

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:

Glo-ry to God in the high-est\_, and  
 peace to his peo-ple on earth. Lord God, heav'n ly King, al-migh - ty God and Fath-er  
*Descant*  
 we wor-ship you we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry.  
 Lord Jes - us\_ Christ, on-ly Son of the\_  
 Fath-er, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world: have  
 mer-cy on us; you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fath-er: re- ceive our  
 prayer. For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a - lone are the  
 Lord, you a - lone are the Most High\_, Jes-us Christ with the Ho - ly\_  
*Descant*  
 Spi-rit\_, in the glo-ry of God the\_ Fath-er. A\_\_\_\_\_men\_\_\_\_\_.

## 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:*

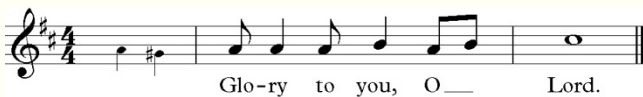
This is the word of the Lord.

**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.





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:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and might,  
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.  
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the  
Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

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.

Christ has died: Christ is risen: Christ will  
come a - gain.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of the hymn, with lyrics 'Christ has died: Christ is risen: Christ will' written below the notes. The second staff contains the melody for the second line, with lyrics 'come a - gain.' written below the notes. The music is simple and suitable for a church service.

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.**

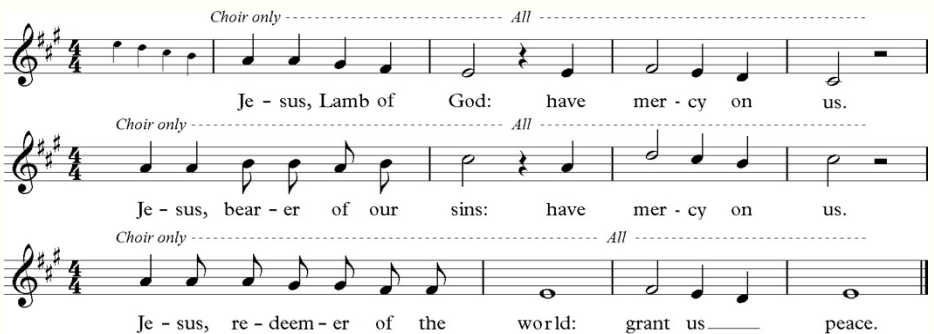
## Breaking of the Bread

*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.*



Choir only ----- All -----  
Je - sus, Lamb of God: have mer - cy on us.

Choir only ----- All -----  
Je - sus, bear - er of our sins: have mer - cy on us.

Choir only ----- All -----  
Je - sus, re - deem - er of the world: grant us ——— peace.

## 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.**



**PARISH OF ESHER**

Christ Church, Church Street, Esher, Surrey KT10 8QS

Telephone: 01372 462282

Email: [office@esherparish.org.uk](mailto:office@esherparish.org.uk)

Website: [www.esherparish.org.uk](http://www.esherparish.org.uk)

Eucharist & Baptism Order of Service 31 December 2023

Christ Church, Esher