Gloria in Excelsis**

**Funny kind of night, funny kind of day,**
**tax collectors, child inspectors, all in disarray;**
**funny kind of day, funny kind of night,**
**royal kings and lesser things align with dark and light**

***To God in the highest, be glory which***
***never ends, and on earth be peace and***
***goodwill to all God's friends.***

**Funny kind of day, funny kind of night,**
**babies cry, traditions die, and fear itself takes fright;**
**country folk enquire what is right or wrong**
**while above, in tongues of love, the sense is veiled in song:**

**Funny kind of night, funny kind of day,**
**first begotten, half-forgotten treasure lies in hay;**
**wise men on the move wonder what to bring,**
**while innkeepers and light sleepers hear poor shepherds sing:**

**The Collect**

Let us pray in the peace of this Christmas celebration
that our joy in the birth of Christ will last for ever.

*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.**

***The Liturgy of the Word***

**Reading**

*At the end the reader says:*

This is the word of the Lord.
**Thanks be to God.**

**Gradual Hymn**

**Gospel Reading**

Today Christ is born: **Alleluia!**

Today the Saviour has come: **Alleluia!**

Today the angels sing on earth: **Alleluia! Glory to God in the highest.**

*When the Gospel is announced the reader says*

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

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to *N.*
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*At the end*

This is the Gospel of the Lord.
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Sermon**

**The Creed**

**We believe in God the Father,**
**God Almighty, by whose plan**
**earth and heaven sprang to being,**
**all created things began.**
**We believe in Christ the Saviour,**
**Son of God in human frame,**
**virgin-born, the child of Mary**
**upon whom the Spirit came.**

**Christ, who on the cross forsaken,**
**like a lamb to slaughter led,**
**suffered under Pontius Pilate,**
**he descended to the dead.**
**We believe in Jesus risen,**
**heaven's king to rule and reign,**
**to the Father's side ascended**
**till as judge he comes again.**

**We believe in God the Spirit;**
**in one church, below, above;**
**saints of God in one communion,**
**one in holiness and love.**
**So by faith, our sins forgiven,**
**Christ our Saviour, Lord and Friend,**
**we shall rise with him in glory**
**to the life that knows no end.**

**Prayers of Intercession**

*We may sit or kneel to pray.*
*The response to the words* 'Lord in your mercy' *is* **'Hear our prayer'** *or the words* 'Holy God' *is* **'Hear our prayer'.**

**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
**and also with you.**

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

*All may exchange a sign of peace*

**Offertory Hymn**

**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 him thanks and praise.**

*The president praises God for his mighty acts and all respond*

**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 president recalls the Last Supper*

Great is the mystery of faith:
**Christ has died:**
**Christ is risen:**
**Christ will come again.**

*The prayer ends and all respond boldly* **Amen**

**The Lord's Prayer**

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

**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.**

**Breaking of the Bread**

We break the bread of life,
and that life is the light of the world.
**God here among us, light in the midst of us,**
**bring us to light and life.**

**Agnus Dei**

**Jesus, Lamb of God,**
**have mercy on us.**

**Jesus, bearer of our sins,**
**have mercy on us.**

**Jesus, redeemer of the world,**
**grant us your peace.**

**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.**

**OR**

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

**Giving of Communion**

Christ is the true bread which has come down from heaven.
**Lord, give us this bread always.**

*The president and people receive communion*

*Words of distribution are used and the communicant replies* **Amen.**

**Communion Hymn**

**Post Communion Prayer**

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.**

**Loving God,**
**whether we are in your church or joining online from another place,**
**we give you thanks for restoring us in your image and**
**nourishing us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood.**
**Now send us forth a people forgiven, healed, and renewed;**
**that we may proclaim your love to the world and**
**continue in the risen life of Christ our Saviour. Amen.**

***The Dismissal***

**Final Hymn**

**The Blessing**

*The president uses this or another Christmas Blessing*

May the Father,
who has loved the eternal Son
from before the foundation of the world,
shed that love upon you his children.
**Amen**.

May Christ,
who by his incarnation gathered into one
things earthly and heavenly,
fill you with joy and peace.
**Amen**.

May the Holy Spirit,
by whose overshadowing Mary became the God-bearer,
give you grace to carry the good news of Christ.
**Amen**.

And the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.
**Amen**.

*A minister dismisses the people*

Go in peace.
Proclaim the Word made flesh.
**Glory, thanks and praise to God.**

**Organ Voluntary**