

## Hymnic services with holy communion for festival days

*The following three forms of the communion service, for Christmas, Easter, and Pentecost, were prepared by members of the Department of Liturgics in 1994 and 1995. They have been used in a few congregations, and are here released for further trial use.*

## Hymnic service with holy communion for Christmas day

### NOTES

- 1 The service follows the outline of the regular divine service with holy communion, with variations for Christmas.
- 2 Well-known hymn/carol verses and tunes have been used for sung parts of the liturgy.
- 3 A gospel procession is suggested as an option, to highlight the coming of Christ into the midst of his people. It may be done as follows. After the acclamation 'Glory to you, O Lord', two servers, each carrying a lit candle, go to the lectern and stand one on each side of it. A third server picks up the open Bible or lectionary, and the three walk side by side, with the minister following, to about a quarter or a third of the way down the central aisle of the nave. There the server carrying the Bible turns and holds it up while the minister reads the gospel from it. After the reading, and during the second acclamation 'Praise to you, O Christ', the procession returns the Bible to the lectern.

## PREPARATION

### ENTRANCE HYMN

*During the hymn an entrance procession may be held.*

### OPENING SENTENCES

*(Spoken)*

To us a child is born!

**To us a Son is given!**

The Word became flesh and lived among us.

**To us a Son is given.**

From the fullness of his grace we have all received one blessing after another.

**To us a Son is given.**

### IN THE NAME

*(Spoken)*

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

**Amen.**

### CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Friends in Christ: Jesus says: 'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.' Let us confess our sins to God our Father, and ask him to forgive us through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Lord God, our heavenly Father,**

**I am a sinner**

**and I have sinned against you,**

**not only in my words and actions,**

**but also in my secret thoughts and desires**

**which I cannot fully know or understand,**

**but which you know completely.**

**I am sorry that I have displeased you,**

**and repent of the evil I have done.**

**For the sake of your dear Son,**

**Jesus Christ our Lord,**

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**have mercy on me,  
forgive my sins,  
and graciously help me in my weakness. Amen.**

As a called and ordained servant of the word, I announce the grace of God to all of you. On behalf of my Lord Jesus Christ, and by his command, I forgive the sins of all of you who repent and believe, in the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

## **PSALM**

*(Here or after the first reading)*

### **LORD, HAVE MERCY**

*(Spoken)*

Lord Jesus Christ, born for us, hear our prayer and save us.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus Christ, born for us, hear our prayer and help us.

**Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus Christ, born for us, hear our prayer and give us peace.

**Lord, have mercy.**

### **GLORY TO GOD**

*(Spoken)*

Glory to God in the highest,

**and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased.**

*(Sung to the tune of Antioch, Supplement harmony edition A1)*

**Joy to the world! The Lord has come;**

**let earth receive its king;**

**let every heart prepare him room,**

**and heaven and nature sing,**

**and heaven and nature sing,**

**and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.**

**Joy to the world! The Saviour reigns;**

**let us our songs employ;**

**while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

**He rules the world with truth and grace,  
and makes the nations prove  
the glories of his righteousness  
and wonders of his love,  
and wonders of his love,  
and wonders, wonders of his love.**

## **LITURGY OF THE WORD**

### **GREETING**

*(Spoken)*

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

### **PRAYER OF CHRISTMAS DAY (COLLECT)**

Let us pray (that through the love of Christ we may shine as lights in the world).

*(Brief silence)*

Almighty Father, you have filled the world with the new light of your Word who became a human being. Grant that, as he kindles the flame of faith and love in our hearts, his light may shine in our lives; for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

### **FIRST READING**

*After the reading:*

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **PSALM**

*(If not earlier)*

## **SECOND READING**

*After the reading:*

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **HALLELUJAH RESPONSE**

*(Spoken)*

When the right time finally came, God sent his own Son. Hallelujah!

**Hallelujah!**

The Lord said to me: You are my son; today I have become your father.

**Hallelujah!**

## **GOSPEL**

*A gospel procession may be held.*

*The gospel is announced.*

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*After the reading:*

This is the gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **GOSPEL RESPONSE**

*(Sung to the tune of Forest Green, LH 633)*

**O holy child of Bethlehem,**

**descend to us, we pray;**

**cast out our sin, and enter in;**

**be born in us today.**

**We hear the Christmas angels**

**the great glad tidings tell;**

**O come to us, abide with us,**

**our Lord Immanuel!**

## **NICENE CREED**

**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 of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary  
and became truly human.**

**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.**

*\* This means: us human beings*

*† or: Christian; 'catholic' here means 'universal'*

**HYMN**

**SERMON**

**OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY SONG**

*(Sung to the tune of Ihr Kinderlein kommet, LH 626)*

**Let's kneel with the shepherds, adore him today,  
and worship and praise him as gladly as they,  
rejoice that he comes as our Saviour from sin,  
and join with the angels in singing to him.**

**Dear Christchild, we bring our own offering to you;  
we give you our hearts; keep them loving and true.  
O let them be holy, and make us all one  
with you, our dear Saviour, and God's only Son.**

**PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

## **LITURGY OF THE LORD'S SUPPER**

**PREFACE**

*(Spoken)*

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 our thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right and good, Lord God, holy Father, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to you, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

You have revealed your glorious presence to us in a new way through the mystery of the Word made flesh, so that as we see you in your Son, we are drawn to love you whom we cannot see. And so, with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we adore and praise your glorious name:

## **HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**

*(Sung to the tune of Mendelssohn, LH 33)*

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
great and ever-present God.  
Earth joins heaven as we sing:  
Praise to our triumphant king.  
In this place let us proclaim  
Christ who comes in God's own name;  
join with angels as we sing:  
Glory to our holy king.  
Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
great and ever-present God.**

## **WORDS OF INSTITUTION AND PRAYER**

*(Spoken)*

All praise and thanks be to you, eternal God, holy Father, together with your only Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit, who unites your people in love. We thank you for creating all things. We thank you for calling and rescuing your chosen people. Above all we thank and praise you for keeping your promise to the people of old and sending your Son Jesus Christ, whose birth and life, death and resurrection for our salvation we remember as he comes to us in this holy meal.

**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, and said, Take and eat; this is † my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way he took the cup, after the supper, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, Drink of it, all of you; this is † my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you 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.**

Send us your Holy Spirit to strengthen our faith, so that we who receive the body and blood of Christ may live as true members of the body of your Son.

**Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.**

Join our prayers with those of your servants of every time and every place, and unite them with the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest until he comes as victorious Lord of all.

**Through him, with him, in him,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit  
all honour and glory are yours,  
almighty Father, now and forever. Amen.**

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

*(Spoken)*

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.**

### **PEACE**

*(Spoken)*

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**Amen.**

### **LAMB OF GOD**

*(Sung to the tune of Winchester Old, LH 624)*

**Lord Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God,  
you take away our sin,**

**you take the sin of all the world:  
have mercy, make us clean.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God,  
you take away our sin,  
you take the sin of all the world:  
have mercy, make us clean.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God,  
you take away our sin,  
you take the sin of all the world:  
grant us your peace. Amen.**

### **INVITATION TO RECEIVE SACRAMENT**

Jesus says: 'I am the living bread that came down from heaven. The bread that I will give you is my flesh, which I give so that the world may live.' Come, everything is ready.

### **DISTRIBUTION**

#### **DISMISSAL**

The body of our Lord Jesus Christ and his precious blood strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life eternal. Go in peace †.

**Amen.**

### **POST-COMMUNION SONG**

*(Sung to the tune of Vom Himmel hoch, LH 23)*

**We welcome you, O noble Guest!  
Through you our sinful world is blest.  
And my poor life you enter, too;  
how can I give my thanks to you?**

**For you O Lord, created all,  
and yet you have become so small  
that you lie in a cattle shed  
on straw, where cows and donkeys fed.**

**Ah dearest Jesus, little one,  
prepare a bed to lie upon,**

**a soft clean bed within my heart,  
that you and I may never part.**

### **POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

*(Spoken)*

Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, renew our lives as we celebrate the beginning of your Son's life on earth, and strengthen us who have taken his body and blood; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## **CONCLUSION**

### **BLESSING**

*(Spoken)*

Christ the Son of God give you joy and peace by his presence with you. The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favour †, and give you peace.

**Amen.**

### **HYMN**