

Eucharistic Prayers suitable for Christmas and Epiphany

Authorised by the College of Bishops for
experimental use in the Scottish Episcopal Church

2016

The College of Bishops has authorised for experimental use in the Scottish Episcopal Church Eucharistic Prayers suitable for Christmas and Epiphany for use by Clergy for a period of 3 years from November 2016 to April 2019.

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The Alternative Eucharistic Prayers added to the *Scottish Liturgy 1982* in 1996 are seasonal prayers suitable for use during Advent (II), Lent (III), and Easter (IV). Until now Christmas and Epiphany have not enjoyed special provision in this way, even though special provision is included in the seasonal forms of Daily Prayer. While there is provision for seasonal variation in the pre-Sanctus section of Eucharistic Prayer I, expressly composed prayers may nevertheless be considered more adequate to the occasion, especially given that the other seasonal Eucharistic Prayers are quite distinctive from the opening dialogue to the commencement of the Institution Narrative.

These two new Eucharistic Prayers, now approved by the College of Bishops for experimental use throughout the Scottish Episcopal Church, express and emphasise the mystery of the Incarnation, which is given Trinitarian exposition in the pre-Sanctus sections. They also allude to the vulnerability of human birth, and the particularly straitened circumstances recounted in the Gospel narratives, juxtaposing the human and divine natures of Christ, his Jewish royal pedigree with his manifestation to the nations, and make appropriate allusions to the Baptism of Jesus and the wedding at Cana.

Like the other alternative Eucharistic Prayers, use is suggestive and not prescriptive. The nature of Prayer IIb means that it might appropriately be used at other times, for example, on the Sundays between Epiphany and Candlemas.

John Davies
Convener, The Liturgy Committee
October 2016

Eucharistic Prayer II a

Incarnation (*suitable for Christmas*)

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 him thanks and praise.

Worship and praise belong to you, God our maker.

Out of nothing, you called all worlds into being,

and still you draw the universe to its fulfilment.

Day and night celebrate your glory

till time shall be no more.

In Christ, your Word became flesh,

and (*on this night/day*)¹ was born of the Virgin Mary.

He emptied himself, taking our human form,

That through his incarnation and passion

we might come to share in his divine nature.

Filled with the Spirit,

who at the first Creation

moved over the face of the waters,

and overshadowed the blessed Virgin at Nazareth,

we await with joy the fulfilment of your new Creation.

As children of your redeeming purpose

who celebrate the birth of your Son,

we offer you our praise,

with angels and archangels

¹ Words in brackets should only be used at midnight or during the day on Christmas Day.

and the whole company of heaven
singing the hymn of your unending glory:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord
God of power and might.
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Glory and thanksgiving be to you,
most loving Father.
In Jesus the Messiah you have come to us,
and lived for a time among us,
that we might for ever live with you.
In the manger at Bethlehem,
in his flight to Egypt,
and as the carpenter's son,
the Only-begotten bent low to meet us.

Obedient to your calling,
he accepted death on the cross.
When you exalted him on the third day,
and bestowed on him the name above all names,
he opened the gate of glory
that we might be your children,
and share in his kingdom of Peace.

Before he was given up to suffering and death,
desiring to complete the work
for which he came into the world,
at supper with his disciples
he took bread and offered you thanks.
He broke the bread,
and gave it to them, saying:

“Take, eat.

This is my Body: it is broken for you.”

After supper, he took the cup,

he offered you thanks,

and gave it to them saying:

“Drink this, all of you.

This is my Blood of the new covenant;

it is poured out for you, and for all,

that sins may be forgiven.

Do this in remembrance of me.”

We now obey your Son’s command.

We recall his blessed passion and death,

his glorious resurrection and ascension;

and we look for the coming of his Kingdom.

Made one with him, we offer you these gifts

and with them ourselves,

a single, holy, living sacrifice.

Hear us, most merciful Father,

and send your Holy Spirit upon us

and upon this bread and this wine,

that, overshadowed by his life-giving power,

they may be the Body and Blood of your Son,

and we may be kindled with the fire of your love

and renewed for the service of your Kingdom.

Help us, who are baptised into the fellowship of Christ's Body

to live and work to your praise and glory;

may we grow together in unity and love

until at last, in your new creation,

we enter into our heritage

in the company of the Virgin Mary,

the apostles, and prophets,

and of all our brothers and sisters living and departed.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord,
with whom, and in whom,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory be to you,
Lord of all ages,
world without end.

Amen.

Eucharistic Prayer II b

Incarnation (*suitable from Epiphany to the Presentation of Christ*)

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 him thanks and praise.

Worship and praise belong to you, God our maker.

Out of nothing, you called all worlds into being,

and still you draw the universe to its fulfilment.

Day and night celebrate your glory

till time shall be no more.

In Christ, your only-begotten Son,

you have revealed yourself to the world.

By the guiding of a star,

you made him known to the nations

as the son of David and king of Israel;

that in following him,

we might be led from darkness

and into his marvellous light.

Filled with the Spirit,

who descended upon your Son at his Baptism in the Jordan,

we who are baptised in his name

strive for his heavenly kingdom

in whose radiance we are transfigured

and the earth is transformed.

As children of your redeeming purpose
(*who celebrate the manifestation of your Son*)²,
we offer you our praise,
with angels and archangels
and the whole company of heaven
singing the hymn of your unending glory:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord
God of power and might.
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Glory and thanksgiving be to you,
most loving Father.
In Jesus the Messiah you have come to us.
Our hope is built on him
in whom you are well pleased.
Having been shown to the world
as your beloved Son,
he proclaimed the good news of your kingdom.
The blind received their sight,
the lame walked, the lepers were cleansed,
and the captives set free.
At his word, water became wine,
the hungry were filled with bread,
and the dead were raised.

Before he was given up to suffering and death,
desiring to complete the work
for which he came into the world,
at supper with his disciples

² Words in brackets are suitable for use on the feast of the Epiphany.

he took bread and offered you thanks.

He broke the bread,
and gave it to them, saying:

“Take, eat.

This is my Body: it is broken for you.”

After supper, he took the cup,
he offered you thanks,
and gave it to them saying:

“Drink this, all of you.

This is my Blood of the new covenant;
it is poured out for you, and for all,
that sins may be forgiven.

Do this in remembrance of me.”

We now obey your Son's command.

We recall his blessed passion and death,
his glorious resurrection and ascension;
and we look for the coming of his Kingdom.
Made one with him, we offer you these gifts
and with them ourselves,
a single, holy, living sacrifice.

Hear us, most merciful Father,
and send your Holy Spirit upon us
and upon this bread and this wine,
that, overshadowed by his life-giving power,
they may be the Body and Blood of your Son,
and we may be kindled with the fire of your love
and renewed for the service of your Kingdom.

Help us, who are baptised into the fellowship of Christ's Body
to live and work to your praise and glory;
may we grow together in unity and love
until at last, in your new creation,
we enter into our heritage
in the company of the Virgin Mary,
the apostles, and prophets,
and of all our brothers and sisters living and departed.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord,
with whom, and in whom,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory be to you,
Lord of all ages,
world without end.

Amen.

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