



## St. Mary's Church, Alderley Holy Communion in the Epiphany season

**Welcome to worship**

**We sing a hymn**

**The Collect for Purity**

**All: 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.**

**Invitation to the General Confession**

We have come together as God's family to pray for the recovery of the unity of Christ's Church and for the renewal of our common life. The Lord is full of gentleness and compassion. In penitence and faith let us ask his forgiveness of our sins.

**General Confession**

Lord Jesus, you came to reconcile us to one another and to the Father:

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you heal the wounds of sin and division:

Christ, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you intercede for us with your Father:

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

**Absolution**

## **Gloria in Excelsis**

*All* **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 for Epiphany**

Creator of the heavens,  
who led the Magi by a star  
to worship the Christ-child:  
guide and sustain us,  
that we may find our journey's end  
in Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

**A reading from the Bible**

**We sing a hymn**

**A reading from one of the Gospels**

**The Sermon**

## **The Apostles Creed**

**I BELIEVE in God, the Father Almighty,  
Maker of heaven and earth:  
And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord,  
Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,  
Born of the Virgin Mary, Suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
Was crucified, dead, and buried: He descended into hell;  
The third day he rose again from the dead;  
He ascended into heaven,  
And sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;  
From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Ghost;  
The holy Catholick Church;  
The Communion of Saints;  
The Forgiveness of sins;  
The Resurrection of the body,  
And the Life everlasting. Amen.**

## **Prayers of Intercession and Thanksgiving**

Let us worship the Saviour with joy  
and make our prayer to our heavenly Father.  
The magi came from the east to worship your Son:  
Father, grant to Christians everywhere  
the spirit of adoration ...

Lord of glory,

**hear our prayer.**

The infant Christ received gifts of gold, incense and myrrh:  
Father, accept the offering of our hearts and minds  
[*at the beginning of this year*] ...

Lord of glory,

**hear our prayer.**

*Continues overleaf*

The kingdoms of this world have become  
the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ:  
Father, grant an abundance of peace to your world ...  
Lord of glory,

**hear our prayer.**

The Holy Family lived in exile and in the shadow of death:  
Father, look in mercy on all who are poor and powerless,  
and all who suffer ...

Lord of glory,

**hear our prayer.**

Your Son shared the life of his home and family at Nazareth:  
Father, protect in your love our neighbours,  
our families and this community of which we are a part ...

Lord of glory,

**hear our prayer.**

Father, we rejoice in our fellowship  
with the shepherds, the angels, the magi,  
the Virgin Mary, Saint Joseph  
and all the faithful departed.

In your unfailing love for us and for all people,  
hear and answer our prayers through your Son,  
our Saviour Jesus Christ.

**Amen.**

<p><b>We sing a hymn.</b> You are invited to make an offering.</p>
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Gracious God,  
accept the offering of your Church,  
the hearts of your people  
joined in praise and thanksgiving,  
in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord.

**Amen.**

## **The Thanksgiving Prayer**

The Lord is here.

*All* **His Spirit is with us.**

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.**

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 your Son our Lord.

And now we give you thanks for, by the leading of a star,  
you have revealed your only Son to the world,  
that in following him we are led from darkness into his marvellous  
light.

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

*All* **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.**

Accept our praises, heavenly Father, through your Son our Saviour  
Jesus Christ, and as we follow his example and obey his command,  
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit these gifts of bread and  
wine may be to us his body and his 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 remem-  
brance 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".

Therefore, heavenly Father, we remember his offering of himself made once for all upon the cross; we proclaim his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; we look for the coming of your kingdom, and with this bread and this cup we make the memorial of Christ your Son our Lord.

Christ is the bread of life:

**All When we eat this bread and drink this cup,  
we proclaim your death, Lord Jesus,  
until you come in glory.**

Accept through him, our great high priest, this our sacrifice of thanks and praise, and as we eat and drink these holy gifts in the presence of your divine majesty, renew us by your Spirit, inspire us with your love and unite us in the body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, with all who stand before you in earth and heaven, we worship you, Father almighty, in songs of everlasting praise:

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

### **The Lord's Prayer**

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

**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* Jesus, Lamb of God,  
have mercy on us.

Jesus, bearer of our sins,  
have mercy on us.

Jesus, redeemer of the world,  
grant us peace.

## **The Prayer of Humble Access**

*All* We do not presume  
to come to this your table, merciful Lord,  
trusting in our own righteousness,  
but in your manifold and great mercies.

We are not worthy  
so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table.

But you are the same Lord  
whose nature is always to have mercy.

Grant us therefore, gracious Lord,  
so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ  
and to drink his blood,  
that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body  
and our souls washed through his most precious blood,  
and that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us.  
Amen.

The priest and people receive Communion
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## **The Post-Communion Prayer**

Lord God,  
the bright splendour whom the nations seek:  
may we who with the wise men have been drawn by your light  
discern the glory of your presence in your Son,  
the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen

## **The Blessing**

Christ our Lord, to whom kings bowed down in worship and  
offered gifts,  
reveal to you his glory and pour upon you the riches of his grace;  
and the blessing of God Almighty,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with you now and evermore.  
Amen.

<h2><b>We sing a hymn</b></h2>
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**In the Western churches, the Epiphany** ('manifestation') became an occasion to celebrate one element in the story of Christ's birth: the visit of the far-travelled magi, understood as the manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles. Matthew's account speaks simply of 'wise men from the east'; later tradition fixed their number at three, made them kings and recalled their names – Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar.

**In this perspective,** Epiphany-tide is an apt season to pray for the worldwide mission of the Church. The feast of the Conversion of St Paul, the Apostle to the Gentiles, appropriately falls in the Epiphany season, as does the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

## **Common Worship, Order One, Epiphany**

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