

St Mary, Whitegate and St Peter, Little Budworth Readings for Christmas Midnight Communion

THE COLLECT

Eternal God, who made this most holy night to shine with the brightness of your one true light:

bring us, who have known the revelation of that light on earth, to see the radiance of your heavenly glory;

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.

FIRST READING Isaiah 9.2–7

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.

GOSPEL John 1.1–14

Alleluia, alleluia.

The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory.

All **Alleluia.**

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

All **Glory to you, O Lord**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being.

What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him.

He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him.

He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him.

But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God,

who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh

or of the will of man

but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived
among us, and we have seen his glory,
the glory as of a father's only son,
full of grace and truth.

This is the Gospel of the Lord
All Praise to you, O Christ

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

God our Father, in the stillness of this
night you have made known to us again
the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ:
confirm our faith and fix our eyes on him
until the day dawns and Christ the
Morning Star rises in our hearts.
To him be glory both now and for ever.
Amen.

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to protect all extremely seriously. We have
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procedures and guidelines. You can find out more
about the national policies and procedures at
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