

COLLECT FOR CHRISTMAS

Lord Jesus Christ,
your birth at Bethlehem
draws us to kneel in wonder
at heaven touching earth:
accept our heartfelt praise as we worship you,
our Saviour and our eternal God. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

Rejoicing in the presence of God here among us,
as our Saviour taught us, so we pray

**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.**

A hymn may be sung

CONCLUSION

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

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

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

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord,
In the name of Christ, Amen

** The weekly Homilies Project sheet can be downloaded from:
<https://www.lincoln.anglican.org/mission-ministry-discipleship/worship-resources/homily-project/>*

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A Service of the Word

for use from Christmas to Epiphany

Please join in with the words in bold.

◆ *Invites a pause between lines.*

PREPARATION

This is the day that the Lord has made.
We will rejoice and be glad in it.

We meet to celebrate the coming of Christ into the world.

The Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us
and we beheld his glory.

A hymn may be sung

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;
those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,
on them has light shined.

Isaiah 9.2

Let us come to the light of Christ,
confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

A short period of silence for reflection

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

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

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

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LITURGY OF THE WORD

The Gospel printed on the Homilies Project sheet and at least one of the other readings referenced there is read.*

At the end the reader may say:

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

The Song of the Messiah is said between readings:

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; ♦
those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, upon them the light has dawned.

**You have increased their joy and given them great gladness; ♦
they rejoiced before you as with joy at the harvest.**

For you have shattered the yoke that burdened them; ♦
the collar that lay heavy on their shoulders.

**For to us a child is born and to us a son is given, ♦
and the government will be upon his shoulder.**

And his name will be called: Wonderful Counsellor;
the Mighty God; ♦
the Everlasting Father; the Prince of Peace.

**Of the increase of his government and of peace ♦
there will be no end,**

Upon the throne of David and over his kingdom, ♦
to establish and uphold it with justice and righteousness.

**From this time forth and for evermore; ♦
the zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.**

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning is now and shall be for ever. Amen

HOMILY (*see the Homilies Project sheet**)

Let us affirm our faith in Jesus Christ the Son of

God:

**Though he was divine,
he did not cling to equality with God,
but made himself nothing.
Taking the form of a slave,
he was born in human likeness.**

**He humbled himself
and was obedient to death,
even the death of the cross.
Therefore, God has raised him on high,
and given him the name above every name:
that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bow,
and every voice proclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

cf Philippians 2.6-11

PRAYERS

The intercessions below may be used with or without appropriate insertions.

Unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given.
Let us bring before God the needs of the world.

Wonderful counsellor,
give your wisdom to the rulers of the nations...
Lord, in your mercy **hear our prayer.**

Mighty God, make the whole world know
that the government is on your shoulders...
Lord, in your mercy **hear our prayer.**

Everlasting Father,
establish your reign of justice and righteousness
for ever...
Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

Prince of peace,
bring in the endless kingdom of your peace...
Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

Silence is kept.

Almighty Lord, hear our prayer
and fulfil your purposes in us,
as you accomplished your will
in our Lord Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

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