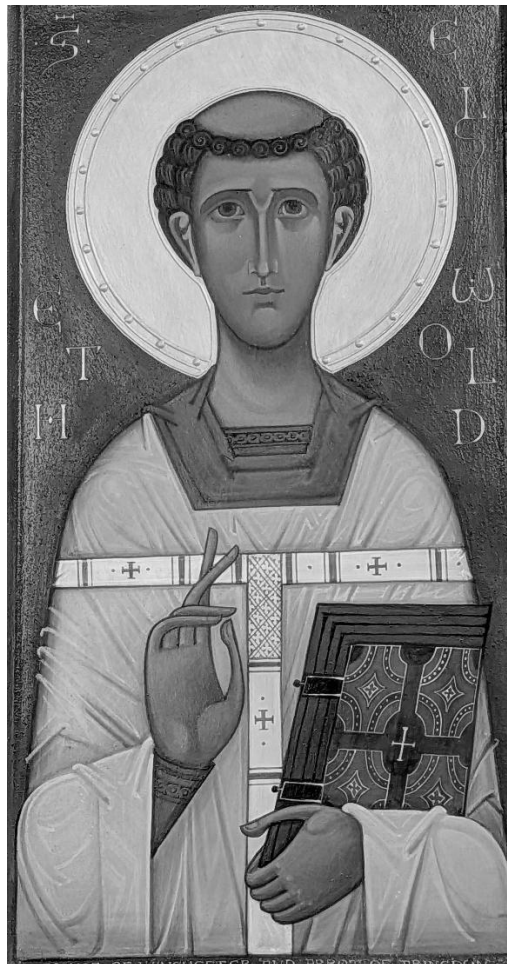




S^t HELEN'S CHURCH
ABINGDON-ON-THAMES

The First Sunday Eucharist St Ethelwold



The Preparation

After the welcome and before the Eucharist begins the President invites the congregation to prepare by an act of penitence.

Jesus is the Good Shepherd:
in every generation he raises up overseers
to shepherd the Church of God that he obtained
with his own blood.

We are sinners:
let us call to mind the times when we have failed to hear
his voice and not followed where he has led.

We have not always worshipped God, our creator.
Lord, have mercy.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

We have not always followed Christ, our Saviour.
Christ, have mercy.

All **Christ, have mercy.**

We have not always trusted in the Spirit, our guide.
Lord, have mercy.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

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.

All **Amen.**

The Holy Eucharist

The Entrance

*As you are able, please stand as the President, ministers and choir enter.
Hymn numbers for the service can be found in the newsletter and on the hymn boards.*

The Opening Hymn

The Gloria

All **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 of the Day

*The president invites the people to pray silently, saying
Let us Pray*

The president then says the special prayer for the day

All **Amen.**

The Liturgy of the Word

All sit.

The First Reading

At the end

For the gift of the word

All **Thanks be to God.**

As you are able, please stand.

The Gradual Hymn

As you are able, please remain standing for

The Holy Gospel

A cantor introduces the acclamation.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

All **Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

I am the good shepherd:

I know my own and my own know me.

*When the Gospel is announced all reply: **Glory to you, O Lord.***

*Then afterward: **Praise to you, O Christ.***

All sit.

The Sermon

As you are able, please stand for

The Apostles' Creed

Brothers and sisters, I ask you to profess the faith of the Church;

Do you believe and trust in God the Father?

All I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe and trust in his Son Jesus Christ?

All I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

Do you believe and trust in the Holy Spirit?

All I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen

The Intercessions

Please stand, kneel or sit as directed.

Thanksgiving for the Gift of a Child and/or Baptismal

Welcome (see pages 10-11)

As you are able please stand.

The Peace

We are all one in Christ Jesus. We belong to him through faith, heirs of the promise of the Spirit of peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

All And also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

A suitable sign of the peace is shared by all.

As you are able please remain standing.

The Offertory Hymn and Presentation of the Gifts

A collection is taken.

Members of the congregation present bread and wine for consecration.

The Great Thanksgiving

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

Lift up your hearts.
All **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
All **It is right to give thanks and praise.**

Lord of all life, you created the universe,
where all living things reflect your glory.
You give us this great and beautiful earth,
to discover and to cherish.

You give us happy times
and things to celebrate.
In these we taste your kingdom,
a feast for all your children.

And now we give you thanks
for the work of your grace in the life of Saint Ethelwold.
As a shepherd of your flock he imitated your Son,
inspired us by his life
and taught us by his preaching.

As your children, we join with the angels and sing your praise:

All **Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessèd is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

We thank you, loving Father,
because, when we turned away,
you sent Jesus, your Son.
He gave his life for us on the cross
and shows us the way to live.

Send your Holy Spirit
that these gifts of bread and wine
may be for us Christ's body and his blood.

On the night before he died,
when darkness had fallen,
Jesus took bread.
He gave thanks, broke it,
and shared it with his disciples, saying:
'This is my body, given for you.
Do this to remember me.'

After they had eaten, he took the cup of wine,
gave thanks, and shared it with his disciples, saying:
'This is my blood, poured out for you and for many,
for the forgiveness of sins.'

So Father, with this bread and this cup
we celebrate his love, his death, his risen life.
As you feed us with these gifts,
send your Holy Spirit,
and change us more and more
to be like Jesus our Saviour.

Help us, Father, to love one another,
as we look forward to that day
when suffering is ended,
and all creation is gathered in your loving arms.

And now with St Ethelwold, St Helen, St Michael and all the
angels, St Nicolas, and all your saints
we give you glory,
through Jesus Christ,
in the strength of the Spirit,
today and for ever.

All **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

All **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
forever.
Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread

We who are many are one body,
All **because we all share in one bread.**

*The choir sings the 'O Lamb of God' Then the President invites the congregation
to come forward to receive either the Sacrament or a blessing saying,*

God's holy Gifts for God's holy people.

The Communion

While the choir sings an anthem the congregation is directed to the altar rail by the sidespeople.

The Post-Communion Hymn

Post-Communion Prayer

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

All **by this Eucharist we share,
awaken within us the love of Christ
and keep us faithful to our Christian calling.
Amen.**

The Blessing

Christ the good shepherd, who laid down his life for the sheep,
draw you and all who hear his voice,
to be one flock within one fold;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

All **Amen.**

All sit for the Notices.

The Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All **In the name of Christ. Amen.**

The President, other ministers and choir depart while an organ postlude is played.



THANKSGIVING for the GIFT of a CHILD

Parents with their children gather at the altar rail. The President or other minister begins:

We gather today with parents as they give thanks for *their children*, and to support them in their responsibilities toward those whom they have brought into the world. God became one of us in Jesus, and understands all that surrounds the arrival and upbringing of children. It is God's purpose that children should know love within the stability of their home, grow in faith, and come at last to the eternal city where his love reigns.

The President/minister says:

Loving God,
you hold all things in life
and call us into your kingdom of peace;
help us to walk the path of your truth
and fill our lives with gratitude and faith;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

The minister says to each group of parents:

Do you receive this child as a gift from God?

The parents reply:

We/I do.

Do you wish to give thanks to God and to seek his blessing?

We/I do.

What name have you given this child?

His/her name is N.

The President/minister takes the child in his arms and says:

Heavenly Father, we praise you for *his/her* birth,
surround *him/her* with your blessing
that *he/she* may know your love,
be protected from evil,
and know your goodness all *his/her* days.

**All May *he/she/they* learn to love all that is true,
grow in wisdom and strength,
and, in due time, come through faith and baptism
to the fullness of your grace;
through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.**

The Giving of the Gospel

As a Bible is given to the family, the minister says:

Receive this Bible.
Hear God's word with us. Learn and tell its stories.
Rejoice in its Good News. Discover its mysteries.
Honour its commandments.
May God's life-giving word be to you sweeter than honey,
and may it lead you in the way of Christ.

All Amen.

WELCOME to THOSE RECENTLY BAPTISED

Families of those recently baptised come to the front of the church. Each receives a lighted candle and is given the Certificate of Baptism.

Receive this light. This is to show that you have passed
from darkness to light.

All Shine as a light in the world to the glory of God the Father.
God has received you by baptism into his Church.

**All We welcome you into the Lord's family. We are members
together of the body of Christ; we are children of the same
heavenly Father; we are inheritors together of the kingdom of
God, we welcome you.**

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