



Saint Matthew's Church
Big Lamp ~ Summerhill Street
Newcastle

Text of the Mass of the Christmas Day – 25th December 2025

As the priest enters the church, the following is sung:

Come, Thou Redeemer of the earth,
And manifest Thy virgin-birth:
Let every age adoring fall,
Such birth befits the God of all.

Begotten of no human will,
But of the Spirit, Thou art still
The Word of God, in flesh arrayed,
The Saviour, now to many displayed.

Thy cradle here shall glitter bright,
And darkness glow with new-born light,
No more shall night extinguish day,
Where love's bright beams their power display.

O Jesu, Virgin-born, to Thee
Eternal praise and glory be,
Whom with the Father we adore
And Holy Spirit, evermore.

Words S Ambrose
Tr JM Neale 1818 -66
Music: Puer nobis Mascitur
Melody adapted from Michael Praetorius 1571 - 1621
Harmony by GR Woodward 1848 - 1934

At the Crib:

+ The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

And also with you.

Unto us a Child is born.

And His Name shall be called, "Wonderful, Counsellor."

Let us pray:

Holy, Jesu, to deliver us from the power of darkness You humbled Yourself to be born among us and laid in a manger. Let the Light of Your love always shine in our hearts, and bring us at last to the joyful vision of Your beauty, for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

The Angel said, "You shall call His Name Jesus, for He will save the people from their sins. Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. We confess our sins in penitence and faith:

God our Father, You sent Your Son full of Grace and Truth; forgive our failure to receive Him: Lord, have mercy:

Lord, have mercy.

Jesu our Saviour, You were born in poverty and laid in a manger; forgive our greed and rejection of Your ways: Christ, have mercy:

Christ, have mercy.

Your servant Mary responded joyfully to Your call; forgive the hardness of our hearts: Lord, have mercy:

Lord have mercy:

Almighty God,
who forgives all who truly repent,
have mercy upon you,
pardon and deliver you from all your sins,
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,
and keep you in life eternal;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Let us go forth in peace:
In the Name of Christ. Amen.

Christians awake! Salute the happy morn
Whereon the Saviour of the world was born;
Rise to adore the mystery of love
Which hosts of angels chanted from above;
With them the joyful tidings first begun
Of God incarnate and the Virgin's Son.

Then to the watchful shepherds it was told,
Who heard the angelic herald's voice, 'Behold,
I bring you tidings of a Saviour's Birth
To you and all the nations of the earth:
This day hath God fulfilled His promised word,
This day is born a Saviour, Christ the Lord.'

He spake; and straightway that celestial choir
In hymns of joy, unknown before, conspire;
The praises of redeeming love they sang,
And Heaven's whole orb with alleluyas rang;
God's highest glory was their anthem still,
Peace on the earth, and unto men goodwill.

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To Bethl'em straight the enlightened shepherds ran
To see the wonder God had wrought for man,
And found, with Joseph and the blessed Maid,
Her son, the Saviour, in a manger laid:
Joyful, the wondrous story they proclaim –
The first Apostles of His infant fame.

Like Mary let us ponder in our mind
God's wondrous love in saving lost mankind;
Trace we the Babe, Who hath retrieved our loss,
From His poor manger to His bitter Cross;
Then may we hope, angelic hosts among,
To sing, redeemed, a glad triumphal song.

Words: John Byrom 1691 - 1763
Music: Yorkshire (Stockport)
John Wainright 1723 - 68

*During the **Gloria in excelsis**, the Altar, the symbol of God's Presence, may be honoured with incense.*

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.

Let us pray:

We praise You, gracious God, for the glad tiding of peace, the Good News of salvation: Your Word became flesh and we have seen His Glory. Let the radiance of that Glory enlighten the lives of those who celebrate His Birth. Reveal to all the world the Light no darkness can extinguish, our Lord Jesus Christ, Who lives and reigns in the unity of the Holy Spirit, the Splendour of eternal light, God, throughout all ages, world without end.

Amen.

A Reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah.

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good tidings, who publishes peace, who brings good tidings of good, who publishes salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns." Hark, your watchmen lift up their voice, together they sing for joy; for eye to eye they see the return of the LORD to Zion. Break forth together into singing, you waste places of Jerusalem; for the LORD has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem. The LORD has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sing to the Lord a new song, ♦ for he has done marvellous things.
His own right hand and his holy arm ♦ have won for him the victory.
The Lord has made known his salvation; ♦ his deliverance has he
openly shown in the sight of the nations.
He has remembered his mercy and faithfulness towards the house of
Israel, ♦ and all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of
our God.
Sound praises to the Lord, all the earth; ♦ break into singing and
make music.
Make music to the Lord with the lyre, ♦ with the lyre and the voice
of melody.
With trumpets and the sound of the horn ♦ sound praises before the
Lord, the King.

A Reading from the Letter to the Hebrews.

In many and various ways God spoke of old to our fathers by the prophets; but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world.

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He reflects the glory of God and bears the very stamp of his nature, upholding the universe by his word of power. 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 obtained is more excellent than theirs. For to what angel did God ever say, "Thou art my Son, today I have begotten thee"? Or again, "I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son"? And again, when he brings the first-born into the world, he says, "Let all God's angels worship him."

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Gospel book is carried to the Lectern:

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! A hallowed day has dawned upon us: Come, you nations, worship the Lord, for today has great light has shone down upon the earth. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Christ's Presence in the words of the Gospel may be honoured with incense.

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

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 were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came for testimony, to bear witness to the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to bear witness to the light. The true light that enlightens every man was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world knew him not.

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He came to his own home, and his own people received him not. 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 nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth; we have beheld his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father. (John bore witness to him, and cried, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks before me, for he was before me.'") And from his fullness have we all received, grace upon grace. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God; the only Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, he has made him known.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to You, O Christ.

A homily may follow.

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.

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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.

Gathered together in Christ, to celebrate His Birth, Who is Saviour of the world, let us pray to God our Father, Who has sent us such a precious gift, for the needs of the Church and the world:

For the Bishops, priests and people of Bethlehem together with the pilgrims there and the holy Church of God throughout the world, that with one heart we may rejoice in the Word made flesh, let us pray to the Lord:

Lord, hear us ... [Lord, graciously hear us.](#)

For good will in the hearts of all; and on earth peace: let us pray to the Lord:

Lord, hear us ... [Lord, graciously hear us.](#)

For our families and friends wherever they may be: for those who are far from home and all travelling at this time, let us pray to the Lord:

Lord, hear us ... [Lord, graciously hear us.](#)

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For those who have the care of newborn children and those who yearn for a child: for children who are neglected and abused, let us pray to the Lord:

Lord, hear us ... [Lord, graciously hear us.](#)

For the poor, the outcast and the homeless; for the helpless, the lonely, and the unloved, let us pray to the Lord:

Lord, hear us ... [Lord, graciously hear us.](#)

For all who have gone before us, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, let us pray to the Lord:

Lord, hear us ... [Lord, graciously hear us.](#)

In union with our Lady, Saint Matthew, Saint Philip, Saint Augustine and all the saints, as we celebrate the gift of Your Son, Jesus, we ask You to guide us that we may work for those things, which above all others, would make glad His heart, the same; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

[Amen.](#)

To us a child is born; to us a Son is given; and His Name shall be called, “Wonderful, Counsellor, Prince of Peace.”

The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

[And also with you](#)

As the bread and wine are brought to the Altar and prepared for the Mass, the following is sung:

Once in royal David's city
Stood a holy cattle shed,
Where a Mother laid her Baby
In a manger for His bed:
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ her little Child.

He came down to earth from Heaven,
Who is God and Lord of all,
And His shelter was a stable
And His cradle was a stall;
With the poor, and mean, and lowly,
lived on earth our Saviour holy.

And through all His wondrous childhood
He would honour and obey,
Love and watch the lowly Maiden
In whose gentle arms He lay;
Christian children all must be
Mild, obedient, good as He.

For He is our childhood's pattern,
Day by day like us He grew;
He was little, weak and helpless,
Tears and smiles like us He knew;
And He feeleth for our sadness,
And He shareth in our gladness.

(continued over the page)

And our eyes at last shall see Him
Through His own redeeming love,
For that child so dear and gentle
Is our Lord in Heaven above;
And He leads His children on
To the place where He is gone.

Not in that poor lowly stable,
With the oxen standing by,
We shall see Him, but in Heaven,
Set at God's right hand on high.
When like stars His children crowned,
All in white shall wait around.

Words: Mrs CF Alexander 1818 - 95

Music: Irby

HJ Gauntlet 1805 – 76

Revised AH Mann 1850 -1929

*The preparation of the Altar continues; incense may be used to honour
the place where Christ will become present. At the end:*

Yours, Lord, is the greatness, the power, the glory, the splendour and
the majesty; everything in Heaven and earth is Yours.

All things come from You and of Your own do we give You.

Almighty God, Whose saving work in Christ has made our peace with
You, accept our sacrifice and renew that peace within us as we offer
You our praise in and through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The priest begins the great prayer of thanksgiving:

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 Him thanks and praise.

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,

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:

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 Apostles
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.

The priest holds up the consecrated Host for the people to see.

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.

The priest holds up the chalice of consecrated wine for the people to see.

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.

Dying You destroyed our death, rising You restored our life; Lord
Jesus, come in glory.

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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 Jesus Christ, our Lord,
By Whom and with Whom and in Whom,
Amen,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
Amen,
all honour and glory are Yours, almighty Father, for ever and ever.
Amen.

Let us pray for the coming of the Kingdom in the words our Saviour
gave us:

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.

We break this bread
to share in the body of Christ.
Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.

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.

The priest holds up the consecrated elements and invites people to receive Holy Communion:

+ The gifts of God for the people of God:
Jesus, Jesus, Jesus is the Lord, Jesus is the Lord God almighty;
Jesus, Jesus, Jesus is the Lord, Jesus is the Lord God almighty;
Who was and is and is to come; Jesus, Jesus, Jesus is the Lord.

Holy Communion follows.

Angels, from the realms of glory,
Wing your flight o'er all the earth;
Ye who sang creation's story
Now proclaim Messiah's Birth:
Gloria in excelsis Deo,
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Shepherds, in the field abiding,
Watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with man is now residing;
Yonder shines the Infant Light:
Gloria &c

Sages, leave you contemplations;
Brighter visions beam afar;
Seek the great Desire of nations;
Ye have seen His natal star:
Gloria &c

(continued over the page)

Saints before the altar bending,
Watching long in hope and fear,
Suddenly the Lord, descending,
In His Temple shall appear:
Gloria &c

Though an Infant now we view Him,
He shall find His Father's throne,
Gather all the nations to Him;
Every knee shall then bow down:
Gloria &c

Words: J Montgomery 1771 - 1816
Music: French or Flemish melody
Arr Charles Wood 1886 - 1926

After Holy Communion:

Let us pray:

God our Father, Whose Word has come among us in the holy Child of Bethlehem: may the light of faith illumine our hearts and shine in our words and deeds; through Him Who is Christ the Lord.

Amen.

Notices may follow.

Christ, Who by His Incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, fill you with peace and goodwill and make you partakers of the divine Nature; and the + blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.

Amen.

The Mass is ended. Go in the Peace of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

O, higher than the Cherubim, more glorious than the Seraphim, lead their praises, alleluia! Thou, bearer of the eternal Word, most gracious magnify the Lord. Alleluia, alleluia, (alleluia, alleluia,) alleluia!

Pray for us, O holy Mother of God.

That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us pray:

Pour forth Your Grace into our hearts, we beseech You O Lord, that as we have known the Incarnation of Your Son, Jesus Christ, by the message of an angel, so by His Cross and Passion, we may be brought to the glory of His Resurrection; in and through the same Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

*Hark! the herald-angels sing
Glory to the new-born king,
Peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled.
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
Join the triumph of the skies;
With th' Angelic host proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem."
Hark! the herald-angels etc.*

Christ, by highest Heav'n adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
Late in time behold Him come,
Offspring of the Virgin's Womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see!
Hail, the incarnate Deity!
Pleased as man with man to dwell,
Jesus, our Immanuel.
Hark! the herald-angels etc.

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Hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Hail, the Sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings,
Ris'n with healing in His wings.
Mild He lays His glory by,
Born that man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth,
Born to give them second birth.
Hark! the herald-angels etc

Words: Charles Wesley 1707 - 88

And others

Music: Mendelssohn

From a chorus by Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy 1809 - 47

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