

ST MARK AND ALL SAINTS, READING

PARISH MASS

SUNDAY 25TH JANUARY 2026
THIRD OF EPIPHANY

THE GATHERING

All the words are in this service sheet. Please join in with the words printed in bold type.

At the start of the service a bell is rung and the procession enters as we stand to sing the opening hymn.

ENTRANCE HYMN

**At the name of Jesus
every knee shall bow,
every tongue confess him
King of Glory now:
'tis the Father's pleasure
we should call him Lord,
who from the beginning
was the mighty Word:**

**Humbled for a season,
to receive a name
from the lips of sinners
unto whom he came,
faithfully he bore it
spotless to the last,
brought it back victorious
when from death he passed.**

**Name him, Christians, name him,
with love strong as death,
but with awe and wonder,
and with bated breath;
he is God the Saviour,
he is Christ the Lord,
ever to be worshipped,
trusted and adored.**

**Surely, this Lord Jesus
shall return again,
with his Father's glory,
with his angel train;**

for all wreaths of empire
meet upon his brow,
and our hearts confess him
King of Glory now.

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.

The priest welcomes us and introduces the theme of the service.

PRAYER OF PENITENCE

The grace of God has dawned upon the world
through our Saviour Jesus Christ,
who sacrificed himself for us to purify a people as his own.
Let us confess our sins.

Lord Jesus, in your love you invite us to be your friends:
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, in your joy you choose us to go out and bear fruit:
Christ, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, in your power you send us to be your faithful witnesses:
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.

Knowing that we are forgiven for our sins we sing this song of praise to God.

Glory to God, Glory to God,

Glory to God in the highest.

**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 . . .**

The priest invites us to pray silently and then prays the collect:

Almighty God,
who caused the light of the gospel
to shine throughout the world
through the preaching of your servant Saint Paul:
grant that we who celebrate his wonderful conversion
may follow him in bearing witness to your truth;
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

Please sit

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING

Acts 9:1-22

Meanwhile Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" He asked, "Who are you, Lord?" The reply came, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do." The men who were traveling with him stood speechless because they heard the voice but saw no one. Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were

open, he could see nothing so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. For three days he was without sight and neither ate nor drank.

Now there was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias." He answered, "Here I am, Lord." The Lord said to him, "Get up and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul. At this moment he is praying, and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight." But Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints in Jerusalem, and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who invoke your name." But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is an instrument whom I have chosen to bring my name before gentiles and kings and before the people of Israel; I myself will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name." So Ananias went and entered the house. He laid his hands on Saul and said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on your way here, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and his sight was restored. Then he got up and was baptized, and after taking some food, he regained his strength.

For several days he was with the disciples in Damascus, and immediately he began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, saying, "He is the Son of God." All who heard him were amazed and said, "Is not this the man who made havoc in Jerusalem among those who invoked this name? And has he not come here for the purpose of bringing them bound before the chief priests?" became increasingly more powerful and confounded the Jews who lived in Damascus by proving that Jesus the Messiah. This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL HYMN PSALM 67

Illsley

Our gradual Hymn is a congregational setting of today's psalm.

As we stand and sing the Gospel Book is carried into the midst of the congregation, reflecting God's coming among us in Christ. Please turn to face it.

**Be gracious, God, and bless us here;
in glory may you now appear.
Be praised in joy upon the earth,
your great salvation brought to birth.**

**May peoples everywhere acclaim,
and come to praise your holy name.
The races glory and rejoice
across the earth, with single voice.**

**For you will judge the world with right,
exhorting nations in your sight.
May peoples everywhere acclaim,
and come to praise your holy name.**

**We now enjoy the fruits of earth,
the gifts that you have brought to birth.**

**In faith may all the world revere,
and God forever bless us here.**

THE GOSPEL
Matthew 19:27-end

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia

Many who are first will be last, and the last will be first.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia

The Lord be with you

And also with you

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

Then Peter said in reply, "Look, we have left everything and followed you. What then will we have?" said to them, "Truly I tell you, at the renewal of all things, when the Son of Man is seated on the throne of his glory, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or fields, for my name's sake, will receive a hundredfold, and will inherit eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first. .

This is the Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sit

THE SERMON

A brief period of silence may follow for us to reflect on the address and the readings today, then the priest invites us to stand to declare our faith.

THE 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 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.

Sit or kneel to pray

During the prayers these or other responses may be used

Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

And at the end of the prayers we say

Merciful Father,
accept these prayers
for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

THE INTERCESSIONS

THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

Stand

THE PEACE

Let the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding,
guard our hearts and our minds in Christ Jesus..

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
and also with you.

We greet those around us in the peace of Christ, shaking hands and saying "Peace be with you"

OFFERTORY HYMN

As we sing a collection will be taken for

*the work of the church, Our church is a
charity which relies on your generous gift.
Please support our Mission and Ministry
and keep our beautiful buildings open
by placing your gift in the plate or scan
to donate.*

**Will you come and follow me
If I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know,
And never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown,
Will you let my name be known,
Will you let my life be grown
In you, and you in me?**

**Will you leave yourself behind
If I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind,
And never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare
Should your life attract or scare,
Will you let me answer prayer
In you, and you in me?**

**Will you let the blinded see
If I but call your name?
Will you set the pris'ners free
And never be the same?
Will you kiss the leper clean
And do such as this unseen,
And admit to what I mean
In you, and you in me?**

**Will you love the 'you' you hide
If I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside,
And never be the same?
Will you use the faith you've found
To reshape the world around
Through my sight and touch and sound
In you, and you in me?**

**Lord, your summons echoes true
When you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you,
And never be the same.
In your company I'll go**

**Where your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow
In you, and you in me.**

When the altar is prepared and the offerings received the president leads the offertory prayers.

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation:
through your goodness we have this bread
to set before you,
which earth has given and human hands have made.
It will become for us the bread of life.
Blessed be God for ever.

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation:
through your goodness we have this wine to set before you,
fruit of the vine and work of human hands.
It will become for us the cup of salvation.
Blessed be God for ever.

Generous God, as we gather around your table called and welcomed by Christ we present this
money, symbol of all the gifts you give to us.

**use it, use us, in the service of your world
to the glory of your name. Amen.**

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

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.

It is indeed right and good,
our duty and our joy,
at all times and in all places
to give you thanks and praise,
holy Father, almighty and eternal God,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

For on this day he called to his service
the blasphemer and persecutor of your Church.

Saul, who had resisted your grace,
became Paul, the apostle to the Gentiles.
Because he was faithful and true in his ministry,
you made him an example of patient service,

to instruct in the way of eternal life
all those who heard his preaching and believed your word.
Now, therefore, he who became your chosen instrument
for the salvation of the nations
has made us also eager to proclaim your mercy,
and sing in union with all the powers of heaven
the joyful hymn of your 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.**

Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness;
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit,
and according to your holy will,
these gifts of bread and wine
may be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ; 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.

Great is the mystery of faith
**Christ has died:
Christ is risen:
Christ will come again.**

And so, Father,
calling to mind his death on the cross,
his perfect sacrifice made once for the sins of the whole world;
rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension,
and looking for his coming in glory,
we celebrate this memorial of our redemption.

As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving,
we bring before you this bread and this cup
and we thank you for counting us worthy
to stand in your presence and serve you.

Send the Holy Spirit on your people
and gather into one in your kingdom
all who share this one bread and one cup,
so that we, in the company of [N and] all the saints,
may praise and glorify you for ever,
through Jesus Christ our Lord;
by whom, and with whom, and in whom,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father,
for ever and ever.

Amen

We kneel or sit as silence is kept before the Lord's Prayer.

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.

The priest breaks the consecrated bread, saying

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.

We Sing

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 your peace.

The priest invites the people to receive Communion, and says

Christ is the true bread which has come down from heaven.
Lord, give us this bread always

COMMUNION HYMN

Longing for light, we wait in darkness.
Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people,
light for the world to see.

*Christ be our light! Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.
Christ be our light!
Shine in your church gathered today.*

Longing for peace, our world is troubled.
Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has pow'r to save us.
Make us your living voice

Longing for food, many are hungry.
Longing for water, many still thirst.
Make us your bread, broken for others,
shared until all are fed.

*Christ be our light! Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.
Christ be our light!
Shine in your church gathered today.*

Longing for shelter, many are homeless.
Longing for warmth, many are cold.
Make us your building, sheltering others,
walls made of living stones..

Many the gifts, many the people,
many the hearts that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants to one another,
making your kingdom come...

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Once communion has been shared we stand when the priest invites us to pray.

Almighty Father,

whose Son our Saviour Jesus Christ is the light of the world:
may your people,
illumined by your word and sacraments,
shine with the radiance of his glory,
that he may be known, worshipped, and obeyed
to the ends of the earth;
for he is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

Amen.

Father of all,
we give you thanks and praise,
that when we were still far off
you met us in your Son and brought us home.
Dying and living, he declared your love,
gave us grace, and opened the gate of glory.
May we who share Christ's body live his risen life;
we who drink his cup bring life to others;
we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world.
Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us,
so we and all your children shall be free,
and the whole earth live to praise your name;
through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

NOTICES

*We sit to listen to any notices about parish events.
Banns of Marriage may be announced.
If your Birthday falls this week please tell us we would love to celebrate with you.*

THE DISMISSAL

Stand

THE BLESSING

The Lord be with you
And also with you

May Christ who called Paul to his service,
and to preach the good news to the world,
strengthen you to witness to his grace and love.
And the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always..
Amen

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

CLOSING HYMN

Go forth and tell! O church of God, awake!
God's saving news to all the nations take;
proclaim Christ Jesus, saviour, Lord, and king,
that all the world his glorious praise may sing.

Go forth and tell! God's love embraces all;
he will in grace respond to all who call:
how shall they call if they have never heard
the gracious invitation of his word?

Go forth and tell! The doors are open wide:
share God's good gifts-let no one be denied;
live out your life as Christ your Lord shall choose,
your ransomed powers for his sole glory use.

Go forth and tell! O church of God, arise!
go in the strength which Christ your Lord supplies;
go till all nations his great name adore
and serve him, Lord and king for evermore.