



Sharing the Feast of Life Christmas Season

Introductory music and welcome

Welcome, all wonders in one sight!

Eternity shut in a span.

Summer in winter, day in night,

Heaven in earth, and God in man.

Great little One, whose all-embracing birth

Lifts earth to heaven, stoops heaven to earth.

Opening hymn

Gathering

A child is born: a child to save us.

We share the news with great joy.

A child is born: a child to challenge us.

We receive the challenge with sober minds.

A child is born: a child for the world.

We open our hearts to Christ and the world.

Reconciliation

Hear the words of the angel to Joseph:

‘You shall call his name Jesus,

for he will save his people from their sins.’

Therefore let us seek the forgiveness and healing of God through Jesus, who leads us in the way of liberation.

We have wounded your love:

O God, forgive and heal us.

We stumble in the darkness:

Light of the world, transfigure us.

We forget that we are your home:

Spirit of God, dwell in us.

2-minute silence, begun & ended by the sounding of a bell

Forgiveness

The prophet Isaiah said:

‘Can a woman forget the infant at her breast,
or a mother the child of her womb?

As a mother comforts her child,
so I will comfort you, says the Lord.’

Sisters and brothers, Christ sets you free:
journey on with hope.

We live in God’s love, healing and forgiveness.

Let us forgive and love ourselves:

Let us forgive and love others, and seek peace.

In the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

The Gloria

Glory to God, glory to God, glory to our Maker.

Glory to God, glory to God, glory to our Maker.

To God be glory for ever.

To God be glory for ever.

Alleluia, Amen.

Alleluia, Amen.

Glory to God, glory to God, glory to our Saviour.

Glory to God, glory to God, glory to our Saviour.

To Christ be glory for ever.

To Christ be glory for ever.

Alleluia, Amen.

Alleluia, Amen.

Glory to God, glory to God, glory Holy Spirit.

Glory to God, glory to God, glory Holy Spirit.

Give us your freedom for ever.

Give us your freedom for ever.

Alleluia, Amen.

Alleluia, Amen.

Alleluia, Amen.

Alleluia, Amen.

Alleluia, Amen.

Prayer for the Day

God, our beloved,

born of a woman's body,

you came that we might look upon you,

and touch you with our own hands.

May we so cherish one another in our bodies

that we may also be touched by you;

through the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ. Amen.

The president lights the Kids' Church lamp and the children go to Kids' Church, to return later for the Communion.

Ministry of the Word

First reading

At the end of the first reading the reader says:

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.

Thanks be to God.

Gradual hymn

The Gospel

Before the Gospel reading the reader says:

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Word became flesh and dwelt among us,

and we have seen his glory.

Alleluia!

The Gospel reading is from ...

Glory to you, O Lord.

At the end of the Gospel reading the reader says:

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon or other reflection

5-minute silence, begun & ended by the sounding of a bell

Affirmation of Faith

We believe in God:

who has created and is creating,

who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh,

to reconcile and to make new,

who works in us and in others by the Spirit.

We trust in God.

We are called to be the church:

to celebrate God's presence,

to live with respect in creation,

to love and serve others,

to seek justice and resist evil,

to proclaim Jesus crucified and risen,

our judge and our hope.

**In life, in death, in life beyond death,
God is with us.
We are not alone.
Thanks be to God. Amen.**

Prayers of thanksgiving and intercession

The Peace

Music is played; the children return and bring up the bread and wine for the celebrant.

Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given:
and his name is called the Prince of Peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

We share a sign of Peace and gather round the altar.

The Preparation of the Gifts

Generous God, creator, redeemer, sustainer,
at your table we present this money,
symbolic of all our giving,
and of the work you have given us to do:
use it, use us, in the service of your world
to the glory of your name. **Amen.**

The minister thanks God for the bread and wine and for ourselves. At the end of each prayer we say together:

Blessed be God for ever.

Thanksgiving 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 our thanks and praise.

The minister offers our thanks and praise, after which we sing:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of heaven and earth adored,
Ceasing never, God for ever,
Holy, holy Lord.**

The minister says the words of institution.

**Christ the light shines for all:
he has become one with us
that we may become one with him.**

The prayer of thanksgiving continues. When it ends, we sing:

**Amen siakadumisa!
Amen siakadumisa!
Amen bawo, Amen bawo,
Amen siakadumisa!**

[Amen: praise the name of the Lord!]

The Lord's Prayer

O God in heaven,

**Mother and Father of us all,
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 for ever. Amen.**

Breaking the Bread

We break this bread ... [x4]

The bread we break
is a sharing in the body of Christ.

**We who are many are one body,
for we all share the one bread.**

Jesus, Lamb of God

We sing:

Jesus, Lamb of God:

have mercy on us.

Jesus, bearer of our sins:

have mercy on us.

Jesus, redeemer of the world:

give us your peace.

Invitation

The minister invites all to receive Communion.

The Communion

As each person receives the bread and wine:

The body of Christ, the bread of life: **Amen**

The blood of Christ, the cup of blessing: **Amen**

*After receiving, anyone who wishes may go to receive prayer
for healing and then return to the circle or to their seat.*

*We remain around the altar until everyone has received
communion, and then return to our seats. We wait in
silence or with chanting/music until the prayers for
healing are finished.*

Prayer after Communion

Lord Jesus Christ,

you have put your life into our hands;

now we put our lives into yours.

Take us, renew us and remake us.

What we have been is past;

what we shall be, through you, still awaits us.

Lead us ever onward. Amen.

Light of God: **Lead us.**

Power of God: **Hold us.**

Joy of God: **Heal us.**

Laughter of God: **Bless us.**

Love of God: **Caress us.**

Kids' Church may share what they have been doing.

Blessing

Christ the Prince of Peace give you his peace,
to enable you to become the bearers of peace:
and the blessing of God,
life-giver, pain-bearer, love-maker,
be upon you this Christmastide
and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Dismissal

Go in the peace of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

Notices