

The Midnight Mass of Christmas 2024



StMARY *with* StALBAN
PARISH CHURCH *of* TEDDINGTON

THE GATHERING

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Solo

1. Once in royal David's city
stood a lowly cattle shed,
where a mother laid her baby
in a manger for his bed:
Mary was that Mother mild,
Jesus Christ her little child.

Choir

2. He came down to earth from heaven
who is God and Lord of all,
and his shelter was a stable,
and his cradle was a stall;
with the poor and mean and lowly
lived on earth our Saviour holy.

All

3. And through all his wondrous childhood
he would honour and obey,
love and watch the lowly Maiden,
in whose gentle arms he lay:
Christian children all must be
mild, obedient, good as he.

All

4. For he is our childhood's pattern,
day by day like us he grew,
he was little, weak, and helpless,
tears and smiles like us he knew;
and he feeleth for our sadness,
and he shareth in our gladness.

All

5. And our eyes at last shall see him,
through his own redeeming love,
for that child so dear and gentle
is our Lord in heaven above;
and he leads his children on
to the place where he is gone.

All

6. Not in that poor lowly stable,
with the oxen standing by,
we shall see him; but in heaven,
set at God's right hand on high;
where like stars his children crowned
all in white shall wait around

GREETING

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 brings earth to heaven, stoops heaven to earth.

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

All **Amen.**

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

All **and also with you.**

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

All **Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF PENITENCE

Christ the Light of the world has come to dispel the darkness of our hearts. Let us turn to the light and confess our sins.

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.**

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS *to the tune 'Ode to Joy'*

Glory be to God in heaven,
peace to those who love him well;
On the earth let all his people
speak His grace, His wonders tell.
Lord we praise you for your glory,
Mighty Father heaven's King
Hear our joyful adoration
And accept the thanks we bring

Only Son of God the Father,
Lamb who takes our sins away;
Now with Him in triumph seated,
For your mercy Lord, we pray.
Jesus Christ most high and holy,
Saviour you are God alone.
☩ In the glory of the Father,
with the Spirit three in one.

THE COLLECT *The Collect is said after a short period of silence*

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. **Amen.**

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

THE FIRST READING – *Isaiah 9.2-7, read by a member of the congregation*

The people walking in darkness
have seen a great light;
on those living in the land of the shadow of death
a light has dawned.

You have enlarged the nation
and increased their joy;
they rejoice before you
as people rejoice at the harvest,
as men rejoice
when dividing the plunder.

For as in the day of Midian's defeat,
you have shattered
the yoke that burdens them,
the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor.

Every warrior's boot used in battle
and every garment rolled in blood
will be destined for burning,
will be fuel for the fire.

For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given,
and the government will be on his shoulders.

And he will be called
Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
Of the increase of his government and peace

there will be no end.
He will reign on David's throne
and over his kingdom,
establishing and upholding it
with justice and righteousness
from that time on and for ever.

The zeal of the LORD Almighty
will accomplish this.

This is the word of the Lord,

All Thanks be to God

THE SECOND READING – *Titus 2.11-14, read by the subdeacon*

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind— ⁶just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you— ⁷so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁸He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

This is the word of the Lord,

All Thanks be to God

GRADUAL HYMN

1. While shepherds watched their
flocks by night,
all seated on the ground,
the angel of the Lord came down,
and glory shone around.

2. 'Fear not,' said he (for mighty dread
had seized their troubled mind);
'glad tidings of great joy I bring
to you and all mankind.

3. 'To you in David's town this day
is born of David's line
a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord;
and this shall be the sign:

4. 'The heavenly babe you there shall
find
to human view displayed,
all meanly wrapped in swathing bands,
and in a manger laid.'

5. Thus spake the seraph; and forthwith
appeared a shining throng
of angels praising God, who thus
addressed their joyful song;

6. 'All glory be to God on high,
and to the earth be peace;
goodwill henceforth from heav'n to all
begin and never cease.

THE GOSPEL READING – *Luke 2.1-14,15-20*

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

All **Glory to you, O Lord.**

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) And everyone went to his own town to register.

So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

There were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

“Glory to God in the highest,

and on earth peace to men on whom his favour rests.”

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.”

So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All **Praise to you, O Christ.**

THE CHRISTMAS SERMON

THE NICENE CREED

Let us declare our faith in God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

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 \times 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

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

Father, in this holy night your Son our Saviour was born in human flesh.
Renew your Church as the Body of Christ.

Holy God **hear our prayer.**

In this holy night there was no room for your Son in the inn. Protect with your love those who have no home and all who live in poverty.

Holy God **hear our prayer.**

In this holy night Mary, in the pain of labour, brought your Son to birth.
Hold in your hand all that are in pain or distress.

Holy God **hear our prayer.**

In this holy night your Christ came as a light shining in the darkness. Bring comfort to all who suffer in the sadness of our world.

Holy God **hear our prayer.**

In this holy night the angels sang, 'Peace to God's people on earth.'
Strengthen those who work for peace and justice in all the world.
Holy God **hear our prayer.**

In this holy night shepherds in the field heard good tidings of joy.
Give us grace to preach the gospel of Christ's redemption.
Holy God **hear our prayer**

In this holy night strangers found the Holy Family and saw the baby lying
in the manger. Bless our homes and all whom we love.
Holy God **hear our prayer.**

In this holy night heaven is come down to earth, and earth is raised to
heaven. Hold in your hand all those who have passed through death in
the hope of your coming kingdom.
Holy God **hear our prayer.**

In this holy night Christians the world over celebrate Christ's birth. Open
our hearts that he may be born in us today.
Holy God **hear our prayer.**

Father, in this holy night angels and shepherds worshipped at
the manger throne. Receive the worship we offer in fellowship with Mary,
Joseph and the saints through him who is your Word made flesh, our
Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Bring us all to your heavenly city, to the joyful gathering of thousands of
angels, to the assembly of your firstborn, to the spirits of the saints made
perfect, to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant and to the sprinkled
blood that promises peace.

Merciful Father,

All **accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen.**

THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

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

All **and also with you.**

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

OFFERTORY HYMN – *during this hymn a Collection will be taken*

1. O come, all ye faithful,
joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
come and behold him,
born the King of angels:
*O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord!*

2. God of God,
Light of light,
Lo, he abhors not the Virgin's womb;
very God,
begotten, not created:
*O come, let us adore him,
Chorus*

3. See how the shepherds
summoned to his cradle,
leaving their flocks, draw nigh with
lowly fear; we too will thither
bend our joyful footsteps:
Chorus

4. Child, for us sinners
poor and in the manger,
fain we embrace thee with love and awe;
who would not love thee,
loving us so dearly?
*O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord!*

5. Sing, choirs of angels,
sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above:
'Glory to God
in the highest:'
Chorus

6. Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be glory given:
word of the Father,
now in flesh appearing:
Chorus

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

The Lord be with you

All **and also with you.**

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.**

All glory and honour be yours always and everywhere, mighty creator,
ever-living God. We give you thanks and praise for your Son, our Saviour
Jesus Christ, who for love of our fallen race humbled himself, was born of
the Virgin Mary by the power of your Spirit and lived as one of us.

In this mystery of the Word made flesh you have caused his light to shine
in our hearts, to give knowledge of your glory in the face of Jesus Christ. In

him we see our God made visible and so are caught up in the love of the God we cannot see.

Therefore, with all the angels of heaven we lift our voices to proclaim the glory of your name and sing our joyful hymn 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.

Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness; grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit ✠, and according to your holy will, these gifts of bread and wine may be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ; who, in the same night that he was betrayed, took bread and gave you thanks; he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying: *Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.*

In the same way, after supper he took the cup and gave you thanks; he gave it to them, saying: *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.*

Great is the miracle of faith

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

And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the cross, his perfect sacrifice made once for the sins of the whole world; rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension, and looking for his coming in glory, we celebrate this memorial of our redemption.

As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, we bring before you this bread and this cup and we thank you for counting us worthy to stand in your presence and serve you.

Send the Holy Spirit on your people and gather into one in your kingdom all who share this one bread and one cup, so that we, in the company of all the saints, may praise and glorify you for ever, through Jesus Christ our Lord; by whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

**All 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.**

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

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.

AGNUS DEI

**All 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.**

GIVING OF COMMUNION

Christ is the true bread which has come down from heaven.

All Lord, give us this bread always.

At St Mary with St Alban, we welcome communicant members of all churches to receive Holy Communion. Alternatively, you are invited to come forward to receive a personal blessing. If you come forward for a blessing, please bring this booklet with you to help us know your intention. Come one, come all!

COMMUNION HYMN - *During the distribution hymns, carols and anthems may be sung.*

1.Silent night, holy night,
all is calm, all is bright,
round yon virgin mother and child;
holy infant, so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace;
sleep in heavenly peace

2.Silent night, holy night.
Shepherds quake at the sight,
glories stream from heaven afar,
heav'nly hosts sing 'Alleluia:
Christ, the Saviour is born,
Christ, the Saviour is born'

3. Silent night, holy night.
Son of God, love's pure light,
radiant beams from thy holy face,
with the dawn of redeeming grace:
Jesus, Lord at thy birth;
Jesus, Lord at thy birth.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

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. To him be glory both now and for ever. **Amen.**

All Almighty God, we thank you for feeding us with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ. Through him we offer you our souls and bodies to be a living sacrifice. Send us out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory. Amen.

SENDING OUT

POST-COMMUNION HYMN

1. Hark, the herald-angels sing
glory to the new-born King,
peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled.
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
join the triumph of the skies;
with the angelic host proclaim,
'Christ is born in Bethlehem.'
Hark, the herald-angels sing
glory to the new-born King.

2. Christ, by highest heaven adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come,
offspring of a Virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see:
hail, the incarnate Deity,
pleased as man with man to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark, the herald-angels sing
glory to the new-born King.

3. Hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace:
hail, the Sun of Righteousness.
Light and life to all he brings,
risen with healing in his wings.

Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.
Hark, the herald-angels sing
glory to the new-born King

THE DISMISSAL GOSPEL – *John 1.1-14: The Incarnation*

✠ Hear the good news of the Word made flesh according to John.

All Glory to you, O Lord.

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being.

⁴What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴And 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.

All Praise to you, O Christ.

THE 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, Son, and the Holy Spirit, be you and remain with you always.

Go in peace. Proclaim the Word made flesh.

All Glory, thanks and praise to God.