

**The Benefice of North Creake, South Creake with  
Waterden, Syderstone with Barmer, and Sculthorpe**



## **Benefice Sung Mass Common Worship (Order One)**

**The Fourth Sunday of Advent  
Sunday, 21st December 2025**

**Celebrant & Preacher: The Revd Clive Wylie, OC (Rector)**

## THE GATHERING

*Stand when the Sacristy bell is rung.*

*The Entrance Hymn is sung as the ministers come to the altar.*

Lo, he comes with clouds descending,  
once for our salvation slain;  
thousand thousand saints attending  
swell the triumph of his train.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Christ the Lord returns to reign.

Every eye shall now behold him  
robed in dreadful majesty;  
those who set at nought and sold him,  
pierced and nailed him to the tree,  
deeply wailing, deeply wailing, deeply wailing,  
shall the true Messiah see.

Those dear tokens of his passion  
still his dazzling body bears,  
cause of endless exultation  
to his ransomed worshippers:  
with what rapture, with what rapture, with what rapture  
gaze we on those glorious scars!

Yea, amen, let all adore thee,  
high on thine eternal throne;  
Saviour, take the power and glory,  
claim the kingdom for thine own.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Thou shalt reign, and thou alone.

*Charles Wesley (1707-1788), John Cennick (1718-1755)  
and Martin Madan (1728-1790)*

## The Greeting

In the name of the Father,  
✠ and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

Grace, mercy and peace  
from God our Father  
and the Lord Jesus Christ  
be with you  
**and also with you.**

*The priest introduces the Eucharist.*

*Kneel or sit for the **Prayers of Penitence***

Most merciful God,  
**Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
we confess that we have sinned  
in thought, word and deed.  
We have not loved you with our whole heart.  
We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.  
In your mercy  
forgive what we have been,  
help us to amend what we are,  
and direct what we shall be;  
that we may do justly, love mercy,  
and walk humbly with you, our God. Amen.**

*The **Kyrie eleison** is sung kneeling or sitting*

**Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.  
Lord, have mercy. Have mercy on us.  
Kyrie eleison, Kyrie eleison, Kyrie eleison, eleison.  
Christe eleison, Christe eleison, Christe eleison, eleison.  
Kyrie eleison, Kyrie eleison, Kyrie eleison, eleison.**

*The priest says*

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 priest then says Let us pray.*

*Remain kneeling or sitting for **The Collect***

God our redeemer,  
who prepared the Blessed Virgin Mary  
to be the mother of your Son:  
grant that, as she looked for his coming as our saviour,  
so we may be ready to greet him  
when he comes again as our judge;  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

*All sit and listen to the readings.*

### First Reading

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

The LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, 'Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.' But Ahaz said, 'I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test.' Then Isaiah said: 'Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.'

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Isaiah 7:10-16*

### Responsorial Psalm

**R Restore us, O God of hosts; show the light of your countenance and we shall be saved.**

Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim. In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin and Manasseh, stir up your strength and come to help us. **R**

O Lord God of hosts, how long will you be angered despite the prayers of your people? You have fed them with the bread of tears; you have given them bowls of tears to drink. You have made us the derision of our neighbours, and our enemies laugh us to scorn. **R**

Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand, the son of man you have made so strong for yourself. And so will we never turn away from you; give us life, that we may call upon your name. **R**

*Psalms 80:1-7, 16-18*

### Second Reading

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord. Through Christ we have received grace and

apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Romans 1:1-7*

### **Stand for the Gospel Acclamation**

**Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!** The virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel. **Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

### **Gospel**

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.**

The birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.' All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: 'Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,' which means, 'God is with us.' When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Matthew 1:18-25*

### **Remain standing for the Lighting of the Advent Candle**

Jesus said, 'Anyone who does what my Father in heaven wants is my brother or sister or mother.'

**I am the servant of the Lord.**

**Let it be to me according to his word.**

*The fourth candle is lit and this response is used*

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

*We sing:*

Mary's gift, beyond all telling,  
was to give Christ room.  
She gave God a human dwelling  
in a mother's womb.  
Who could guess the final story?  
- cross and glory;  
empty tomb!

*Sit for the Homily*

*A period of reflection follows the homily.*

See him lying on a bed of straw;  
a draughty stable with an open door.  
Mary cradling the babe she bore:  
the Prince of Glory is his name.

*O now carry me to Bethlehem  
to see the Lord appear to men:  
just as poor as was the stable then,  
the Prince of Glory when he came!*

Star of silver, sweep across the skies,  
show where Jesus in the manger lies;  
shepherds, swiftly from your stupor rise  
to see the Saviour of the world!

Angels, sing again the song you sang,  
bring God's glory to the heart of man;  
sing that Beth'lem's little baby can  
be salvation to the soul.

Mine are riches, from thy poverty;  
from thine innocence, eternity;  
mine, forgiveness by thy death for me,  
child of sorrow for my joy.

*Michael Perry (1942-1996)  
© 1965 Mrs B. Perry/Jubilate Hymns  
Used by permission*

*Stand for the Affirmation of Faith*

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 *(Bow at the mention of the Incarnation)*  
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.

*The priest then says Let us pray.*

*Kneel or sit for **The Prayer of the Faithful***

*Prayer is offered for the world and its people, for those who suffer and those in need, for the Church and its members.*

*After each clause one of the following responses may be used.*

Lord, hear us. **Lord, graciously hear us.**

*or*

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

*At the end of the petitions, the reader may introduce a period of silence in which personal petitions may be offered. After the silence, the priest concludes the prayers, by saying*

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

## THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

*Stand for The Peace*

*The priest says*

Lord Jesus Christ, who said to your apostles,  
'Peace I leave you, my peace I give you.'  
Look not on our sins, but on the faith of your Church,  
and graciously grant her peace and unity in accordance with your will,  
who lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen.**

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

Let us offer each other a sign of peace.

*All exchange a sign of peace.*

*During the **Offertory Hymn** the altar is prepared, and bread and wine are placed upon it.*

Ye who own the faith of Jesus  
sing the wonders that were done,  
when the love of God the Father  
o'er our sin the vict'ry won,  
when he made the Virgin Mary  
mother of his only Son.

*Hail Mary, hail Mary,  
hail Mary, full of grace.*

Blessèd were the chosen people  
out of whom the Lord did come,  
blessèd was the land of promise  
fashioned for his earthly home;  
but more blessèd far the mother,  
she who bare him in her womb.

Wherefore let all faithful people  
tell the honour of her name,  
let the Church in her foreshadowed  
part in her thanksgiving claim;  
what Christ's mother sang in gladness  
let Christ's people sing the same.

Let us weave our supplications,  
she with us and we with her,  
for the advancement of the faithful,  
for each faithful worshipper,  
for the doubting, for the sinful,  
for each heedless wanderer.

Praise, O Mary, praise the Father,  
praise thy Saviour and thy Son,  
praise the everlasting Spirit,  
who hath made thee ark and throne;  
o'er all creatures high exalted,  
lowly praise the Three in One.

*Vincent Stuckey Stratton Coles (1845-1929)*

**The Prayer over the Gifts is said by the priest.**

Lord, let the Holy Spirit,  
who overshadowed the blessed Virgin Mary  
and made her womb fruitful,  
now make our Eucharist bear abundant fruit  
in the service of your kingdom.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Remain standing throughout 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 to give you thanks and praise, almighty God  
and everlasting Father, through Jesus Christ your Son.

He is the one foretold by all the prophets, whom the Virgin Mother bore  
with love beyond all telling. John the Baptist was his herald and made  
him known when at last he came.

In his love Christ fills us with joy as we prepare to celebrate his birth, so  
that when he comes again he may find us watching in prayer, our hearts  
filled with wonder and praise.

And so, with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven,  
we proclaim your glory, and join in their unending hymn of praise:

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of power and might.**

**Heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Hosanna! Hosanna! Hosanna in the highest.**

✠ **Blessed is he, blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna! Hosanna! Hosanna in the highest.**

**Hosanna! Hosanna! Hosanna in the highest.**

We praise and bless you, loving Father, through Jesus Christ, our Lord;  
and as we obey his command, send your Holy Spirit, that broken bread

and wine outpoured may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son. On the night before he died he had supper with his friends and, taking bread, he praised you. He broke the bread, gave it to them and said: Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me. ✠

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine. Again he praised you, gave it to them and said: 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. ✠

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did, in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice made once for all upon the cross.

Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation, we proclaim his death and resurrection until he comes in glory.

Great is the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died:**

**Christ is risen:**

**Christ will come again.**

Lord of all life, help us to work together for that day when your kingdom comes and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth.

Look with favour on your people, gather us in your loving arms and bring us with Our Lady Saint Mary, our holy father Benedict, Saint Columba, and all the saints to feast at your table in heaven.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, ✠ all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

### *The priest invites the people to join in reciting **The Lord's Prayer***

At the Saviour's command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say:

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 continues*

Deliver us, Lord, from every evil, and grant us peace in our day. In your mercy keep us free from sin and protect us from all anxiety as we wait in joyful hope for the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

### *The priest breaks the consecrated bread.*

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.**

*The Agnus Dei is said as the bread is broken*

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 peace.**

## Giving of Communion

*The priest then holds up the broken host and says*

Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.  
Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

**Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,  
but only say the word, and I shall be healed.**

*The priest receives communion and then says the Communion Antiphon.*

Look, the young woman is with child  
and shall bear a son,  
and shall name him Immanuel.

*Isaiah 7:14*

*All baptised Christians, who are in love and charity with their neighbours, are invited to receive Holy Communion, in one or both kinds.*

*If you are uncomfortable receiving the chalice, we ask that for reasons of hygiene you **do not intinct** (dip the host) in the chalice, but receive only the host. Holy Communion is received fully in either the host or the chalice.*

*Others are welcome to come forward to receive a blessing. Please indicate by crossing your arms across your chest.*

*For those watching the live streamed service you may wish to make an act of Spiritual Communion, giving thanks for the saving death and resurrection of Jesus and asking him to be with you now.*

Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ, for all the benefits you have given me, for all the pains and insults you have borne for me. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, I ask you to come spiritually into my heart. O most merciful redeemer, friend and brother, may I know you more clearly, love you more dearly, and follow you more nearly, day by day. **Amen.**

*after the Prayer of St Richard of Chichester*

*A period of reflection is observed while all continue to make their thanksgiving.*

Sing we of the blessed Mother  
who received the angel's word,  
and obedient to his summons  
bore in love the infant Lord;  
sing we of the joys of Mary  
at whose breast that child was fed,  
who is Son of God eternal  
and the everlasting Bread.

Sing we, too, of Mary's sorrows,  
of the sword that pierced her through,  
when beneath the cross of Jesus  
she his weight of suffering knew,  
looked upon her Son and Saviour  
reigning high on Calvary's tree,  
saw the price of man's redemption  
paid to set the sinner free.

Sing again the joys of Mary  
when she saw the risen Lord,  
and, in prayer with Christ's apostles,  
waited on his promised word:  
from on high the blazing glory  
of the Spirit's presence came,  
heavenly breath of God's own being,  
manifest through wind and flame.

Sing the chiefest joy of Mary  
when on earth her work was done,  
and the Lord of all creation  
brought her to his heavenly home:  
virgin mother, Mary blessed,  
raised on high and crowned with grace,  
may your Son, the world's redeemer,  
grant us all to see his face.

*George Bourne Timms (1910-1997)  
© Oxford University Press*

*The priest then says Let us pray.*

*Stand for the **Post Communion Prayer***

Heavenly Father,  
who chose the Blessed Virgin Mary  
to be the mother of the promised saviour:  
fill us your servants with your grace,  
that in all things we may embrace your holy will

and with her rejoice in your salvation;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## The Dismissal

### *The priest says*

The Lord be with you  
**and also with you.**

### *The priest then blesses the people.*

Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you,  
scatter the darkness from before your path,  
and make you ready to meet him when he comes in glory;  
and the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, ✠ the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

### *The priest dismisses the congregation with these words*

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

### *The Recessional Hymn is sung.*

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.

Journey ends! Where afar  
Bethlem 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!*

*During the **Recessional Hymn** the ministers go to the image of Our Lady and Child where the **Angelus** is said.*

## Angelus

The angel of the Lord brought tidings unto Mary.

**And she conceived by the Holy Spirit.**

Hail, Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee.

Blessed art thou among women,

and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.

**Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners,  
now and at the hour of our death.**

Behold the handmaid of the Lord.

**Be it unto me according to thy Word.**

Hail, Mary... **Holy Mary...**

And the Word was made flesh. *(Bow or genuflect)*

**And dwelt among us.**

Hail, Mary... **Holy Mary...**

Pray for us, O holy Mother of God.

**That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.**

We beseech thee, O Lord, pour thy grace into our hearts, that as we have known the Incarnation of thy Son Jesus Christ by the message of an angel, so by his ✠ cross and passion we may be brought to the glory of his resurrection; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*A **Postlude** is played as the ministers return to the sacristy.*



## Daily Readings

**Mon, 22nd Dec** *(O Rex Genitum)*

Luke 1:46-56

**Tue, 23rd Dec** *(O Emmanuel)*

Luke 1:57-66

**Wed, 24th Dec** *(Christmas Eve)*

Luke 1:67-79

**Thu, 25th Dec** *(The Nativity of Our Lord)*

Luke 2:1-14

**Fri, 26th Dec** *(Stephen, Deacon, First Martyr)*

Matthew 10:17-22

**Sat, 27th Dec** *(John, Apostle and Evangelist)*

John 21:19b-end



## Prayers of the Faithful

**The Diocese & wider Church:**

Bishop Graham *(Norwich)*; Bishop Jane *(Lynn)*; Bishop Ian *(Thetford)*

The Diocesan Vision that people may be transformed by Christ

The Anglican Church of Burundi

**The Deanery:**

Fakenham and Fulmodeston: The Revd Tracy Jessop (*Rector*); Elaine Burbridge and Amanda Sands (*Licensed Lay Ministers*)

**The Creakes Benefice & The Coxford Group with Toftrees:**

Clergy in post-retiral ministry, those who assist in the Benefice and for vocations to the priesthood and to the Religious Life

Deanery Synod Representatives (Andy, David & Nick)

Children and young people, and the schools, colleges and clubs in this area

Openness to change and a willingness to follow the guidance of the Holy Spirit

**The sick and those in need:**

Emri, Colin, Robert, Jack, Chris, Gareth, Roddy, Tim, David, Liz, Andrew, Lesley, Gina, Ruth, Martin, Lionel, Br Gilbert, Br Aelred, Fr Andrew

**Those who are housebound or in care homes:**

Jan Poulson

**The recently departed:**

Kenneth Wacey, Norman Sparks, Margaret West, Douglas Kidd, Wim Jansen

**Year's Mind:**

Cecil Kirk, Ronald Guymmer, Garry Sandell, Kathleen Harris, Ina Ewers, Frederick Hurn, Elizabeth Baxter, Christopher Jarvis, Ivy Wood, Mervyn Chadwick, Mary Felgate, Walter Norman, Joyce Edge, Jane Belaus, Edward Harper, Allen Delamere (*Priest*), Gladys Rutley, Ronald Gray, Pamela Blenkinsip



**The 'O' Antiphons**

Taking the 'O' antiphons in reverse order from 23rd to 17th December we have the acrostic EROCRAS which translates: 'Tomorrow, I will be there'

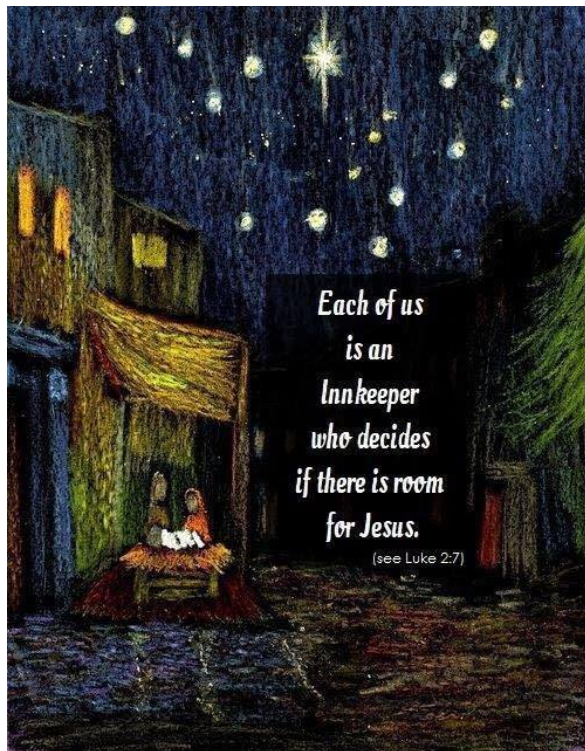
**E**mmanuel  
**R**ex Genitum  
**O**riens  
**C**lavus David  
**R**adix Jesse  
**A**donai  
**S**apientia



**Stephen, Deacon, First Martyr**

In the book of the Acts of the Apostles, Stephen is described as one of the seven deacons whose job it is to care for the widows in the early Church in Jerusalem.

His eloquent speech before the Sanhedrin, in which he shows the great sweep of Jewish history as leading to the birth of Jesus, the long-expected Messiah, and his impassioned plea that all might hear the good news of Jesus, leads to his inevitable martyrdom by being stoned to death. As the author of Acts, Luke's description of Stephen bears direct parallels to that of Christ: for example, the passion; being filled with the Holy Spirit; seeing the Son of God as the right hand of God, as Jesus promised he would be; commending his spirit to Jesus, as Jesus commended his to the Father; kneeling as Jesus did in Gethsemane and asking forgiveness for his persecutors. Witnessing to Jesus by acting like Jesus in every way is thus seen by Luke as of the essence of the Christian life. The Church celebrates his martyrdom on 26th December.



**Inclusive  
Church**

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**REGULAR REST DAY: Monday**



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