PARISH OF ESHER
Christ Church, Esher with St George's, West End

The Eucharist and Holy Baptism

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

Preparation

The Greeting

The president greets the people.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with you all
and also with you.

Introduction

Words of welcome or introduction may be said.

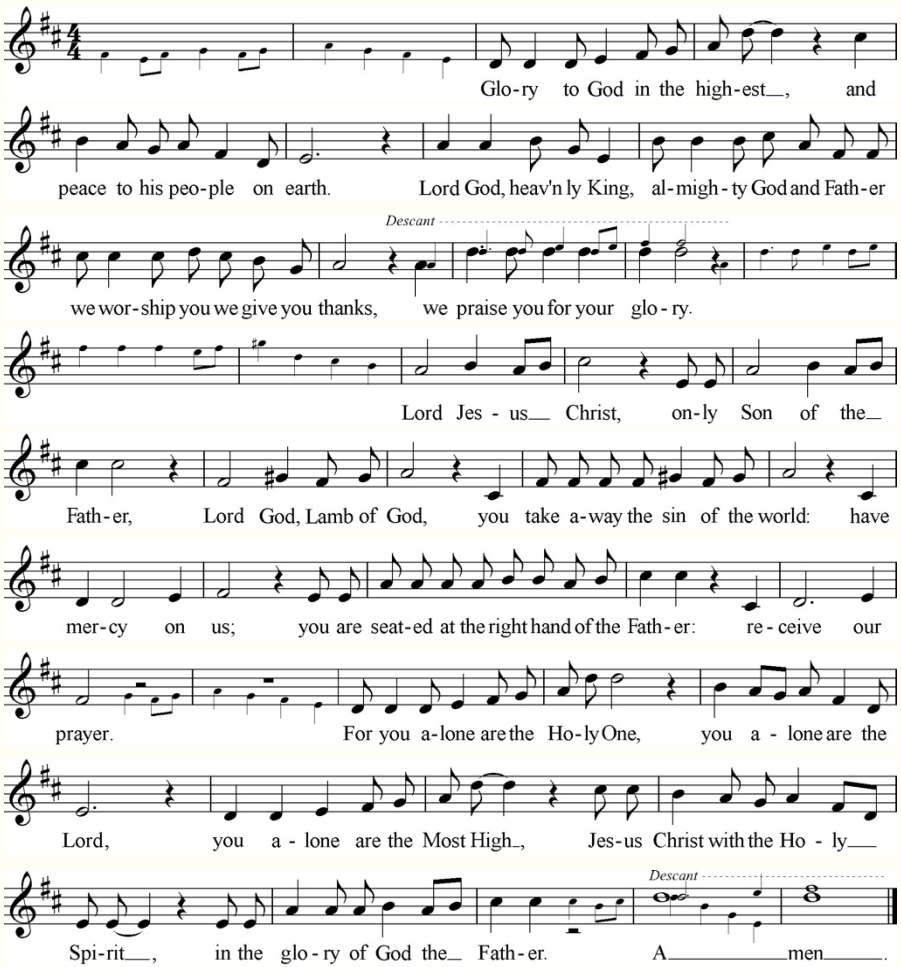
We rejoice today with the family of *N* and *N*
as they thank God for the gift of life
and bring *their children* for baptism.

God our Creator,
we thank you for the wonder of new life
and for the mystery of human love.
We give thanks for all whose support and skill
surround and sustain the beginning of life.
As Jesus knew love and discipline within a human family,
may these children grow in strength and wisdom.
As Mary knew the joys and pains of motherhood,
give these parents your sustaining grace and love;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

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.

Gloria in Excelsis

All stand to sing:

The Collect

The president introduces a period of silent prayer with the words 'Let us pray' or a more specific bidding.

Heavenly Father,
by the power of your Holy Spirit
you give your faithful people new life in the water of baptism.
Guide and strengthen us by the same Spirit,
that we who are born again may serve you in faith and love,
and grow into the full stature of your Son, Jesus Christ,
who is alive and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit
now and for ever.
Amen.

The Liturgy of the Word

Readings

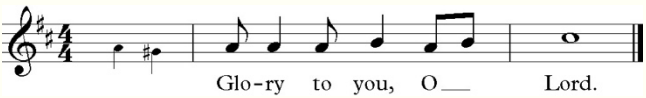
Either one or two readings from scripture precede the Gospel reading, and a psalm, canticle or hymn may follow the first reading.

At the end of each, the reader may say:

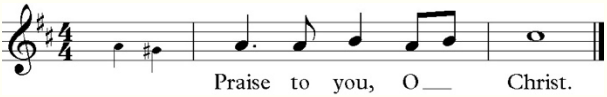
This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading

When the Gospel is announced the reader says:

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to *N*.

At the end the reader may say:

This is the Gospel of the Lord.



Sermon

After the Sermon an anthem may be sung, or a piece of music played.

The Liturgy of Baptism

Presentation of the Candidates

The people stand and turn to face the font.

The president asks those candidates for baptism who are able to answer for themselves:

Do you wish to be baptized?
I do.

The president addresses the whole congregation.

Faith is the gift of God to his people.
In baptism the Lord is adding to our number those whom he is calling.
People of God, will you welcome these *children/candidates*
and uphold *them* in *their* new life in Christ?
With the help of God, we will.

At the baptism of children, the president then says to the parents and godparents:

Parents and godparents, the Church receives *these children* with joy.
Today we are trusting God for *their* growth in faith.
Will you pray for *them*,
draw *them* by your example into the community of faith
and walk with *them* in the way of Christ?
With the help of God, we will.

In baptism *these children* begin *their* journey in faith.
You speak for *them* today.
Will you care for *them*,
and help *them* to take *their* place
within the life and worship of Christ's Church?
With the help of God, we will.

The Decision

The president addresses the candidates directly,
or through their parents, godparents and sponsors.

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.

Signing with the Cross

The president 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.

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,
and lead you in the light and obedience of Christ.
Amen.

Prayer over the Water

Loving Father,
we thank you for your servant Moses,
who led your people through the waters of the Red Sea
to freedom in the Promised Land.

We thank you for your Son Jesus,
who has passed through the deep waters of death
and opened for all the way of salvation.

Now send your Spirit,
that those who are washed in this water
may die with Christ and rise with him,
to find true freedom as your children,
alive in Christ for ever.
Amen.

Profession of Faith

Brothers and sisters, I ask you to profess
together with these candidates
the faith of the Church.

Do you believe and trust in God the Father?
I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe and trust in his Son Jesus Christ?
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, died, 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?
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

The president pours water on each candidate, saying:

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

The president says:

May God, who has received you by baptism into his Church,
pour upon you the riches of his grace,
that within the company of Christ's pilgrim people
you may daily be renewed by his anointing Spirit,
and come to the inheritance of the saints in glory.
Amen.

Commission

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.

Faithful and loving God,
bless those who care for *these children*
and grant them your gifts of love, wisdom and faith.
Pour upon them your healing and reconciling love,
and protect their home from all evil.
Fill them with the light of your presence
and establish them in the joy of your kingdom,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

N and *N*,
today God has touched you with his love
and given you a place among his people.
God promises to be with you
in joy and in sorrow,
to be your guide in life,
and to bring you safely to heaven.
In baptism God invites you on a life-long journey.
Together with all God's people
you must explore the way of Jesus
and grow in friendship with God,
in love for his people,
and in serving others.
With us you will listen to the word of God
and receive the gifts of God.

The Welcome and Peace

There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism:
N and *N*, by one Spirit we are all baptized into one body.

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

The congregation may greet the newly baptized.

The president introduces the Peace:

We are all one in Christ Jesus.
We belong to him through faith,
heirs of the promise of the Spirit of peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you
and also with you.

A hymn is sung.

The Offertory

Thank you for your ongoing generosity to the Parish of Esher. Like most parishes there's been a real pressure on our income recently, so if you're in a position to do so, please consider supporting our mission and ministry. Donations can be made today or online – simply search 'Give a Little Parish of Esher' or click on this link: https://givealittle.co/campaigns/d9f42eab-78e6-4ce8-880b-215b3f77c260. Or to donate to our Parish bank account, please contact the Parish Office or Parish Treasurer for details and Gift Aid forms.

The Liturgy of the Eucharist

Preparation of the Table

The table is prepared and bread and wine are placed on it.

The following prayer is used:

Be present, be present,
Lord Jesus Christ,
our risen high priest;
make yourself known in the breaking of bread.
Amen.

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord is here.
His Spirit is with us.

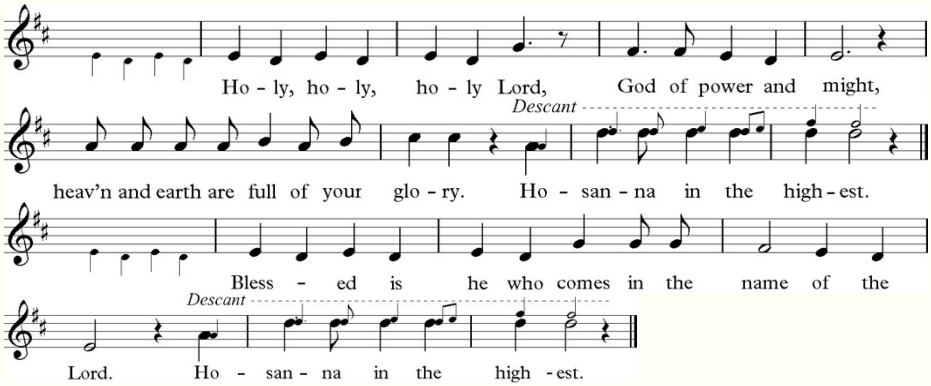
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

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

Blessed are you, Lord God,
our light and our salvation;
to you be glory and praise for ever.

From the beginning you have created all things
and all your works echo the silent music of your praise.
In the fullness of time you made us in your image,
the crown of all creation.

You give us breath and speech,
that with angels and archangels and all the powers of heaven
we may find a voice to sing your praise:



How wonderful the work of your hands, O Lord.
As a mother tenderly gathers her children,
you embraced a people as your own.
When they turned away and rebelled
your love remained steadfast.

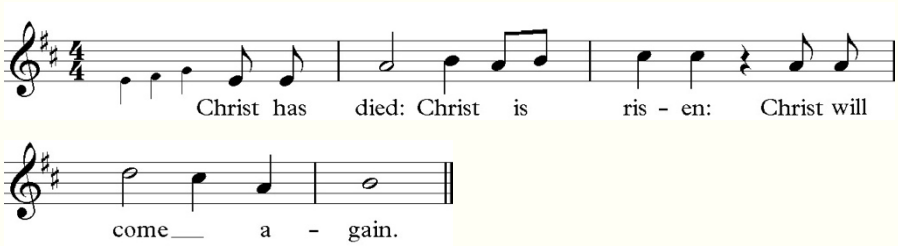
From them you raised up Jesus our Saviour,
born of Mary, to be the living bread,
in whom all our hungers are satisfied.

He offered his life for sinners,
and with a love stronger than death
he opened wide his arms on the cross.

On the night before he died,
he came to supper with his friends
and, taking bread, he gave you thanks.
He broke it and gave it to them, saying:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

At the end of supper, taking the cup of wine,
he gave you thanks, and said:
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 mystery of faith.



Father, we plead with confidence
his sacrifice made once for all upon the cross;
we remember his dying and rising in glory,
and we rejoice that he intercedes for us at your right hand.

Pour out your Holy Spirit as we bring before you
these gifts of your creation;
may they be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

As we eat and drink these holy things in your presence,
form us in the likeness of Christ,
and build us into a living temple to your glory.

Bring us at the last with all the saints
to the vision of that eternal splendour
for which you have created us;
through Jesus Christ, our Lord,
by whom, with whom, and in whom,
with all who stand before you in earth and heaven,
we worship you, Father almighty, in songs of everlasting praise:

Blessing and honour and glory and power
be yours for ever and ever.
Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Please sit or kneel.

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

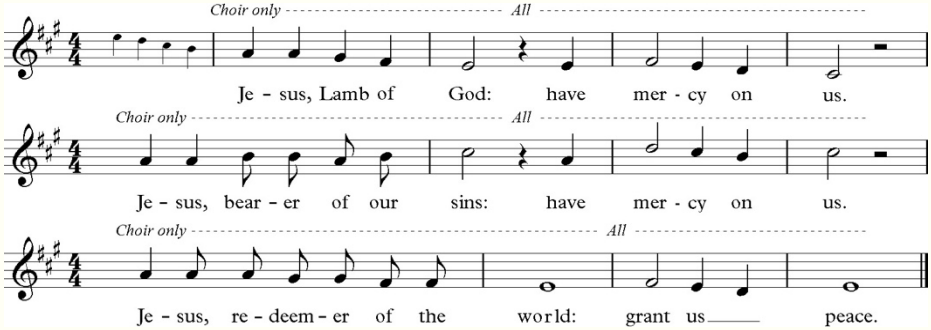
Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory
are yours, now and for ever.
Amen.

Breaking of the Bread

The president breaks the consecrated bread.

We break this bread
to share in the body of Christ.
Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.

The Agnus Dei may be used as the bread is broken.



Giving of Communion

God's holy gifts
for God's holy people.
Jesus Christ is holy,
Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

In line with Church of England guidance I invite those who wish to make an act of Spiritual Communion this morning to pray:

Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ,
for all the benefits you have given me,
for all the pains and insults you have borne for me.
Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally,
I ask you to come spiritually into my heart.
O most merciful redeemer, friend and brother,
may I know you more clearly,
love you more dearly,
and follow you more nearly, day by day.
Amen. *after the Prayer of St Richard of Chichester*

During the distribution, music may be sung or played.

Prayer after Communion

Silence is kept.
The post communion prayer is said:

Eternal God, our beginning and our end,
preserve in your people the new life of baptism;
as Christ receives us on earth,
so may he guide us through the trials of this world
and enfold us in the joy of heaven,
where you live and reign,
one God for ever and ever.
Amen.

The Sending Out

Notices may be given.
A hymn is sung.

The Blessing

The God of all grace,
who called you to his eternal glory in Christ Jesus,
establish, strengthen and settle you in the faith;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.
Amen.

Giving of a Lighted Candle

The president gives each of the newly baptized a lighted candle.
When all 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.
Shine as a light in the world
to the glory of God the Father.

The Dismissal

Go in the light and peace of Christ.
Thanks be to God.

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Christ Church, Esher