



**First Eucharist of
Christmas**

**with
The Archbishop of York**

Thursday 24 December 2020

Welcome to York Minster for this First Eucharist of Christmas.

The organ is played by Ben Morris, Assistant Director of Music at York Minster, who also directed the Songmen and Choral Scholars of the Minster Choir.

The musical setting is the *Missa Aeterna Christi munera* by G P da Palestrina.

¶ *The Gathering*

Organ Voluntary

In dulci jubilo, BWV 608

J S Bach

The Blessing of the Crib

Dear friends, as we meet to celebrate the birth of Christ,
let us pray that God will bless our Christmas crib,
that all who worship his Son, born of the Virgin Mary,
may come to share his life in glory.
God our Father,
on this night your Son Jesus Christ was born of the Virgin Mary
for us and for our salvation:
bless our 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.**

The Archbishop says:

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.

The Greeting

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

All **and also with you.**

The Archbishop introduces the service.

Prayers of Penitence

The Deacon says:

Christ the Light of the World has come to dispel the darkness of our hearts.

In his light let us examine ourselves and confess our sins.

Silence is kept.

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.**

The Archbishop says:

May the God of all healing and forgiveness draw you to himself
that you may behold the glory of his Son, the Word made flesh,
and be cleansed from all your sins, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

Gloria in Excelsis

The choir sings:

Gloria in excelsis Deo, et in terra pax hominibus bonae voluntatis.
Laudamus te, benedicimus te, adoramus te, glorificamus te,
gratias agimus tibi propter magnam gloriam tuam.

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.*

Domine Deus, Rex coelestis, Deus Pater omnipotens.
Domine Fili unigenite, Jesu Christe: Domine Deus, Agnus Dei,
Filius Patris, qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis,
qui tollis peccata mundi, suscipe deprecationem nostram.
Qui sedes ad dexteram Patris, miserere nobis.
*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.*

Quoniam tu solus sanctus, tu solus Dominus,
tu solus altissimus, Jesu Christe,
cum Sancto Spiritu, in gloria Dei Patris. Amen.
*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.*

Please remain standing.

The Collect

The Archbishop says:

Let us pray in the peace of this Christmas celebration
that our joy in the birth of Christ will last for ever.

Silence is kept.

Eternal God,
who made this most holy night
to shine with the brightness of your one true light:
bring us, who have known the revelation of that light on earth,
to see the radiance of your heavenly glory;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

Please sit.

¶ *The Liturgy of the Word*

New Testament Reading

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

Hebrews 1. 1–4

At the end of the reading:

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Gradual Hymn

1. Silent night! Holy night!
All is calm, all is bright
round the virgin and her child:
holy infant so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace;
sleep in heavenly peace!

2. Silent night! Holy night!
Shepherds quail at the sight,
glory streams from heaven afar,
heavenly hosts sing 'Alleluia,
Christ the Saviour is born,
Christ the Saviour is born!'

3. Silent night! Holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light:
radiant beams your holy face
with the dawn of saving grace,
Jesus, Lord, at your birth,
Jesus, Lord, at your birth.

Words Joseph Mohr (1792–1848) tr. John Freeman Young (1820–85)

Tune SILENT NIGHT, AM 84, Joseph Mohr

Please remain standing.

Gospel Reading

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

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

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

John 1. 1–14

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

Sermon

The Archbishop of York

The Creed

Let us affirm our faith in the words of 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

This response may be used:

In peace let us pray to the Lord.
Father, in this holy night your Son our Saviour
was born in human flesh.
Renew your Church as the Body of Christ.
Holy God

All **hear our prayer.**

In this holy night, there was no room for your Son in the inn.
Protect with your love those who have no home
and all who live in poverty.
Holy God

All **hear our prayer.**

In this holy night Mary, in the pain of labour,
brought your Son to birth.
Hold in your hand [...and] all who are in pain or distress.
Holy God

All **hear our prayer.**

In this holy night your Christ came as a light shining in the darkness.
Bring comfort to [...and] all who suffer in the sadness of our world.
Holy God

All **hear our prayer.**

In this holy night the angels sang, 'Peace to God's people on earth.'
Strengthen those who work for peace and justice
in [...and in] all the world.
Holy God

All **hear our prayer.**

In this holy night shepherds in the field heard good tidings of joy.
Give us grace to preach the gospel of Christ's redemption.
Holy God

All **hear our prayer.**

In this holy night strangers found the Holy Family,
and saw the baby lying in the manger.
Bless our homes and all whom we love.
Holy God

All **hear our prayer.**

In this holy night heaven is come down to earth,
and earth is raised to heaven.
Hold in your hand [...and] all those who have passed through death
in the hope of your coming kingdom.
Holy God

All **hear our prayer.**

In this holy night Christians the world over celebrate Christ's birth.
Open our hearts that he may be born in us today.
Holy God

All **hear our prayer.**

Father, in this holy night angels and shepherds worshipped at
the manger throne.

Receive the worship we offer in fellowship with Mary,
Joseph and the saints through him who is your Word made flesh,
our Saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen.

Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

¶ *The Liturgy of the Sacrament*

The Peace

The Archbishop says:

This holy night the angels sang 'Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace to all in whom he delights'.

The peace of the Lord be always with you

All **and also with you.**

The Deacon invites the congregation to exchange a sign of peace.

Offertory Hymn

It came upon the midnight clear,
that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth
to touch their harps of gold:
'Peace on the earth, good-will to men,
from heaven's all gracious King!'
The world in solemn stillness lay
to hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come,
with peaceful wings unfurled;
and still their heavenly music floats
o'er all the weary world;
above its sad and lowly plains
they bend on hovering wing;
and ever o'er its Babel sounds
the blessed angels sing.

Yet with the woes of sin and strife
the world has suffered long;
beneath the angel-strain have rolled
two thousand years of wrong;
and man, at war with man, hears not
the love-song which they bring:
O hush the noise, ye men of strife,
and hear the angels sing!

For lo! the days are hastening on,
by prophet bards foretold,
when, with the ever-circling years,
comes round the age of gold;
when peace shall over all the earth
its ancient splendours fling,
and the whole world give back the song
which now the angels sing.

Words Edmund Sears (1810–76)

Tune NOEL, NEH 29, traditional English melody
adapted by Arthur Sullivan (1842–1900)

Taking of the Bread and Wine

A prayer is said as the gifts are presented.

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

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you
All 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.

The Archbishop praises God for his mighty acts.

All glory and honour be your 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 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 sing our joyful hymn of praise:

The choir sings:

Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus, Dominus Deus Sabaoth,
pleni sunt caeli et terra gloria tua. Hosanna in excelsis.

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

Benedictus qui venit in nomine Domini. Hosanna in excelsis.

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

The Archbishop recalls the Last Supper:

Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness;
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit,
and according to your holy will,
these gifts of bread and wine
may be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;

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.

The Deacon says:

Great is the mystery of faith:

All Christ has died: Christ is risen: Christ will come again.

The Prayer continues:

And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the cross,
his perfect sacrifice made once for the sins of the whole world;
rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension,
and looking for his coming in glory,
we celebrate this memorial of our redemption.
As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving,
we bring before you this bread and this cup
and we thank you for counting us worthy
to stand in your presence and serve you.

Send the Holy Spirit on your people
and gather into one in your kingdom
all who share this one bread and one cup,
so that we, in the company of the Blessed Virgin Mary,
Peter the Apostle, William of York, and all the saints,
may praise and glorify you for ever,
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.

All Amen.

A short silence is kept.

The Lord's Prayer

**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

The Archbishop breaks the consecrated bread, saying:

We break the bread of life, and that life is the light of the world.

All **God here among us, light in the midst of us,
bring us to light and life.**

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

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

The body and blood of Christ keep us all in eternal life. Amen.

During the distribution of Communion the choir sings:

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi:

dona nobis pacem.

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

Prayer after Communion

God our Father, in this night you have made known to us again

the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ:

confirm our faith and fix our eyes on him

until the day dawns and Christ the Morning Star rises in our hearts.

All **To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.**

¶ *The Dismissal*

The Blessing

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 Godbearer,
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 upon you and remain with you always.

All **Amen.**

The Deacon says:

Go in peace. Proclaim the Word made flesh.

All **Glory, thanks and praise to God.**

Organ Voluntary

Vom Himmel hoch, BWV 606

J S Bach