

The Parish Church of St Faith, Great Crosby

The **Eucharist**
on the Feast
of the
Naming and
Circumcision of
Christ



New Year's Day – 1st January – is the Feast of the Naming and Circumcision of Christ, the day on which we commemorate Jesus, at eight days old, being acknowledged as one of God's covenant people. This day, at the start of the New Year, is also an appropriate occasion to renew our own covenant as God's Holy People, and it is the original context for the searching Covenant Renewal service which derives from the Methodist tradition.

The Gathering

Hymn

+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.

There may be words of welcome, followed by a period of silent reflection.

Prayer of Preparation:

All say:

Almighty God, **to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden:**

**cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Prayers of Penitence

Hear the words of the angel to Joseph:

‘You shall call his name Jesus, for he will save people from their sins.’ Therefore let us seek the forgiveness of God through Jesus Christ, the Saviour of the world.

A period of silent reflection may follow.

Jesus, name above all names,
forgive our lack of reverence and awe in your presence;
Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Jesus, name of our salvation,
Forgive us our attempts to live in our own strength;
Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Jesus name of life and healing,
forgive us our sins and offences;
Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Absolution

The president pronounces God's love and forgiveness:

May the God of love bring you back to himself,

+forgive you your sins,

and assure you of his eternal love

in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The Gloria

**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.**

The Collect:

Almighty God,
whose blessed Son was circumcised
in obedience to the law for our sake
and given the Name that is above every name:
give us grace faithfully to bear his Name,
to worship him in the freedom of the Spirit,
and to proclaim him as Saviour of the world;
who is alive and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God now and forever. **Amen.**

The Liturgy of the Word

The Old Testament Reading: Numbers 6:22-end

The Lord spoke to Moses, saying: Speak to Aaron and his sons, saying, Thus you shall bless the Israelites:

You shall say to them,
The Lord bless you and keep you;
the Lord make his face to shine upon you,
and be gracious to you;
the Lord lift up his countenance upon you,
and give you peace.
So they shall put my name on the Israelites,
and I will bless them.

At the end of the Reading:
This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

The Psalm: Psalm 8

Refrain: Above the heavens your majesty be praised.

O Lord our governor, •
how glorious is your name in all the world!

Your majesty above the heavens is praised •
out of the mouths of babes at the breast.

You have founded a stronghold against your foes, •
that you might still the enemy and the avenger.

Refrain: Above the heavens your majesty be praised.

When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, •
the moon and the stars that you have ordained,

What are mortals that you should be mindful of them; •
mere human beings that you should seek them out?

Refrain: Above the heavens your majesty be praised.

You have made them little lower than the angels •
and crown them with glory and honour.

You have given them dominion
over the works of your hands •
and put all things under their feet,

Refrain: Above the heavens your majesty be praised.

All sheep and oxen, •
even the wild beasts of the field,

The birds of the air, the fish of the sea •
and whatsoever moves in the paths of the sea.

O Lord our governor, •
how glorious is your name in all the world!

Refrain: Above the heavens your majesty be praised.

The Epistle: Galatians 4:4-7

When the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, 'Abba! Father!' So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

At the end of the Reading:
This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

The Gospel

Alleluia, alleluia,

God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, so that we might receive adoption as his children

Alleluia, alleluia.

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

(Luke 2.15-21)

Glory to you, O Lord.

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. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

At the end of the Gospel:

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

The Renewal of the Covenant at the Start of the New Year

Beloved in Christ,
let us again claim for ourselves
this covenant which God has made with his people,
and take upon us the yoke of Christ.
This means that we are content
that he appoint us our place and work,
and that he himself be our reward.

Christ has many services to be done:
some are easy, others are difficult;
some bring honour, others bring reproach;
some are suitable to our natural inclinations
and material interests,
others are contrary to both;
in some we may please Christ and please ourselves;
in others we cannot please Christ
except by denying ourselves.
Yet the power to do all these things is given to us in Christ,
who strengthens us.

Therefore let us make this covenant of God our own.
Let us give ourselves to him,
trusting in his promises and relying on his grace

Eternal God,
In your faithful and enduring love
you call us to share in your gracious covenant in Jesus Christ.
In obedience we hear and accept your commands;
In love we seek to do your perfect will;
with joy we offer ourselves anew to you.
We are no longer our own but yours.

**I am no longer my own but yours.
Your will, not mine, be done in all things,
wherever you may place me,
in all that I do and in all that I may endure;
when there is work for me,
and when there is none;
when I am troubled and when I am at peace.
Your will be done
when I am valued and when I am disregarded;
when I find fulfillment and when it is lacking;
when I have all things and when I have nothing.
I willingly offer all that I have and am
to serve you, as and where you choose.
Glorious and blessed God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
you are mine and I am yours.
May it be so for ever.
Let this covenant now made on earth
be fulfilled in heaven. Amen.**

As we have entered this covenant not for ourselves alone,
but as God's servants and witnesses,
let us pray for the Church and for the world.

Loving God, hear us as we pray for your holy catholic
Church:
make us all one, that the world may believe.

Inspire and lead all who govern and hold authority in the
nations of the world:
establish justice and peace among all people.

Have compassion on all who suffer from any sickness,
grief or trouble:

deliver them from their distress.

We praise you for all your saints who have entered
your eternal glory:

bring us all to share in your heavenly kingdom.

Silence is kept.

Lord our God,
you have helped us by your grace
to make these prayers,
and you have promised through Christ our Lord
that when two or three agree in his name
you will grant what they ask.

Answer now your servants' prayers
according to their needs;
in this world grant that we may truly know you,
and in the world to come
graciously give us eternal life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

The Peace

All stand

Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth, peace
among those he favours.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Offertory hymn

Preparation of the Table

Jesus, true joy of loving hearts, we turn unfilled to you again.
Come and be known to us in the breaking of bread.

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.

Father, we give you thanks and praise

through your beloved Son Jesus Christ, your living Word,
through whom you have created all things;

who was sent by you in your great goodness
to be our Saviour.

By the power of the Holy Spirit he took flesh;

as your Son, born of the blessed Virgin, he lived on earth
and went about among us;

he opened wide his arms for us on the cross;
he put an end to death by dying for us;
and revealed the resurrection by rising to new life;
so he fulfilled your will and won for you a holy people.

And now we give you thanks
because you have highly exalted him
and given him the name which is above all other names,
that at the name of Jesus, every knee shall bow.
Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the
company of heaven, we proclaim your great and glorious
name, for ever praising you and saying [singing]:

**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 the Blessed Virgin Mary,

St Faith, St Joseph, the shepherds,
the angels 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.

The Lord's Prayer

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.

Agnus Dei

**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.**

OR

Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us;

Jesus, Bearer of our Sins, have mercy on us;

**Jesus, Redeemer of the World:
Grant us peace.**

Invitation to Communion

God's holy gifts for God's holy people.

**Jesus Christ is holy,
Jesus Christ is Lord,
To the glory of God the Father.**

At the distribution of communion, the minister says to each communicant:

The Body of Christ

The Blood of Christ *and each responds: **Amen.***

After communion, silence is kept, and on Sundays the Angelus is rung.

Prayer After Communion

Eternal God,
whose incarnate Son was given the Name of Saviour:
grant that we who have shared
in this sacrament of our salvation
may live out our years
in the power of the Name above all other names,
Jesus Christ our 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.**

The Dismissal

Hymn

Blessing:

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

The love of the Lord Jesus draw you to himself, the power of the Lord Jesus strengthen you in his service, and the joy of the Lord Jesus fill your hearts;

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 the peace of Christ, Alleluia, Alleluia

Thanks be to God, Alleluia, Alleluia

Some material in this service is copyright:

Common Worship © 2000 The Archbishops' Council, *Common Worship Times and Seasons*
© 2006 The Archbishops' Council, and *Common Worship: Festivals* © 2008 The Archbishops' Council

