

Hill Cliffe Christmas Day – Communion Liturgy

Christmas is much more than simply the celebration of Jesus' birth. The task of the Christmas liturgy is to recall us, amid all the joyful customs and celebrations of Christmas, to this central truth of the Word made flesh for our salvation.

The wonderful mystery of God's dwelling among us in the fullness of humanity, as Emmanuel - foretold by the prophets and born of Mary, provides the ingredients of the communion feast:

Acclamations

The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light.

For to us a child is born
to us a Son is given.

His name will be called
Wonderful counsellor, mighty God,
the everlasting Father,
the Prince of Peace.

Glory to God in the highest
and peace to his people on earth.

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel,
he has come to his people and set them free.

Light has sprung up for the righteous
and joyful gladness for those who are true-hearted.

Glory to God in the highest
and peace to his people on earth.

The Word of life which was from the beginning
we proclaim to you.

The darkness is passing away
and the true light is already shining;
the Word of life which was from the beginning.

That which we heard, which we saw with our eyes,
and touched with our own hands,
we proclaim to you.

For our fellowship is with the Father,
and with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
The Word of life which was from the beginning
we proclaim to you.

See what love the Father has given us
that we should be called the children of God.

You are my sons and daughters:
this day I have begotten you.
See what love the Father has given us.

As many as received him,
to them he gave power to become the children of God.
See what love the Father has given us.

Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit.
**See what love the Father has given us
that we should be called the children of God.**

Let us bless the living God:
He was born of the Virgin Mary,
revealed in his glory,
worshipped by the angels,
proclaimed among the nations,
believed in throughout the world,
exalted to the highest heavens.

Blessed be God, our strength and our salvation,
now and for ever. Amen.

The Word became flesh and dwelt among us,
full of grace and truth.

And we have seen his glory,
**Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit.**

Intercession for the World

Christ born for us,
Son of God given for us:
help us to know you,
to worship and to serve you ...
Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

Wonderful counsellor,
you order all things with your wisdom:
help the Church to reveal the mystery of your love
and fill her with the Spirit of truth ...
Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

Mighty God,
the government is on your shoulders:
guide the leaders of the nations
and bring in your kingdom of justice and righteousness ...
Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

Everlasting Father,
you call us to live together in unity:
protect by your mercy all your children,
bless our families and renew our communities ...
Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

Prince of peace,
you bring reconciliation through the cross:
by your healing power give to all who suffer ...
your gift of wholeness and peace.
Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

Lord Jesus Christ,
Son of the Father,
full of the Spirit,
**hear our prayer,
receive our praises,
fill our lives. Amen.**

Confession

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.

Breaking of the Bread

We break the bread of life,
and that life is the light of the world.

**God here among us,
light in the midst of us,
bringing us into his light and life.**

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

The Cup

We take the cup of the new covenant in his blood

**God is here among us,
Forgiving and cleansing and renewing us
Bringing us into his light and life**

Christ is the true vine of God

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

Amen.

The Dismissal

Go in peace. Proclaim the Word made flesh.

Glory, thanks and praise to God.