



S^t HELEN'S CHURCH
ABINGDON-ON-THAMES

The First Sunday Eucharist In Advent



With Holy Baptism

The Preparation

After the welcome and before the Eucharist begins the President invites the congregation to prepare by an act of penitence.

A voice cries out in the wilderness,
'Make straight the way of the Lord.'
So let us listen, and turn to the Lord in penitence and faith.

Lord Jesus, you came to gather the nations into the peace of
your kingdom:

All **Come, Lord Jesus.**

You come in word and sacrament to strengthen us in holiness:

All **Come, Lord Jesus.**

You will come in glory with salvation for your people:

All **Come, Lord Jesus.**

The choir leads the congregation in singing the Kyries

**Lord, have mercy [on us]
Christ, have mercy [on us]
Lord, have mercy [on us]**

The President says

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent,
have mercy upon you,
pardon and deliver you from all your sins,
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,
and keep you in life eternal;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

The Holy Eucharist

The Entrance

All stand as the President, ministers and choir enter. Hymn numbers for the service can be found in the newsletter and on the hymn boards.

The Opening Hymn

The Lighting of the Advent Wreath

A young person comes forward to light the Advent Wreath, while another says a prayer to accompany the lighting of the candle.

The Preparation

The president introduces the service with these words:

Our Lord Jesus Christ has told us
that to enter the kingdom of heaven
we must be born again of water and the Spirit,
and has given us baptism as the sign and seal of this new birth.
Here we are washed by the Holy Spirit and made clean.
Here we are clothed with Christ,
dying to sin that we may live his risen life.
As children of God, we have a new dignity
and God calls us to fullness of life.

The Collect of the Day

The president invites the people to pray silently, saying
Let us Pray

The president then says the special prayer for the day

All **Amen.**

The Liturgy of the Word

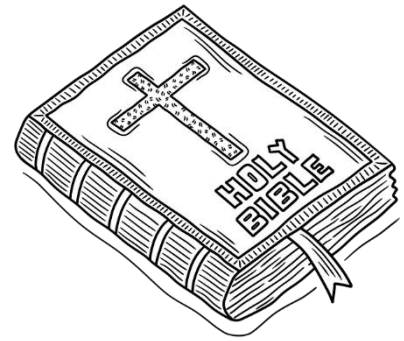
All sit.

The First Reading

At the end

For the gift of the word

All **Thanks be to God.**



All stand.

The Gradual Hymn

All remain standing for

The Holy Gospel

A cantor introduces the acclamation.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

All **Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,
and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.

*When the Gospel is announced all reply: **Glory to you, O Lord.***

*Then afterward: **Praise to you, O Christ.***

All sit.

The Sermon

The Presentation of the Candidate(s)

The president addresses the whole congregation

Jesus said, 'Let the children come to me. Do not stop them'.

We thank God for *N and N* who *have* come to be baptized today.

Christ loves *them* and welcomes *them* into his Church.

So I ask you all:

Will you support *these children* as *they begin their* journey of faith?

All **We will.**

Will you help *them* to live and grow within God's family?

All **We will.**

The president then says to the parents and godparents

God knows each of us by name and we are his.

Parents and godparents, you speak for *N and N* today.

Will you pray for *them*, and help *them* to follow Christ?

We will.

The Decision

We all wander far from God and lose our way:

Christ comes to find us and welcomes us home.

In baptism we respond to his call.

Therefore I ask:

Do you turn away from sin?

I do.

Do you reject evil?

I do.

Do you turn to Christ as Saviour?

I do.

Do you trust in him as Lord?

I do.

The president or another minister makes the sign of the cross on the forehead of each candidate, saying

Christ claims you for his own. Receive the sign of his cross.

The president may invite parents, godparents and sponsors to sign the candidates with the cross. When all the candidates have been signed, the president says

Do not be ashamed of Christ. You are his for ever.

**All Stand bravely with him against all the powers of evil,
and remain faithful to Christ to the end of your life.**

May almighty God deliver you from the powers of darkness,
restore in you the image of his glory,
and lead you in the light and obedience of Christ.

All Amen.

Prayer over the Water

Praise God who made heaven and earth,

All who keeps his promise for ever.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All It is right to give thanks and praise.

We thank you, almighty God, for the gift of water
to sustain, refresh and cleanse all life.

Over water the Holy Spirit moved in the beginning of creation.

Through water you led the children of Israel

from slavery in Egypt to freedom in the Promised Land.

In water your Son Jesus received the baptism of John

and was anointed by the Holy Spirit as the Messiah, the Christ,
to lead us from the death of sin to newness of life.

Lord of life,

All **renew your creation.**

We thank you, Father, for the water of baptism.

In it we are buried with Christ in his death.

By it we share in his resurrection.

Through it we are reborn by the Holy Spirit.

Therefore, in joyful obedience to your Son,

we baptize into his fellowship those who come to him in faith.

Lord of life,

All **renew your creation.**

Now sanctify this water that, by the power of your Holy Spirit,
they may be cleansed from sin and born again.

Renewed in your image, may they walk by the light of faith
and continue for ever in the risen life of Jesus Christ our Lord;

to whom with you and the Holy Spirit

be all honour and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

Lord of life,

All **renew your creation.**

The Apostles' Creed

Brothers and sisters, I ask you to profess the faith of the Church;

Do you believe and trust in God the Father?

All I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe and trust in his Son Jesus Christ?

All I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

Do you believe and trust in the Holy Spirit?

All I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen

Baptism

N, I baptize you
in the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

All Amen.

a minister addresses the congregation, parents and godparents, using these or similar words



We have brought *these children* to baptism knowing that Jesus died and rose again for *them* and trusting in the promise that God hears and answers prayer. We have prayed that in Jesus Christ *they* will know the forgiveness of *their* sins and the new life of the Spirit.

As *they* grow up, *they* will need the help and encouragement of the Christian community, so that *they* may learn to know God in public worship and private prayer, follow Jesus Christ in the life of faith, serve *their* neighbour after the example of Christ, and in due course come to confirmation.

As part of the Church of Christ, we all have a duty to support *them* by prayer, example and teaching.

As *their* parents and godparents, you have the prime responsibility for guiding and helping *them* in *their* early years. This is a demanding task for which you will need the help and grace of God. Therefore let us now pray for grace in guiding *these children* in the way of faith.

The Intercessions

Please stand, kneel or sit as directed.

The Welcome

There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism:

N and N, by one Spirit we are all baptized into one body.

All **We welcome you into the fellowship of faith;
we are children of the same heavenly Father;
we welcome you.**

All stand.

The Peace

May the God of peace make you completely holy,
ready for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

A suitable sign of the peace is shared by all.

All remain standing.



The Offertory Hymn and Presentation of the Gifts

A collection is taken.

Members of the congregation present bread and wine for consecration.

The Great Thanksgiving

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.**

Lord of all life, you created the universe,
where all living things reflect your glory.
You give us this great and beautiful earth,
to discover and to cherish.

You give us sun and moon and star-lit sky,
everything that gives us light,
light for our eyes, our hearts, our minds.

You give us happy times and things to celebrate.
In these we taste your kingdom,
a feast for all your children.

And now we give you thanks
because when he humbled himself
to come among us in human flesh,
he fulfilled the plan you formed long ago
and opened for us the way of salvation.
So now we watch for the day,
knowing that the salvation promised us will be ours
when Christ our Lord will come again in glory.

As we watch and wait, we join our voices with saints and angels
and all creation, ever singing your praise:

All **Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessèd is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

We thank you, loving Father,
because, when we turned away,
you sent Jesus, your Son.
He gave his life for us on the cross
and shows us the way to live.

Send your Holy Spirit
that these gifts of bread and wine
may be for us Christ's body and his blood.

On the night before he died,
when darkness had fallen,
Jesus took bread.
He gave thanks, broke it,
and shared it with his disciples, saying:
'This is my body, given for you.
Do this to remember me.'

After they had eaten, he took the cup of wine,
gave thanks, and shared it with his disciples, saying:
'This is my blood, poured out for you and for many,
for the forgiveness of sins.'

So Father, with this bread and this cup
we celebrate his love, his death, his risen life.
As you feed us with these gifts,
send your Holy Spirit,
and change us more and more
to be like Jesus our Saviour.

Help us, Father, to love one another,
as we look forward to that day
when suffering is ended,
and all creation is gathered in your loving arms.

And now with [N and] all your saints
we give you glory,
through Jesus Christ,
in the strength of the Spirit,
today and for ever.

All **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

All **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.**

The Breaking of the Bread

We who are many are one body,
All **because we all share in one bread.**

The choir sings the 'O Lamb of God' Then the President invites the congregation to come forward to receive either the Sacrament or a blessing saying,

God's holy Gifts for God's holy people.

The Communion



While the choir sings an anthem the congregation is directed to the altar rail by the sidespeople.

The Post-Communion Hymn

Post-Communion Prayer

All **We thank you, Lord,
that you have fed us in this sacrament,
united us with Christ,
and given us a foretaste of the heavenly banquet
prepared for all peoples.
Amen.**

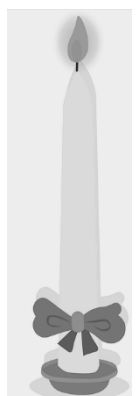
Giving of a Lighted Candle

The president or another person may give each of the newly baptized a lighted candle. These may be lit from the candle used at the Decision.

When all the newly baptized have received a candle, the president says

God has delivered us from the dominion of darkness
and has given us a place with the saints in light.
You have received the light of Christ;
walk in this light all the days of your life.

All **Shine as a light in the world
to the glory of God the Father.**



The Blessing

Our Lord says, 'I am coming soon.'

All **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

May the Lord, when he comes,
find us watching and waiting.

All **Amen.**

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

All **Amen.**

All sit for the Notices.

The Dismissal

As we await our coming Saviour,
go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All **In the name of Christ. Amen.**

The President, other ministers and choir depart while an organ postlude is played.

Please join us for refreshments after the service

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