



The Parish Churches of S Philip  
and S Augustine and S Matthew  
with S Mary the Virgin Newcastle

Liturgy of the  
Word and  
Spiritual  
Communion for  
S John the  
Baptist

## Notes

This service is intended for use on Sundays and some feast days. It is a version of the Liturgy of the Word, which turns on the Our Father into an act of spiritual communion, undertaken in the words of the *Anima Christi*.

The bulk of the service inheres in the readings and the intercessions. These will be sent out each week.

The Te Deum is included at the end, since it is said at the end of the Office on Sundays outside Lent and Advent. I have used the Tudor version, since the words have a greater umph.

+ In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

John the Baptist proclaimed, 'Repent for the Kingdom of Heaven has come near.' Let us turn to the Lord in penitence and faith and humbly confess our sin.

We are often slow to follow the example of Christ: Kyrie eleison.

We often fail to be known as Christ's disciples: Christe eleison.

We often fail to walk the way of the Cross: Kyrie eleison.

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Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins and bring us to life eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Glory be to God on high.  
And in earth peace, goodwill towards men.  
We praise Thee, we bless Thee,  
we worship Thee, we glorify Thee,  
we give thanks to Thee for Thy great glory,  
O Lord God, heavenly King,  
God the Father almighty.  
O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ:  
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,  
that takest away the sins of the world,  
have mercy upon us.  
Thou that takest away the sins of the world,  
receive our prayer.  
Thou that sittest at the right  
hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us.  
For Thou only art holy, Thou only art the Lord;  
Thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost,  
art most high,  
+ in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Let us pray:

Almighty God, by Whose providence Your servant John the Baptist was wonderfully born, and sent to prepare the way of Your Son our Saviour by the preaching of repentance: lead us to repent according to his preaching and, after his example, constantly to speak the Truth, boldly rebuke vice, and patiently to suffer for the Truth's sake; in and through the same Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, Who lives with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.

A Reading from the former Letter of Saint Peter.

Without having seen Jesus Christ you love him; though you do not now see him you believe in him and rejoice with unutterable and exalted joy. As the outcome of your faith you obtain the salvation of your souls. The prophets who prophesied of the grace that was to be yours searched and inquired about this salvation; they inquired what person or time was indicated by the Spirit of Christ within them when predicting the sufferings of Christ and the subsequent glory. It was revealed to them that they were serving not themselves but you, in the things which have now been announced to you by those who preached the good news to you through the Holy Spirit sent from heaven, things into which angels long to look.

In you, O Lord, do I seek refuge; ♦ let me never be put to shame.

In your righteousness, deliver me and set me free; ♦  
incline your ear to me and save me.

Be for me a stronghold to which I may ever resort; ♦ send  
out to save me, for you are my rock and my fortress.

Deliver me, my God, from the hand of the wicked, ♦ from  
the grasp of the evildoer and the oppressor.

For you are my hope, O Lord God, ♦ my confidence, even  
from my youth.

Upon you have I leaned from my birth when you drew me  
from my mother's womb; ♦ my praise shall be always  
of you.

My mouth shall tell of your righteousness and salvation all  
the day long, ♦ for I know no end of the telling.

O God, you have taught me since I was young, ♦ and to  
this day I tell of your wonderful works.

A Reading from the Gospel according to Saint Luke.

In the days of Herod, king of Judea, there was a priest named Zechari'ah, of the division of Abi'jah; and he had a wife of the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. And they were both righteous before God, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless. But they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were advanced in years. Now while he was serving as priest before God when his division was on duty, according to the custom of the priesthood, it fell to him by lot to enter the temple of the Lord and burn incense. And the whole multitude of the people were praying outside at the hour of incense. And there appeared to him an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense. And Zechari'ah was troubled when he saw him, and fear fell upon him. But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechari'ah, for your prayer is heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John. And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth; for he will be great before the Lord, and he shall drink no wine nor strong drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb. And he will turn many of the sons of Israel to the Lord their God, and he will go before him in the spirit and power of Eli'jah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready for the Lord a people prepared."

*The **Intercessions** follow; these will include petitions from the weekly cycle; and may include the Covid 19 prayer in the notes; at the end:*

These and the prayers of my Christian community I lay before God in union with our Lady, Saint John the Baptist, Saint Matthew, Saint Philip, Saint Augustine and all the saints:

Our Father, Who art in Heaven, hallowed by 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.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, grant us Thy peace.

*In place of receiving Holy Communion, you should use the prayer over the page:*

Soul of Christ, sanctify me;  
Body of Christ, save me;  
Blood of Christ, refresh me;  
Water from the side of Christ, wash me.  
Passion of Christ, strengthen me.  
O good Jesu, hear me.  
Within Thy wounds, hide me.  
Do not permit me to be separated from Thee;  
From the malicious enemy defend me,  
In the hour of my death call me  
And bid me come to Thee,  
That with Thy saints I may praise Thee;  
For ever and ever. Amen.

*It is appropriate that a time of reflexion follows. If, like the Vicar, you have a mind that easily lured by the frivolous and ephemeral, you might use the following to help stay on task:*

Christ's herald true, the Baptist great,  
His solemn feast we celebrate.  
His blest example all pursue  
That leads to life his servants true.

O holy man and friend of Christ  
Show us the endless joys of life.  
And now your birth we call to mind,  
Your father told by Gabriel kind.

O may our minds this feast prepare,  
Delights with saints on high to share;  
You came to guide each faithful breast  
To cleanse itself for God's own rest.

*(continued over the page)*

We pray you still your prayer to pour  
That we may pardon gain and more;  
So when the Lord from heaven shall come,  
May find in us a fitting home.

And on us may the Lamb bestow,  
(That Lamb whom you to John did show),  
A stainless robe of his own fleece,  
So that we too may enter peace.

So clad may we with angels bright  
Pass heaven's bright door and enter light,  
And we the heavenly Lamb attend  
With Holy John, our Saviour's friend.

\* \* \*

Merciful Lord, Whose prophet John the Baptist proclaimed  
Your Son as the Lamb of God Who takes away the sin of the  
world: grant that we who in this Sacrament have known Your  
forgiveness and Your life-giving love may ever tell of Your  
mercy and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

WE praise thee, O God : we acknowledge thee to be the Lord.  
All the earth doth worship thee : the Father everlasting.  
To thee all Angels cry aloud : the heavens, and all the powers  
therein.

To thee Cherubin and Seraphin : continually do cry,  
Holy, Holy, Holy : Lord God of Sabaoth;  
Heaven and earth are full of the Majesty : of thy glory.

The glorious company of the Apostles : praise thee.

The goodly fellowship of the Prophets : praise thee.

The noble army of Martyrs : praise thee.

The holy Church throughout all the world : doth acknowledge  
thee;

The Father : of an infinite Majesty;

Thine honourable, true : and only Son;

Also the Holy Ghost : the Comforter.

Thou art the King of Glory : O Christ.

Thou art the everlasting Son : of the Father.

When thou tookest upon thee to deliver man : thou didst not  
abhor the Virgin's womb.

When thou hadst overcome the sharpness of death : thou didst  
open the kingdom of heaven to all believers.

Thou sittest at the right hand of God : in the glory of the  
Father.

We believe that thou shalt come : to be our Judge.

We therefore pray thee, help thy servants : whom thou hast  
redeemed with thy precious blood.

*(continued over the page)*

Make them to be numbered with thy Saints : in glory everlasting.

O Lord, save thy people : and bless thine heritage.

Govern them : and lift them up for ever.

Day by day : we magnify thee;

And we worship thy Name : ever world without end.

Vouchsafe, O Lord : to keep us this day without sin.

O Lord, have mercy upon us : have mercy upon us.

O Lord, let thy mercy lighten upon us : as our trust is in thee.

O Lord, in thee have I trusted : let me never be confounded.

+ The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all, evermore.  
Amen.