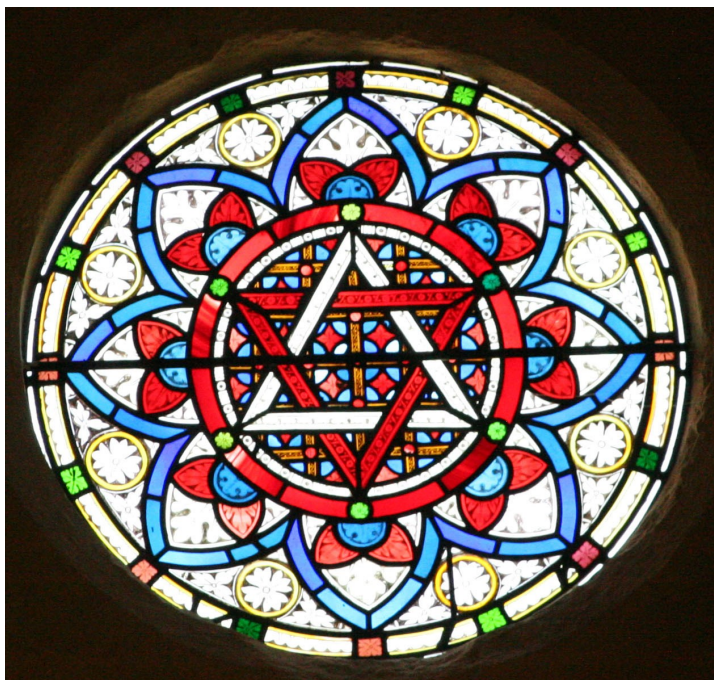




St Michael with St Mary



Holy Communion in Ordinary Time

Welcome

Welcome to this parish: two Christian communities, part of the Church of England, worshipping and serving Jesus in western St Albans. For more information please see the leaflet rack at the back of church or search our website.



You have come to a service of Holy Communion: we hear God's Word through the Bible, and share Jesus' presence in bread and wine. Christians from different traditions worship here and we do our best to meet a breadth of need.

Along with a blue hymn book (found in each pew), this booklet contains much or all of what you will need for today's service. We say the **bold type** words together. Words in *italics* offer practical information for example about when to stand or sit. Words in boxes explain the reason for what we do and say.

Singing is an important part of the praise and prayer which we offer to God. In addition to the hymns, music for the parts of the service (the 'setting') is printed in this booklet. The setting in this booklet is by William Mathias.

Sit where you feel most comfortable. Apart from a few seats for people with specific jobs, no spaces are reserved.

If you have children with you who need time out, the tower room at the back of St Michael's contains toys and books. During school term time, age-specific groups for children run in the Parish Centre and adjacent school.

Toilets and baby change facilities are available. Please see a steward for access.

If you have a hearing amplification device, use setting 'T'; the strongest signal is in the main body of the church forward from the entrance door.

**If you need large print
please ask a steward**

Before we begin

Ideally there is time to still ourselves in God's presence before the service. You may like to use some of these prayers.

God, great and wonderful,
You created the heavens and dwell in light and beauty;
You made the earth,
 revealing yourself in every flower that opens:
Let not my eyes be blind to you,
Nor let my heart be dead,
But teach me to praise you,
Even as the lark offers her song at daybreak.

St Isidore of Seville (560-636)

I believe in the sun even when it is not shining.
I believe in love even when I cannot feel it.
I believe in God even when he is silent.

Jewish prisoner (1940s)

Thou who hast given so much to me,
Give one thing more, a grateful heart,
For Christ's sake. Amen.

George Herbert (1593-1632)

Open my eyes that I may see,
Incline my heart that I may desire,
Order my steps that I may follow
The way of your commandments.

Lancelot Andrewes (1555-1626)

The Gathering

Hymn or Song

Please stand

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

The Greeting

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

Words of welcome or introduction

Prayer of Preparation

**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

Words of introduction

We kneel or sit

**Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
we have sinned against you
and against our neighbour
in thought and word and deed,
through negligence, through weakness,
through our own deliberate fault.
We are truly sorry
and repent of all our sins.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
who died for us,
forgive us all that is past
and grant that we may serve you
in newness of life
to the glory of your name.
Amen.**

May almighty God have mercy on us,
forgive us our sins,
and keep us in everlasting life.
Amen.

Gloria in Excelsis

Stand

Organ *f*

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 Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we

ff *mp*

give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry. Lord Je - sus

Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, 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 Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer. *p* *Organ*

f

For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One,

mp

you a - lone are the Lord. you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus

Organ *f*

Christ, with the Ho - ly Spi - rit, in the glo - ry of God the

ff

Fa - ther. A - men.

The Collect

Liturgy of the Word

One or more themes of the day link the collect and readings; the sermon usually reflects on these.

Old Testament Reading

Sit

At the end, the reader may say

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

A Psalm may be sung

New Testament Reading

Hymn or Song

After which, we remain standing in respect for:

The Gospel

Before the reading

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



At the end

This is the Gospel of the Lord.



Sermon

Please sit after the introductory prayer

If there is a Baptism please turn to page 19

We stand for

The Creed

**We believe in God the Father,
God almighty, by whose plan
earth and heaven sprang to being,
all created things began.**

**We believe in Christ the Saviour,
Son of God in human frame,
virgin-born, the child of Mary
upon whom the Spirit came.**

**Christ, who on the cross forsaken,
like a lamb to slaughter led,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
he descended to the dead.**

**We believe in Jesus risen,
heaven's king to rule and reign,
to the Father's side ascended
till as judge he comes again.**

**We believe in God the Spirit;
in one Church, below, above:
saints of God in one communion,
one in holiness and love.**

**So by faith, our sins forgiven,
Christ our Saviour, Lord and friend,
we shall rise with him in glory
to the life that knows no end.**

Prayers of Intercession

Please kneel or sit

We pray for the Church, the world, the local community and particular needs

These responses may be used

Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

or

Lord, hear us.
Lord, graciously hear us.

or

Lord of compassion,
in your mercy hear us.

and at the end

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

Liturgy of the Sacrament

The Peace

'The peace' is a celebration of friendship as we prepare to meet Jesus in and through the bread and wine of Communion. It may seem a little odd if you have not seen it before but, if you feel comfortable, please shake hands with a few people and say 'peace' or 'peace be with you'.

Stand

Words of introduction

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

Hymn or Song

Preparation of the Table

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation:
through your goodness we have this bread to set before you,
which earth has given and human hands have made.
It will become for us the bread of life.

Blessed be God for ever.

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation:
through your goodness we have this wine to set before you,
fruit of the vine and work of human hands.
It will become for us the cup of salvation.

Blessed be God for ever.

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.

'Eucharist' means 'thanksgiving' in Greek. This part of our service not only commemorates Jesus' giving thanks to the Father at the Last Supper, but also thanks God for everything that he does for us through Jesus.

Almighty God, good Father to us all,
your face is turned towards your world.
In love you gave us Jesus your Son
to rescue us from sin and death.
Your Word goes out to call us home
to the city where angels sing your praise.
We join with them in heaven's song:

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 highest. Bless - ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord Ho-san-na in the high-est.

Father of all, we give you thanks
for every gift that comes from heaven.
To the darkness Jesus came as your light.
With signs of faith and words of hope
he touched untouchables with love
and washed the guilty clean.

This is his story.

This is our song:
Hosanna in the highest.

The response may be sung each time:



The crowds came out to see your Son,
yet at the end they turned on him.
On the night he was betrayed
he came to table with his friends
to celebrate the freedom of your people.

This is his story.

This is our song:
Hosanna in the highest.

Jesus blessed you, Father, for the food;
he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and said:
This is my body, given for you all.
Jesus then gave thanks for the wine;
he took the cup, gave it and said:
This is my blood, shed for you all
for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this in remembrance of me.

This is our story.

This is our song:
Hosanna in the highest.

Therefore, Father, with this bread and this cup
we celebrate the cross
on which he died to set us free.
Defying death he rose again
and is alive with you to plead for us and all the world.

This is our story.

This is our song:

Hosanna in the highest.

Send your Spirit on us now
that by these gifts we may feed on Christ
with opened eyes and hearts on fire.
May we and all who share this food
offer ourselves to live for you
and be welcomed at your feast in heaven
where all creation worships you,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit:

organ

Bless-ing and ho - nour and glo - ry and

power be yours for ev - er and ev - er. A _____ men.

The Lord's Prayer

Kneel or sit

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

**Every time we eat this bread and drink this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.**

organ

Je - sus, Lamb of God: have mer - cy__

on us. Je - sus, bear-er of our sins: __ have mer - cy__ on us.

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.

Please come to one of the altars.

If you take Communion in your home church you are very welcome to do so here.

If Communion is something you are not used to we would love to share a prayer of blessing; please carry this booklet to indicate that this is what you would like.

During Communion the choir will sing an anthem

Prayer after Communion

Sit

A collect may be said, and then

**Father of all,
we give you thanks and praise,
that when we were still far off
you met us in your Son and brought us home.
Dying and living, he declared your love,
gave us grace, and opened the gate of glory.
May we who share Christ's body live his risen life;
we who drink his cup bring life to others;
we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world.
Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us,
so we and all your children shall be free,
and the whole earth live to praise your name;
through Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

Dismissal

If there is a Baptism please turn to page 26

Hymn or Song

Stand

Notices

Please sit for the notices and then stand for the final prayer:

The president will use this or another blessing

The peace of God,
which passes all understanding,
keep your hearts and minds
in the knowledge and love of God,
and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

Amen.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ. Amen.

*Do stay for refreshments in the Parish Centre
(the freestanding building in the churchyard)*

Baptism Appendix

At the beginning

The president may use these or other introductory 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.

At the Collect

The president may use this prayer:

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.
Amen.

Presentation of the Candidates

At the end of the sermon we stand and face the font

The baptismal part of the service
begins with a commitment of congregation, parents and godparents
to support the candidate/s in their growth in faith

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 N (and M...)
and uphold them in their new life in Christ?

With the help of God, we will.

The president addresses 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?

Parents and godparents: 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?

Parents and godparents: With the help of God, we will.

The Decision

Baptism involves a two-way movement,
away from sin and towards God -
seen here and in the creed on the next page

The president addresses the congregation

In baptism, God calls us out of darkness
into his marvellous light.
To follow Christ means dying to sin
and rising to new life with him.

Therefore I ask:

Do you reject the devil and all rebellion against God?

I reject them.

Do you renounce the deceit and corruption of evil?

I renounce them.

Do you repent of the sins that separate us
from God and neighbour?

I repent of them.

Do you turn to Christ as Saviour?

I turn to Christ.

Do you submit to Christ as Lord?

I submit to Christ.

Do you come to Christ, the way, the truth and the life?

I come to Christ.

Profession of Faith

The president addresses the congregation

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.**

Prayer over the Water

This prayer recalls the use of water in the Bible,
as a sign of the life which God gives us
and of his washing us clean from sin

Praise God who made heaven and earth,
who keeps his promise for ever.

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

Father, we give you thanks and praise
for your gift of water in creation;
for your Spirit, sweeping over the waters,
bringing light and life;
for your Son Jesus Christ our Lord,
baptised in the river Jordan.

We bless you for your new creation,
brought to birth by water and the Spirit,
and for your grace bestowed upon us your children,
washing away our sins.

May your holy and life-giving Spirit
move upon these waters.
Restore through them the beauty of your creation,
and bring those who are baptised
to new birth in the family of your Church.

Drown sin in the waters of judgement,
anoint your children with power from on high,
and make them one with Christ
in the freedom of your kingdom.
For all might, majesty, dominion and power are yours,
now and for ever. **Amen.**

Baptism

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

Baptism is made
in the *name* of the Trinity:
the candidate's name
is bound to God's name.
Christians are a spiritual family.

You have been clothed with Christ.
As many as are baptised into Christ have put on Christ.

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.

When all the candidates have been signed, the president says

Do not be ashamed to confess the faith of Christ crucified.

**Fight valiantly as a disciple of Christ
against sin, the world and the devil,
and remain faithful to Christ to the end of your life.**

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.

The Welcome

There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism:
by one Spirit we are all baptised into one body.
**We welcome you into the fellowship of faith;
we are children of the same heavenly Father;
we welcome you.**

Please turn back to page 9



The Eucharistic Prayer

This short proper preface may be used

And now we give you thanks
because by water and the Holy Spirit
you have made us a holy people
in Jesus Christ our Lord;
you raise us to new life in him
and renew in us the image of your glory.

Prayer after Communion

The following Post Communion collect may be used

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 Dismissal

Notices

Hymn or Song

*Please stand for this hymn,
during which the parents and godparents
come to the front of church*

Giving of a Lighted Candle

This candle is a permanent reminder of today's baptism;
its light is taken from the Easter candle
which we rededicate each year
as a sign of Christ's risen life among us

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 Blessing

The president will use this or another 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.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ. Amen.

*Do stay for refreshments in the Parish Centre
(the freestanding building in the churchyard)*





Please return this booklet to the back of church as you leave

It costs over £300 per day to maintain the ministry of our parish. If you are not on a regular giving scheme to St Michaels or St Marys, please give generously on the plate by the door - and consider using a Gift Aid envelope if you are a UK taxpayer.

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