



St Peter's

Leckhampton
Parish Church

All Age Eucharist



St. Nicholas

Notices and any banns of marriage are read.

Processional hymn

**Hark, the glad sound! The Saviour comes,
the Saviour promised long;
let every heart prepare a throne,
and every voice a song.**

**He comes, the prisoners to release,
in Satan's bondage held;
the gates of brass before him burst,
the iron fetters yield.**

**He comes the broken heart to bind,
the bleeding soul to cure,
and with the treasures of his grace
to enrich the humble poor.**

**Our glad hosannas, Prince of peace,
thy welcome shall proclaim,
and Heaven's eternal arches ring
with thy beloved Name.**

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

Welcome

The priest gives some words of welcome.

The Advent Wreath

Jesus said, 'Keep awake,
for you do not know on what day your
Lord is coming.'

Amen. Come soon, Lord Jesus!

The second candle is lit and this response is used:

Jesus is the light of the world.
A light no darkness can ever put out.

The choir sing:

Advent candles tell their story
as we watch and pray,
longing for the Day of Glory,
'Come, Lord, soon,' we say.
Pain and sorrow, tears and sadness,
changed for gladness
on that Day.

Introduction

We meet here today to give thanks to God for the wonderful gift of his Son, Jesus Christ. As we give thanks for the gift of Jesus, we also think today about the life of one of Jesus' followers, a saint, called Nicholas, who was a bishop at Myra, in Turkey, in whose memory we support those in need at Christmas.

There is an ancient tradition on the feast of St. Nicholas of dressing a child as a bishop as a sign that in God's kingdom the powerful are humbled and the humble are raised up. Today we will dress *Eleanor* as Bishop Nicholas and she will assist during today's worship.

The Bishop is dressed.

We Say Sorry

Jesus said, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand'. Let us turn away from sin and turn to Christ, confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

Silence is kept.

For turning away from you, and ignoring your will for our lives.

Lord, have mercy

Lord, have mercy

For behaving just how we wish, and not thinking of you.

Christ, have mercy

Christ, have mercy

For failing you by what we do, think or say.

Lord, have mercy

Lord, have mercy

We Hear God's Forgiveness

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.

The Collect

Heavenly Father, shepherd of your people, we thank you for your servant Nicholas, who was faithful in the care and nurture of your flock; and we pray that, following his example and the teaching of his holy life, we may by your grace grow into the full stature of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Isaiah 40.1-11

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins.

A voice cries out:

'In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.'

A voice says, 'Cry out!' And I said, 'What shall I cry?'

All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand for ever.

Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, 'Here is your God!'

See, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

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

**People, look east. The time is near
Of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able,
Trim the hearth and set the table.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the guest, is on the way.**

**Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare,
One more seed is planted there:
Give up your strength the seed to nourish,
That in course the flower may flourish.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the rose, is on the way.**

**Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim
One more light the bowl shall brim,
Shining beyond the frosty weather,
Bright as sun and moon together.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the star, is on the way.**

**Angels, announce with shouts of mirth
Christ who brings new life to earth.
Set every peak and valley humming
With the word, the Lord is coming.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the Lord, is on the way.**

Gospel Reading

Please stand.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. Mark:



(organ) *f*
Glo - ry to you O Lord.

Mark 10.13-16

People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; but the disciples spoke sternly to them.

When Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, 'Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.'

And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.

Then, at the end:

This is the Gospel of the Lord



(organ) *ff*
Praise - to you O Christ.

Sermon

Please sit.

We Declare our Faith

The Bishop calls us to affirm our faith:

Let us affirm our faith together:

Do you believe and trust in God the Father,
source of all being and life,
the one for whom we exist?

I believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Son,
who took our human nature,
died for us and rose again?

I believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit,
who gives life to the people of God
and makes Christ known in the world?

I believe and trust in him.

This is the faith of the Church.

This is our faith.

**We believe and trust in one God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**

Please sit or kneel.

We Pray for Others

This or another response is used:

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer

Then, at the end:

Merciful Father

**Accept these prayers, for the sake of thy only Son,
our Saviour, Jesus Christ.**

Amen.

The Peace

Please stand.

God calls us to bring our gifts to the needs of world and to live in love and peace with all.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

The Bishop invites us to exchange a sign of peace:

Let us offer one another a sign of Christ's peace.

We exchange a sign of peace with one another.

Offertory Hymn

During which the altar is prepared and the bread and wine placed upon it.

**Each year we celebrate with joy the coming
Of that great Saint of old, we love so dear.
His legends are the stories we all cherish,
They call to mind that Christmas now is near**

***O great St. Nicholas, we hail and greet you,
We thank you for the good news that you bring.
O lead us on to Bethlehem, the Manger,
Where we can pray and joyous songs forever sing.***

**Your love of children, marks your way of caring.
The students three, new life you bring to be.
The sailors, soldiers and the ones in prison,
Your power and prayer, the miracles we see.**

O great St. Nicholas...

**Dear Saint, your name brings hope and consolation
To people poor and those who suffer wrong.
The celebrations and the joy and splendour
Become the theme and message of our song.**

O great St. Nicholas...

**We now receive the gifts you freely give us,
As tokens of your generosity,
That we must imitate and share the goodness
We at this season in each other see.**

O great St. Nicholas...

(Tune: Londonderry Air)

We Give Thanks

We give thanks for all of God's gifts.

Yours, Lord, is the greatness, the power,
the glory, the splendour, and the majesty;
for everything in heaven and on earth is yours.

**All things come from you,
and of your own do we give you.**

The crowds came out to see your Son,
yet at the end they turned on him.
On the night he was betrayed
he came to table with his friends
to celebrate the freedom of your people

Bishop: This is his story.

All: This is our song: Hosanna in the highest.

Jesus blessed you, Father, for the food;
he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and said:
This is my body, given for you all.
Jesus then gave thanks for the wine;
he took the cup, gave it and said:
This is my blood, shed for you all
for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this in remembrance of me.

Bishop: This is our story.

All: This is our song: Hosanna in the highest.

Therefore, Father, with this bread and this cup
we celebrate the cross
on which he died to set us free.
Defying death he rose again
and is alive with you to plead for us and all the world.

Bishop: This is our story.

All: This is our song: Hosanna in the highest.

Send your Spirit on us now
that by these gifts we may feed on Christ
with opened eyes and hearts on fire.
May we and all who share this food
offer ourselves to live for you
and be welcomed at your feast in heaven
where all creation worships you,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Please sit or kneel.

The Lord's Prayer

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.**

The Bread is Broken

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.**

Agnus Dei

We hear the song of the angels proclaiming Jesus as the Lamb of God.

Wor - thy, Worthy, Wor - thy is the Lord, Wor - thy is the Lord God Al - migh - ty.
Wor - thy, Worthy, Wor - thy is the Lord, Wor - thy is the Lord God Al - migh - ty. Who
was and is and is to come, Wor - thy, Wor - thy, Wor - thy is the Lord!

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.**

The Communion

The priest will receive the wine on behalf of all present.

All are invited to come forward to receive Holy Communion in one kind, the bread.

If you would rather receive a blessing, please keep your hands down and your head bowed.

During the communion, the choir will sing a motet.

Post Communion Prayer

God, shepherd of your people, whose servant Nicholas revealed the loving service of Christ in his ministry as a pastor of your people:

By this Eucharist in which we share awaken within us the love of Christ and keep us faithful to our Christian calling; through him who laid down his life for us, but is alive and reigns with you, now and forever.

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 Hymn

During which the Bishop rings the bells!

**Long ago, prophets knew
Christ would come, born a Jew,
come to make all things new;
bear his people's burden,
freely love and pardon.**

***Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring!
Sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing!
When he comes, when he comes,
who will make him welcome?***

**God in time, God in man,
this is God's timeless plan:
He will come, as a man,
born himself of woman,
God divinely human:**

Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring...

**Mary hail! Though afraid,
she believed, she obeyed.
In her womb, God is laid:
till the time expected,
nurtured and protected,**

Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring...

**Journey ends! Where afar
Beth'lem shines, like a star,
stable door stands ajar.
Unborn Son of Mary,
Saviour, do not tarry!**

***Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring!
Sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing!
Jesus comes! Jesus comes!
We will make him welcome!***

The Blessing

Our Lord, Jesus, says, 'I am coming soon'.
Amen, come Lord Jesus.

May the Lord, when he comes, find us watching and waiting.
Amen.

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

We Go Out into The World

The Bishop sends us out with these words:

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

Organ Voluntary

Please be seated as the clergy depart and the organ voluntary is played.