

# **Festal Eucharist on Christmas Day**

25th December

10am

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**Truro  
Cathedral**  
*sacred space, common ground*

Welcome to Truro Cathedral and to this Eucharist. In it we recall the last meal of Christ with his friends in the Upper Room, and we recognise him in the breaking of the bread. Although our faith is grounded in history, this service is not a nostalgic looking back to the events of the past: it is a celebration that in the Eucharist Christ is truly present to us now, and a promise of the glory that will be ours when the whole universe is made complete in him.

The season of Christmas is a time of great joy, as we hear again the message of the angels, and go in heart and mind to Bethlehem to see the babe lying in a manger.

Holy Communion will be distributed at various places within the Cathedral. Please follow the directions of the Lay Assistants. All who usually receive Holy Communion in their own church are warmly invited to do so today. If you would prefer to receive a blessing, please bow your head as a signal to the minister. Please note that the wine contains alcohol, and that Intinction (the dipping of the bread into the chalice) is not permitted. Gluten free wafers are available.

All of us at the Cathedral wish you a joyful and peaceful Christmas and pray that you will know the presence of the incarnate Christ in your hearts and lives.

### Offerings

The collection supports the cathedral to offer sacred space and common ground to all in Cornwall, and to cherish our common life.

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If you would like to speak to someone about the Christian faith, please email [info@trurocathedral.org.uk](mailto:info@trurocathedral.org.uk) or phone the cathedral office 01872 276782 and leave a message. A member of the clergy team will then be in touch with you.

*The congregation are invited to join in the parts of the service written in **bold type**. Directions on posture are given for guidance and the congregation are free to sit or kneel when required.*

## **Introit Carol**

Sung by the choir

## **Processional Carol**

*Please stand*

**O come, all ye faithful,  
Joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;  
Come and behold him  
Born, the King of angels:  
*O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
Christ the Lord!***

**God of God,  
Light of Light,  
Lo, he abhors not the Virgin's womb;  
Very God, Begotten, not created:  
*O come, let us adore him...***

**Sing, choirs of angels,  
Sing in exultation,  
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above:  
'Glory to God  
In the highest:'  
*O come, let us adore him...***

**Yea, Lord, we greet thee,  
Born this happy morning,  
Jesu to thee be glory giv'n;  
Word of the Father,  
Now in flesh appearing:  
*O come, let us adore him...***

*Music: J.F. Wade (1711–86), arr. David Willcocks (1919–2015)*

*Words: Latin 18<sup>th</sup> century, trans. F. Oakley (1802–1880)*

## The Greeting

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

## Prayers of Penitence

*The deacon invites all to confess their sins*

Christ the Light of the World was born to dispel the darkness of our hearts. In his light, let us examine ourselves and confess our sins.

**Almighty God, our heavenly Father, we have sinned against you  
and against our neighbour in thought and word and deed,  
through negligence, through weakness,  
through our own deliberate fault.**

**We are truly sorry and repent of all our sins.**

**For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,  
who died for us, forgive us all that is past  
and grant that we may serve you in newness of life  
to the glory of your name.**

**Amen.**

*The president gives the absolution*

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.**

*Please remain standing as the choir sings the Gloria*

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,  
Domine Deus, Rex caelestis,  
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.  
Quoniam tu solus Sanctus,  
tu solus Dominus,  
tu solus Altissimus,  
Jesu Christe,  
cum Sancto Spiritu:  
in gloria Dei Patris. Amen.

Glory be to God on high,  
and on earth peace, good will  
toward 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 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 the most high in the  
glory of God the Father. Amen.

## **The Collect**

*The President says the Collect, the special prayer of Christmas Day.*

Almighty God, you have given us your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him and as at this time to be born of a pure virgin: grant that we, who have been born again and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; 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. **Amen.**

## The Liturgy of the Word

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### First Reading

Isaiah 9: 2-7

*Please sit*

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;  
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined.  
You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice  
before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing  
plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders,  
the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.  
For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in  
blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. For a child has been born for  
us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is  
named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of  
Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless  
peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and  
uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onwards and  
for evermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this .

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### Second Reading

Titus 2: 11 – 14

A reading from the letter to Titus.

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to  
renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live  
lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the  
blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and  
Saviour, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might  
redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own  
who are zealous for good deeds.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Congregational Carol

*Please stand*

**Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.  
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,  
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.**

**The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,  
but little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.  
I love thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,  
and stay by my bedside till morning is nigh.**

**Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay  
close by me for ever, and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,  
and fit us for heaven, to live with thee there.**

*Cradle Song NEH 22*

*Words and music: William James Kirkpatrick (1838–1921)*

## Gospel Reading

Luke 2: 1 - 14

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St Luke.  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock

by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.' And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!' When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.' So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **Sermon**

*The President says an opening invocation or prayer, and then all sit.*

## **The Creed**

*Please stand*

**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**

*Please sit or kneel*

*These responses may be used*

Holy God,

**Hear our prayer.**

*The prayers finish with these words*

Merciful Father,

**Accept these prayers for the sake of your Son  
our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

## **The Liturgy of the Sacrament**

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### **The Peace**

*Please stand*

Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given,  
and his name shall be called the Prince of Peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**And also with you.**

*Deacon:* Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

## Congregational Carol

1. While shepherds watched  
their flocks by night,  
all seated on the ground,  
the angel of the Lord came down  
and glory shone around.

3. 'To you in David's town this day  
is born of David's line  
a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord;  
and this shall be the sign:

4. The heavenly babe  
you there shall find  
to human view displayed,  
all meanly wrapped  
in swathing bands,  
and in a manger laid.'

2. 'Fear not,' said he (for mighty dread  
had seized their troubled mind);  
'glad tidings of great joy I bring  
to you and all mankind.

5. Thus spake the seraph; and forthwith  
appeared a shining throng  
of angels praising God, who thus  
addressed their joyful song:

6. 'All glory be to God on high,  
and to the earth be peace;  
good will henceforth  
from heaven to men  
begin and never cease.'

*Music: Lyngham A&M 742ii or Winchester New NEH 42*

*Words: Nahum Tate (1652-1715)*

## The Prayer over the Gifts

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

## Eucharistic Prayer A

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 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:

*The choir sings*

Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus  
Dominus Deus Sabaoth.  
Pleni sunt coeli et terra  
gloria tua.  
Hosanna in excelsis.

Holy, Holy, Holy,  
Lord God of hosts,  
Heaven and earth are full of  
thy glory: Glory be to thee,  
O Lord most High.

Benedictus qui venit  
in nomine Domini.  
Hosanna in excelsis.

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 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.

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.

*Deacon:* Great is the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died:**

**Christ is risen:**

**Christ will come again.**

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:

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

*Please remain standing*

## **The Lord's Prayer**

Rejoicing in the presence of God here among us,  
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 the bread of life,  
and that life is the light of the world.

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

## Giving of Communion

Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.  
Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

**Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,  
but only say the word, and I shall be healed.**

*The choir sings the Agnus Dei*

Agnus Dei, qui tollis  
peccata mundi:  
miserere nobis.  
Agnus Dei, qui tollis  
peccata mundi:  
dona nobis pacem.

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.

*During the Distribution the choir sings carols:*

## After Communion

*Please stand as the President leads the Post-Communion Prayer*

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.**

**Almighty God,  
we thank you for feeding us with the body and blood  
of your Son Jesus Christ.  
Through him we offer you our souls  
and bodies to be a living sacrifice.  
Send us out in the power of your Spirit  
to live and work to your praise and glory.  
Amen.**

## Final Carol

*Please stand*

**1.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 sing  
glory to the new-born King.**

**2.Christ, by highest heaven adored,  
Christ, the everlasting Lord,  
late in time behold him come,  
offspring of a Virgin's womb:  
veiled in flesh the Godhead see,  
hail th'incarnate Deity!  
Pleased as man with man to dwell,  
Jesus, our Emmanuel.  
Hark! the herald angels sing  
glory to the new-born King.**

*Music:: Felix Mendelssohn (1809–47),  
arr. David Willcocks (1919–2015)*

**3.Hail the heaven-born  
Prince of Peace!  
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings,  
risen 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 sing  
glory to the new-born King.**

*Text: Charles Wesley (1707–88) and others*

## The Blessing

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

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

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

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

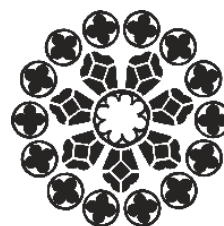
And the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with  
you always. **Amen.**

*Deacon*      Go in the peace of Christ.  
**Thanks be to God.**

*Please remain standing as the choir and clergy depart.*

The Bishop, Dean, Chapter, and all at Truro Cathedral wish you a very  
blessed Christmas and peaceful New Year.

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**Truro  
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*sacred space, common ground*