

Breaking of the Bread *The priest breaks the consecrated bread, and says:*
We break the bread of life, and that life is the light of the world.
All God here among us, light in the midst of us, bring us to light and life.

The priest says the invitation to communion
✠ Christ is the true bread which has come down from heaven.
All Lord, give us this bread always.

The Agnus Dei *is sung.*
All 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.

The Priest and people now receive holy communion. If you do not wish to receive holy communion you are invited to approach the altar to receive a blessing. You can indicate this by carrying this booklet.

Communion Hymn 35 Silent Night holy night there follows the **Communion Motet:**
Torches, Torches by John Joubert

Prayer after Communion

Silence is kept.
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.
All To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.

The Final Hymn 30 O come all ye faithful (omit vv 4 & 5)

During this hymn the Christ-child is carried by the priest to the Crib. Turn to follow the Christ child. The Carol stops before v7. Face West to the Crib as it is aspersed blessed, and censed. After the blessing the final verse is sang.

The Dismissal *remain facing the Crib for the Dismissal*
The Lord be with you
All and also with you.

May God give you his comfort and his peace, his light and his joy, in this world and the next; and the blessing of God almighty ✠ the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit be with you and remain with you always.
All Amen.

Go in peace and serve the Lord.
All In the name of Christ. Amen.

*The Parish Church of St Thomas the Apostle wishes you a very Happy
Christmas, and peaceful New Year!*

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Midnight Mass 2012

The Gathering

The Altar party enter in, and the Introit, 'A gift from heaven above' by J. Sanders is sung. During the Introit the Altar is censed. The priest says
✠ In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **All Amen.**

The Greeting *The priest greets the people*
The Lord be with you **All and also with you.**

The Welcome *is given.*

The First Hymn 26 Hark the herald angels sing

Invitations to Confession

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.

All 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.

All Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.
All Christ, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.
All Lord, have mercy. 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. **All Amen.**

The Gloria *This is the song of the Angels the Shepherds heard on the first Christmas Night*
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.

The Collect

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

The Old Testament Reading Isaiah 9.2-4;6-7

At the end of each the reader says

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

The New Testament Reading Titus 2.11-14

At the end of each the reader says

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

Gradual Hymn 29 It came upon the midnight clear

The Gospel Reading

The Gospel Acclamation heralds the Gospel reading

All Alleluia, alleluia.

The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory. *cf John 1 All Alleluia.*

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

✠✠✠Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke (2.1-14).

All Glory to you, O Lord.

At the end This is the Gospel of the Lord. All Praise to you, O Christ.

The Sermon

The Creed All say

On this most holy of nights we acknowledge the incarnation by bowing or genuflecting at the italicised words.

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 from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and was made man.

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.

Prayers of Intercession *after each petition the following is said: Holy God*
All hear our prayer.

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

The Peace

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 *All and also with you.*
All may exchange a sign of peace.

The Offertory Hymn 28 In the bleak mid winter

During this hymn the gifts of the people are carried to the altar and a collection is taken.

Prayers at the Preparation of the Table

Almighty God, accept our gifts on this joyful feast of our salvation. By our communion with the Word made flesh in bread and wine, may we become more like Christ who joins our lives to yours, for he is Lord forever and ever.

All Amen.

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord is here.

All His Spirit is with us.

Lift up your hearts.

All We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. *All It is right to give thanks and praise.*

The priest continues.

All honour be yours always and everywhere... name and sing our joyful him of praise:

All 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 priest continues.

Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness... drink it, in remembrance of me✠.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

All Chrsit has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

The priest continues.

And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the cross,...

... all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father, for ever and ever.

All Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

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

All Our Father, who art in heaven... for ever and ever. Amen.