



THE PARISH CHURCH OF
ST LEONARD, LEXDEN



EUCCHARIST
FOR
CHRISTMAS
AND CHRISTMASTIDE

Welcome to St Leonard's Church.

*In this service booklet the words printed in **bold** are usually said or sung by all. Please stand or sit during the service as you feel comfortable. If you are unsure about what to do or where to be during the service, please ask someone. Our “welcomers” at each church door are there to help you, if you have a question or need assistance.*

Children & Young People – most weeks Junior Church & our creche meet in the Nicholls Room (through the doors at the back left of the church). If you are visiting, you must please sign your children in.

Hearing loop – our hearing loop works most effectively in the nave (where the pews are). Please select the ‘T’ position.

Toilets – can be found through the doors at the back left of the church.

Refreshments – after the service we share refreshments together. You are warmly invited to have a drink and a chat - but if you'd rather slip away, that's OK too.

THE GATHERING

Introit Hymn

Grace, mercy and peace
from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ
be with you.

All **and also with you.**

Everyone is welcomed.

*If not already alight, the final candle of the advent wreath is lit
while this prayer is prayed in preparation for worship.*

**Holy God, you left the glory of heaven
to take upon yourself our fragile humanity.
You came to us in love
and yet we denied you room
and you were laid in a manger.
May the light of your presence with us
Shine brightly in our lives
As we welcome you into our hearts.
Amen.**

at Midnight Mass the Christmas Crib is blessed

Welcome all wonders in one sight!
Eternity shut in a span.
Summer in winter, day in night,
heaven in earth and God in man.
Great little one whose all-embracing birth
brings earth to heaven, stoops heaven to earth.

God our Father, on this night
your Son Jesus Christ was born of the Virgin Mary
for us and for our salvation:

✠ bless this crib,
which we have prepared
to celebrate that holy birth;
may all who see it be strengthened in faith
and receive the fullness of life he came to bring,
who is alive and reigns for ever.

All **Amen.**

Prayers of Penitence

Christ the light of the world has come
to dispel the darkness of our hearts.
Let us turn to the light and confess our sins.

God our Father,
you sent your Son full of grace and truth:
forgive our failure to receive him.
Lord, have mercy.

All **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.

All **Christ, have mercy.**

Spirit of Love, your servant Mary
responded joyfully to your call:
forgive the hardness of our hearts.
Lord, have mercy.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

May God who loved the world so much
that he sent his Son to be our Saviour
forgive *your* sins
and make *you* holy to serve him in the world,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

Gloria in Excelsis

**Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you,
we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ,
only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.**

**For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

The Collect

After a period of silent prayer, the Collect is said or sung.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Bible Readings

At the end of each passage this response is used:

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

An anthem or psalm may be sung between the readings

Gradual Hymn

Gospel Reading

Alleluia, alleluia.

The Word became flesh and dwelt among us,
and we have seen his glory.

All **Alleluia.**

The Lord be with you
All **and also with you.**

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

All **Glory to you, O Lord.**

at the end:

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All **Praise to you, O Christ.**

The Creed

All **We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
 he came down from heaven,
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit
 and the Virgin Mary
and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified
 under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
 to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son
is worshipped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic
and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism
for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come.
Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession

After each intercession this response may be used:

All Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

at the end, we may say

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

THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

The Peace

The president introduces the Peace

Unto us a child is born,
unto us a son is given,
and his name shall be called
the Prince of Peace.

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

Offertory Hymn

Preparation of the Table

*The gifts of the people are gathered and presented,
the table is prepared, and bread and wine are placed upon it.
The following prayer, or other suitable words are said:*

Word made flesh, life of the world,
in your incarnation you embraced our poverty:
by your Spirit may we share in your riches.
All **Amen.**

Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord is here. OR The Lord be with you.
All **His Spirit is with us. And also with you.**
Lift up your hearts.
All **We lift them to the Lord.**
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
All **It is right to give thanks and praise.**

this, or another suitable preface is used:

All glory and honour be yours always and
everywhere,
mighty creator, ever-living God.
We give you thanks and praise for your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ,
who for love of our fallen race humbled himself,
and [*on this night*] was born of the Virgin Mary
by the power of your Spirit, and lived as one of us.
In this mystery of the Word made flesh
you have caused his light to shine in our hearts,
to give knowledge of your glory
in the face of Jesus Christ.
In him we see our God made visible
and so are caught up in the love of the God
 we cannot see.
Therefore with all the angels of heaven
we lift our voices to proclaim the glory of your name
and offer our joyful hymn of praise:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

We praise and bless you, loving Father,
through Jesus Christ, our Lord;
and as we obey his command,
send your Holy Spirit,
that broken bread and wine outpoured
may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

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

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine.
Again he praised you, gave it to them 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.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did,
in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice
made once for all upon the cross.
Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of
salvation,
we proclaim his death and resurrection
until he comes in glory.

Great is the mystery of faith:
All **Christ has died:**
Christ is risen:
Christ will come again.

Lord of all life, help us to work together for that day
when your kingdom comes
and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth.
Look with favour on your people, gather us in your
loving arms and bring us with [*N and*] all the saints
to feast at your table in heaven.
Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour & glory are
yours, O loving Father, for ever and ever.

All **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

All 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

We break this bread
to share in the body of Christ.

All **Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.**

Agnus Dei

All **Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
grant us peace.**

Giving of Communion

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

All **Lord, give us this bread always.**

*All are invited to come forward to receive Holy Communion or a blessing.
During the distribution hymns and anthems may be sung.*

Prayer after Communion

A post communion prayer may be said, followed by

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

The Blessing

This or another suitable blessing is used

May the Father,
who has loved the eternal Son
from before the foundation of the world,
shed that love upon you his children.

All **Amen.**

May Christ,
who by his incarnation gathered into one
things earthly and heavenly,
fill you with joy and peace.

All **Amen.**

May the Holy Spirit,
by whose overshadowing Mary
became the God-bearer,
give you grace to carry the good news of Christ.

All **Amen.**

and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

All **Amen.**

Recessional Hymn

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All **In the name of Christ. Amen.**



THE LIGHT SHINES IN THE DARKNESS
AND THE DARKNESS DID NOT
OVERCOME IT

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