

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



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

**The Holy Family
Sunday, 28th 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.

On Christmas night all Christians sing,
to hear the news the angels bring,
on Christmas night all Christians sing,
to hear the news the angels bring,
news of great joy, news of great mirth,
news of our merciful King's birth.

Then why should men on earth be so sad,
since our Redeemer made us glad,
then why should men on earth be so sad,
since our Redeemer made us glad,
when from our sin he set us free,
all for to gain our liberty?

When sin departs before his grace,
then life and health come in its place,
when sin departs before his grace,
then life and health come in its place,
angels and earth with joy may sing,
all for to see the new-born King.

All out of darkness we have light,
which made the angels sing this night:
all out of darkness we have light,
which made the angels sing this night:
'Glory to God and peace to men,
now and for evermore. Amen.'

Traditional English carol

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.**

Stand for Gloria in Excelsis

**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.
Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.
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.

Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.

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. Amen.

Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.

The priest then says Let us pray.

Remain standing for The Collect

Almighty God,
who wonderfully created us in your own image
and yet more wonderfully restored us
through your Son Jesus Christ:
grant that, as he came to share in our humanity,
so we may share the life of his divinity;
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.

I will recount the gracious deeds of the LORD, the praiseworthy acts of the LORD, because of all that the LORD has done for us, and the great favour to the house of Israel that he has shown them according to his mercy, according to the abundance of his steadfast love. For he said, 'Surely they are my people, children who will not deal falsely'; and he became their saviour in all their distress. It was no messenger or angel but his presence that saved them; in his love and in his pity he redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

R Praise, O Praise the name of the Lord.

Alleluia! Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise him in the heights. Praise him, all you angels of his; praise him, all his host. Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you shining stars. **R**

Praise him, heaven of heavens, and you waters above the heavens. Let them praise the name of the Lord; for he commanded and they were created. He made them stand fast for ever and ever; he gave them a law which shall not pass away. **R**

Praise the Lord from the earth, you sea-monsters and all deeps; Fire and hail, snow and fog, tempestuous wind, doing his will; Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars; **R**

Wild beasts and all cattle, creeping things and winged birds; Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the world; Young men and maidens, old and young together. **R**

Let them praise the name of the Lord, for his name only is exalted, his splendour is over earth and heaven. He has raised up strength for his people and praise for all his loyal servants, the children of Israel, a people who are near him. Alleluia! **R**

Psalm 148

Second Reading

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings. For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, saying, 'I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters, in the midst of the congregation I will praise you.' And again, 'I will put my trust in him.' And again, 'Here am I and the children whom God has given me.' Since the children share flesh and blood, he himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Hebrews 2:10-18

Stand for the Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! The Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us. **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.**

After the wise men had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.' Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, 'Out of Egypt I have called my son.' When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah: 'A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.' When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child's life are dead.' Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, 'He will be called a Nazorean.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Matthew 2:13-23

Sit for the Homily

A period of reflection follows the homily.

Unto us a boy is born!
King of all creation;
came he to a world forlorn,
the Lord of every nation,
the Lord of every nation.

Cradled in a stall was he,
with sleepy cows and asses;
but the very beasts could see
that he all men surpasses,
that he all men surpasses.

Herod then with fear was filled:
'A prince', he said, 'in Jewry!'
All the little boys he killed
at Bethlehem in his fury,
at Bethlehem in his fury.

Now may Mary's Son, who came
so long ago to love us,
lead us all with hearts aflame
unto the joys above us,
unto the joys above us.

Omega and Alpha he!
Let the organ thunder,
while the choir in peals of glee
doth rend the air asunder,
doth rend the air asunder.

*'Puer nobis nascitur' (15th century)
trans. Percy Dearmer (1867-1936)*

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.*

God rest you merry, gentlemen,
let nothing you dismay,
for Jesus Christ our Saviour
was born upon this day,
to save us all from Satan's power
when we were gone astray:

*O tidings of comfort and joy,
comfort and joy,
O tidings of comfort and joy.*

From God, our heavenly Father,
a blessèd angel came,
and unto certain shepherds
brought tidings of the same,
how that in Bethlehem was born
the Son of God by name:

The shepherds at those tidings
rejoicèd much in mind,
and left their flocks a-feeding,
in tempest, storm and wind,
and went to Bethlehem straightway
this blessèd babe to find:

But when to Bethlehem they came,
whereat the infant lay,
they found him in a manger,
where oxen feed on hay;
his mother Mary kneeling,
unto the Lord did pray:

Now to the Lord sing praises,
all you within this place,
and with true love and brotherhood
each other now embrace;
this holy tide of Christmas
all others doth deface:

The Prayer over the Gifts is said by the priest.

Eternal God,
in the Word made flesh
you joined together heaven and earth.
Make us holy by sharing in this table
and make us joyful in giving you praise.
We ask this through Jesus 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.

All glory and honour be yours always and everywhere, mighty creator,
ever-living God.

We give you thanks and praise for your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ,
who for love of our fallen race humbled himself, and on this night was
born of the Virgin Mary by the power of your Spirit, and lived as one of
us.

In this mystery of the Word made flesh you have caused his light to shine
in our hearts, to give knowledge of your glory in the face of Jesus Christ.

In him we see our God made visible and so are caught up in the love of
the God we cannot see.

Therefore with all the angels of heaven we lift our voices to proclaim the
glory of your name and sing our joyful 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, the Holy Innocents, 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

Rejoicing in the presence of God here among us, 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.**

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.***

God's love was revealed among us in this way:
God sent his only Son into the world
so that we might live through him.

1 John 4:9

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.

In the bleak mid-winter
frosty wind made moan,
earth stood hard as iron,
water like a stone;

snow had fallen, snow on snow,
snow on snow,
in the bleak mid-winter,
long ago.

Our God, heaven cannot hold him
nor earth sustain;
heaven and earth shall flee away
when he comes to reign.
In the bleak mid-winter
a stable-place sufficed
the Lord God almighty,
Jesus Christ.

Enough for him, whom cherubim
worship night and day,
a breastful of milk,
and a mangerful of hay:
enough for him, whom angels
fall down before,
the ox and ass and camel
which adore.

Angels and archangels
may have gathered there,
cherubim and seraphim
thronged the air;
but only his mother
in her maiden bliss
worshipped the beloved
with a kiss.

What can I give Him,
poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd
I would bring a lamb;
if I were a wise man
I would do my part;
yet what I can I give him
give my heart.

Christina Georgina Rossetti (1830-1894)

The priest then says Let us pray.

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

Heavenly Father,
whose blessed Son shared at Nazareth the life of an earthly home:
help your Church to live as one family,
united in love and obedience,
and bring us all at last to our home in heaven;
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, who by his incarnation gathered into one
things earthly and heavenly,
fill you with peace and goodwill
and make you partakers of the divine nature;
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.

The first Nowell the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay:
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep,
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

*Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
born is the King of Israel!*

They lookèd up and saw a star,
shining in the east, beyond them far,
and to the earth it gave great light,
and so it continued both day and night.

And by the light of that same star,
three wise men came from country far;
to seek for a king was their intent,
to follow the star wherever it went.

Then entered in those wise men three,
full rev'rently upon their knee,
and offered there in his presence,
their gold and myrrh and frankincense.

Then let us all with one accord
sing praises to our heavenly Lord,
that hath made heaven and earth of naught,
and with his blood mankind hath bought.

From William Sandys' Christmas Carols, Ancient and Modern (1833)

*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.*



The painting on the front cover is by Debbie Osborn, a regular member of our South Creake congregation. A full range of her incredible work can be found at www.debbieosbornart.co.uk

The Holy Innocents

Herod 'the Great' was appointed King of the Jews by the Roman authorities in Palestine and he proved to be ruthlessly efficient in his thirty-three years of dealing with his subjects. In Matthew's gospel, he tried to persuade the Magi, to whom he played the host on their journey seeking the one 'who has been born king of the Jews', to bring word of where they had found him. His desire was to eliminate Jesus and, when he realised that the Magi had tricked him and left the country, Herod poured out his wrath on all the male infants in the land. These were God's 'innocent' ones, parallelling the story of Pharaoh slaughtering the Hebrew children in Egypt. The Church commemorates the Holy Innocents each year on December 28th.



**Inclusive
Church**

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REGULAR REST DAY: Monday



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