



St Michael with St Mary

Holy Communion



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 take a leaflet from the back of church or visit www.stmichaels-parishchurch.org.uk/home.asp

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.

Parts of the service are set in a poetic form and sung to well-known hymn tunes. 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.

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

If you have children with you who need time out, the schoolroom at the side of St Mary's is available to you.

St Mary's has an external toilet. Please see one of the stewards for access.

It costs £200 a week to maintain the ministry of St Mary's. If you are not on a regular giving scheme in this parish, please give generously during the offertory hymn (page 10). Gift Aid envelopes are available by the entrance door.

If you need a large print service booklet 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)

Gathering

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

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

Hymn

Please stand

Music is an important part of our service;
it expresses feelings and truths
which words alone cannot capture

Prayer of Preparation

Almighty God,
unto whom all hearts be open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hid:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love thee,
and worthily magnify thy holy name;
through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Prayers of Penitence

Words of introduction

As we move deeper into worship
we want to turn away from past mistakes and ask for God's forgiveness.

We kneel or sit

Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith,

**Lord, have mercy on us,
Hear our humble plea;
Lord, have mercy on us,
Set our spirits free.**

**Christ, have mercy on us,
Hear us as we pray;
Christ, have mercy on us,
Take our sins away.**

**Lord, have mercy on us,
Hear our humble plea;
Lord, have mercy on us,
Set our spirits free.**

May the Father of all mercies
cleanse us from our sins,
and restore us in his image
to the praise and glory of his name,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Gloria

*Having heard God's forgiveness,
we stand for the hymn of praise called the Gloria*

**Glory be to God in heaven,
Songs of joy and peace we bring,
Thankful hearts and voices raising,
To creation's Lord we sing:
Lord, we thank you, Lord, we bless you,
Glory be to God our King.**

**Lamb of God, who on your shoulders
Bore the load of this world's sin,
Only Son of God the Father,
You have brought us peace within:
Lord, have mercy, Christ, have mercy,
Now your glorious reign begin.**

The Collect

The prayer for the day

Liturgy of the Word

Readings

Sit

We listen to God's word in the Bible:
one or two readings precede the Gospel text
which is about the life of Jesus
The sermon tries to connect the readings to everyday life

At the end of each the reader may say

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Hymn

After which, we remain standing out of respect for the next reading:

Gospel

Before the reading

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

At the end

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Please sit after the introductory prayer

If there is a Baptism please turn to page 19

We stand for

The Creed

A summary of Christian belief from the Early Church

**I believe in one God the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
and of all things visible and invisible:**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of his Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation
came down from heaven,
and was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary,
and was made man,
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried,
and the third day he rose again
according to the Scriptures,
and ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand of the Father.
And he shall come again with glory
to judge both the quick and the dead:
whose kingdom shall have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Ghost, the Lord and giver of life,
who proceedeth from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together
is worshipped and glorified,
who spake by the prophets.**

**And I believe one catholic and apostolic Church.
I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins.
And I look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come.
Amen.**

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.

and at the end

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

Liturgy of the Sacrament

Having heard and reflected on God's word in the first half of the service, we now celebrate Christ's promise to meet us in and through the bread and wine of Communion.

The Peace

Stand

Words of introduction

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

'The peace' is a Christian celebration of friendship. It may seem a little unusual 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'.

Hymn

Preparation of the Table

Look upon us in mercy not in judgement;
draw us from hatred to love;
make the frailty of our praise
a dwelling place for your glory.
Amen.

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

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.

It is indeed right,
it is our duty and our joy,
at all times and in all places
to give you thanks and praise,
holy Father, heavenly King,
almighty and eternal God,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

A seasonal 'Proper Preface' may be added here

Therefore with angels and archangels,
and with all the company of heaven,
we proclaim your great and glorious name,
for ever praising you and singing:

**Holy, most holy, all holy the Lord,
In pow'r, might and wisdom for ever adored!
The earth and the heavens are full of your love;
Our joyful hosannas re-echo above!**

**Blessèd, most blessèd, all blessèd is he
Whose life makes us whole
and whose death sets us free;
Who comes in the name of the Father of light,
Let endless hosannas resound in the height!**

All glory be to you, our heavenly Father,
who, in your tender mercy,
gave your only Son our Saviour Jesus Christ
to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption;
who made there by his one oblation of himself once offered
a full, perfect and sufficient sacrifice,
oblation and satisfaction for the sins of the whole world;
he instituted, and in his holy gospel commanded us to continue,
a perpetual memory of his precious death until he comes again.

Hear us, merciful Father, we humbly pray,
and grant that, by the power of your Holy Spirit,
we receiving these gifts of your creation, this bread and this wine,
according to your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ's holy institution,
in remembrance of his death and passion,
may be partakers of his most blessed body and blood;

who, in the same night that he was betrayed,
took bread and gave you thanks;
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper
he took the cup and gave you thanks;
he gave it to them, saying:
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 again.

Therefore, Lord and heavenly Father,
in remembrance of the precious death and passion,
the mighty resurrection and glorious ascension
of your dear Son Jesus Christ,
we offer you through him
this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving.

Grant that by his merits and death,
and through faith in his blood,
we and all your Church may receive forgiveness of our sins
and all other benefits of his passion.
Although we are unworthy, through our manifold sins,
to offer you any sacrifice,
yet we pray that you will accept this
the duty and service that we owe.
Do not weigh our merits, but pardon our offences,
and fill us all who share in this holy communion
with your grace and heavenly blessing;

through Jesus Christ our Lord,
by whom, and with whom, and in whom,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father,
for ever and ever.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Kneel or sit

Jesus' own summary
of everything we want to say to God

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power, and the glory,
for ever and 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.

**O Lamb of God, come cleanse our hearts
And take our sin away.
O Lamb of God, your grace impart
And let our guilty fear depart,
Have mercy, Lord we pray.
O Lamb of God, our lives restore,
Our guilty souls release.
Into our lives your Spirit pour
And let us live for evermore
In perfect heav'nly peace.**

Giving of Communion

Draw near with faith.
Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ
which he gave for you,
and his blood which he shed for you.
Eat and drink
in remembrance that he died for you,
and feed on him in your hearts
by faith with thanksgiving.

Please come to the altar.

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.

Prayer after Communion

Sit

A collect may be said, and then

**Almighty God,
we thank thee for feeding us
with the body and blood of thy Son Jesus Christ.
Through him we offer thee our souls and bodies
to be a living sacrifice.
Send us out
in the power of thy Spirit
to live and work
to thy praise and glory.
Amen.**

Dismissal

If there is a Baptism please turn to page 26

Hymn

Stand

Notices

Sit

The president will use a seasonal blessing, other suitable blessing, or

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 after the service

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 these or other introductory words:

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

Baptism

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

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

Signing with the Cross

*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 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 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.

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.

The Welcome

There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism:
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.**

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.

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

Hymn or Song

*Please stand for this hymn,
during which the parents and godparents
gather around the Easter candle at 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.**

Notices

Sit

We stand for

The Blessing

The president will use a seasonal blessing, other suitable blessing, or

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 after the service



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

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