



Grace Lutheran Church Redcliffe
Service Order For 25th December,
Christmas Day



WELCOME TO WORSHIP

LORD God, loving Father:
be present, we pray, at our Christmas celebrations
which honour the birth of Your Son.
Make our greetings sincere and our giving real.
Speak to us the good news of salvation,
and bring us into the wonder of Your presence.
Fill us with Your Spirit
that we carry Your light into the world;
in Jesus' name. Amen.

OPENING SENTENCE: 1 John 1:3

*We declare to you what we have seen and heard
so that you also may have fellowship with us;*
**and truly our fellowship is with the Father
and with His Son Jesus Christ.**

INVOCATION

In the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

LHS 34: O Come, all ye faithful (click [here](#))

**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!***

**Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation, sing, all you citizens of heaven above;
'Glory to God in the highest': *O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!***

**Yea, Lord, we greet You, born this happy morning,
Jesus, to You be glory given; Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing:
*O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!***

INTROIT: From Psalm 98

¹ *O sing to the LORD a new song,
for He has done marvellous things.
His right hand and His holy arm
have gained Him victory.*

**All the ends of the earth have seen
the victory of our God.**

² *The LORD has made known His victory;
He has revealed his vindication in the sight of the nations.*

³ *He has remembered His steadfast love and faithfulness
to the house of Israel.*

**All the ends of the earth have seen
the victory of our God.**

⁴ *Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth;
break forth into joyous song and sing praises.*

^{9b} *He will judge the world with righteousness,
and the peoples with equity.*

**All the ends of the earth have seen
the victory of our God.**

**Glory to the Father
and the Son
and the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now,
and will be forever.
Amen.**

KYRIE

*LORD Jesus,
You were born for our salvation:
LORD, have mercy.*

*LORD Jesus,
You came as Saviour to bring wholeness and peace:
Christ, have mercy.*

*LORD JESUS,
You come to bring light into the darkness of our lives:
LORD, have mercy.*

SONG OF ADORATION: Glory to God

Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace, among those with whom He is pleased.
We praise You, we bless You, we worship You, we glorify You,
we give thanks to You for Your 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,
You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
You take away the sin of the world; receive our prayer.

You are seated at the right hand of God the Father; have mercy on us.
For You alone are holy, You alone are Lord, You alone, O Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
are most high in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

Let us pray that we shine as lights in the world.
[silence]

*Thank you, loving Father,
for filling the world with the new light
of your Word who became a human being.
Keep the flame of faith and love
burning in our hearts
and shining in our lives.
For he lives and reigns
with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.
Amen.*

BIBLE READING

FIRST READING: Isaiah 52:7-10 The salvation of our God

⁷How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion, "Your God reigns!" ⁸Listen! Your watchmen lift up their voices; together they shout for joy. When the LORD returns to Zion, they will see it with their own eyes. ⁹Burst into songs of joy together, you ruins of Jerusalem, for the LORD has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem. ¹⁰The LORD will lay bare his holy arm in the sight of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth will see the salvation of our God.

*After the reading
This is the Word of the LORD.
Thanks be to God.*

SECOND READING: Hebrews 1:1-4 (5-12) God speaks to us through his Son (NIV)

¹ In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, ² but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe. ³ The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven. ⁴ So he became as much superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is superior to theirs. ⁵ For to which of the angels did God ever say, "You are my Son; today I have become your Father"^[a]? Or again, "I will be his Father, and he will be my Son"^[b]? ⁶ And again, when God brings his firstborn into the world, he says, "Let all God's angels worship him."^[c] ⁷ In speaking of the angels he says, "He makes his angels spirits, and his servants flames of fire."^[d] ⁸ But about the Son he says, "Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ever; a scepter of justice will be the scepter of your kingdom. ⁹ You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has set you above your companions by anointing you with the oil of joy."^[e] ¹⁰ He also says, "In the beginning, Lord, you laid the foundations of the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands. ¹¹ They will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like a garment. ¹² You will roll them up like a robe; like a garment they will be changed. But you remain the same, and your years will never end."^[f]

After the reading

This is the Word of the LORD.

Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA VERSE

Alleluia!

Alleluia! Alleluia!

*In the past God spoke through the prophets,
but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son. Alleluia.*

Alleluia!

GOSPEL: John 1:1-14 The eternal Word has become a human being

Before the reading

Glory be to You, O LORD.

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was with God in the beginning. ³ Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. ⁴ In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome^[a] it. ⁶ There was a man sent from God whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. ⁸ He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. ⁹ The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. ¹⁰ He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. ¹¹ He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. ¹² Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— ¹³ children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God. ¹⁴ The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

*After the reading
This is the gospel of the LORD.*

Praise be to You, O Christ.

Thank you, Lord Jesus,
for coming as the promised Messiah.
Lead us to repentance and faith.

Amen.

Joyful, joyful, we adore You (click [here](#))

**Joyful, joyful, we adore You, God of glory, Lord of love;
hearts unfold like flowers before You, opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness; drive the dark of doubt away;
Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day!**

**All Your works with joy surround You, earth and heaven reflect Your rays,
stars and angels sing around You, centre of unbroken praise;
field and forest, vale and mountain, flowery meadow, flashing sea,
chanting bird and flowing fountain praising You eternally!**

**Mortals, join the mighty chorus, which the morning stars began;
God's own love is reigning o'er us, joining people hand in hand.
Ever singing, march we onward, victors in the midst of strife;
joyful music leads us sunward in the triumph song of life.**

Henry J. van Dyke, 1907, *alt.*

SERMON

At this point you may wish to Listen to Sermon, or Read and Discuss the Sermon
The Sermon online may be different to the manuscript.
For LCA Worship Resources (click [here](#))

NICENE CREED

**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 of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human. 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.**

AT 128: I am the Light of the world (click [here](#))

***'I am the Light of the world! You people, come and follow Me!'
If you follow and love, you'll learn the mystery
of what you were meant to do and be.***

**When the song of the angels is stilled, when the star in the sky is gone,
when the kings and the shepherds have found their way home,
the work of Christmas has begun:**

**To find the lost and lonely one, to heal the broken soul with love,
to feed the hungry children with warmth and good food,
to feel the earth below, the sky above:**

***'I am the Light of the world! You people, come and follow Me!'
If you follow and love, you'll learn the mystery
of what you were meant to do and be.***

**To free the prisoner from all chains, to make the powerful care,
to rebuild the nations with strength of goodwill,
to see God's children everywhere:**

**To bring hope to every task you do, to dance at a baby's new birth,
to make music in an old person's heart, and sing to the colours of the earth:**

***'I am the Light of the world! You people, come and follow Me!'
If you follow and love, you'll learn the mystery
of what you were meant to do and be.***

Jim Strathdee

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

We rejoice with Mary and Joseph, the angels, and the shepherds, at the birth of our Lord Jesus. Let us now ask him to help us.

When the time was right, you came to earth as one of us. Help those who wait for you to recognise your coming.

Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer**

You have come to live among us, full of grace and truth. Live in our hearts, and show your grace to others through us.

Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer**

You have brought us pardon and peace with our heavenly Father. Help us to please him by living at peace with each other.

Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer**

Your birth brought blessing to Mary and Joseph. Bless our homes this Christmas, and make our families a blessing to others.

Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer**

You gave up your riches in heaven, and were born among the poor here on earth. Show those who are poor your love through us.

Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer**

You are the Prince of Peace, and Lord of all. Guide the nations of the world, and help them to work together for justice and peace.

Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer**

You took on our human weakness. Strengthen the weak, heal the sick, and comfort those who suffer.

Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer**

You have brought great joy to all people. Gladden those who are sad, lonely, and depressed.

Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer**

Your birth brings us light and life. Comfort the dying with the light of your presence, and lead them through death to eternal life.

Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer**

As we travel on the journey to our heavenly home, let your light shine on us, so that we may see your glory and, together with the angels and all your people, praise our heavenly Father, now and forever. **Amen.**

CONFESSION

*Let us draw near to God our Father with a true heart to confess our sins,
and ask Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to forgive us.*

Almighty God, merciful Father, I, a poor helpless sinner, confess to You all my sins, and repent of all the evil I have done. I have deeply displeased You and deserve Your punishment in time and in

eternity. But I am sorry for my sins, and I ask You, for the sake of the holy innocent sufferings and death of Your dear Son Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me. Amen.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy on us, and has given His only Son to die for us, and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in His name He has given the right to become children of God, and has given them His Holy Spirit. Whoever believes and is baptised will be saved. Grant this, Lord, to us all. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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 forever. Amen.**

THE BLESSING

Let us bless the LORD.
God be praised forevermore.
*The LORD has made His salvation known;
He has revealed His righteousness
in the sight of the nations.*
The LORD bless us and keep us.
The LORD make His face shine on us and be gracious to us.
The LORD look upon us with favour, and give us peace.
Amen!

GROWING FAITH AT HOME BLESSING

May God's favour rest on you.
May you grow wise and strong as His child.
May God's favour rest on you.
May you grow wise and strong as His child.

WORDS OF SENDING

Go in peace.
Live in the light of the love from our LORD.
In the name of Christ.
Amen.

Joy to the World (click [here](#))

**Joy to the world! The Lord is come; let earth receive its king;
let every heart prepare Him room, and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.**

**Joy to the earth! The Saviour reigns, let all their songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

**He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove
the glories of His righteousness, and wonders of His love,
and wonders of His love, and wonders, and wonders of His love,**

HYMNS AND SONGS

First reading: Isaiah 52:7-10

LHS

243 How beauteous are their feet
487 Wake, awake for night is flying

Second reading: Hebrews 1:1-4(5-12)

LHS

20 O Jesus Christ, all praise to Thee
21 Of the Father's love begotten
822 God has spoken by his prophets

AT

244 We have seen the Word of Life

Gospel: John 1:1-14

LHS

19 Come, Thou Saviour of our race
20 O Jesus Christ, all praise to Thee
21 Of the Father's love begotten G7
26 Praise God the Lord, ye sons of men
31 Arise, my soul, sing joyfully
33 Hark! the herald angels sing
34 O come, all ye faithful
632 Once in royal David's city
633 O little town of Bethlehem
783 Christ is the world's light
822 God has spoken by his prophets

AT

128 I am the Light of the world
132 Lift this Child to the sun
141 Born in the night
217 Shine, Jesus, shine
244 We have seen the Word of life
329 This kingdom
431 Goodness is stronger than evil