



# EPIPHANY SUNDAY

## ALL AGE MASS

### 5 January 2025

*President & Preacher: the Rector*

**A warm welcome to Mass today – it's good to have you with us!**

## THE GATHERING

*Please STAND as the bell rings, to sing our first hymn:*

We three kings of Orient are,  
bearing gifts we traverse afar  
Field and fountain, moor and mountain,  
following yonder star:

*O star of wonder, star of night,  
Star with royal beauty bright,  
Westward leading, still proceeding,  
guide us to thy perfect light.*

Born a king on Bethlehem plain,  
gold I bring to crown him again,  
King for ever, ceasing never  
over us all to reign:

Frankincense to offer have I,  
incense owns a deity nigh;  
Prayer and praising, all men raising,  
worship him, God most high:

Myrrh is mine, its bitter perfume  
breathes a life of gathering gloom;  
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,  
sealed in a stone-cold tomb:

Glorious now behold him arise,  
king and God and sacrifice.  
Heaven sings: "Alleluya";  
"Alleluya," the earth replies:

✠ We gather for worship in the name of the Father  
and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

The Lord be with you.  
And also with you.

*The President offers some words of welcome and the Deacon then says:*

We have come together as God's family to pray for the unity of Christ's Church and for the renewal of our life together. We remember the goodness of God, as we say sorry for the things we do wrong.

**Repeat each sung line after the Cantor:**

Lord, illuminate the darkness of our hearts:



Lord Jesus, open our eyes to your saving love:



Lord Jesus, unstop our ears to hear your living word:



**The President pronounces God's Absolution:**

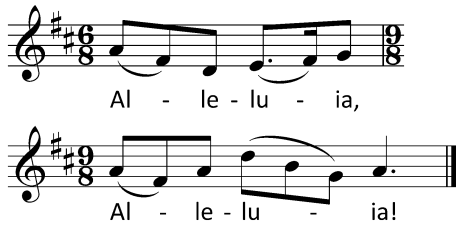
May the God of all healing and forgiveness draw you to himself, and cleanse you ✠ from all your sins that you may behold the glory of his Son, the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

**The Collect for today is prayed:**

Creator of the heavens, who led the Magi by a star to worship the Christ-child: guide and sustain us, that we may find our journey's end in Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

## THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Remain **STANDING** to sing the Gospel Acclamation; the cantor sings a verse, and we then repeat the Alleluia.



*We have seen his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.*

**We repeat the Alleluias.**

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.**

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, ‘Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.’ When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, ‘In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

“And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.”

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, ‘Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.’ When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

*Matthew 2:1-12*

This is the Gospel of the Lord  
**Praise be to you O Christ.**

**The address follows. Then stand for:**

Do you believe and trust in God the Father who made all things, the one for whom we exist?

**I believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Son, who took our human nature, died for us and rose again?

**I believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit who gives life to the people of God, and makes Christ known in the world?

**I believe and trust in him.**

This is the faith of the Church.

**This is our faith.**

**We believe and trust in one God:**

**Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

## THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

Our Saviour Christ is the Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and of peace there shall be no end. The peace of the Lord be always with you:

**And also with you.**

Let us offer each other a sign of Christ’s peace.

**As the Altar is prepared, we sing the offertory hymn.**

**Please gather around the altar during the hymn:**

**As with gladness men of old  
did the guiding star behold,  
As with joy they hailed its light,  
leading onward, beaming bright,  
So, most gracious God, may we  
evermore be led to thee.**

**As with joyful steps they sped,  
to that lowly manger-bed,  
There to bend the knee before  
him whom heaven and earth adore,  
So may we with willing feet  
ever seek thy mercy-seat.**

**As they offered gifts most rare  
at that manger rude and bare,  
So may we with holy joy,  
pure, and free from sin’s alloy,  
All our costliest treasures bring,  
Christ, to thee our heavenly King.**

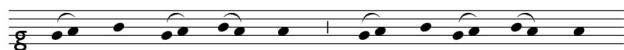
**Holy Jesu, every day  
keep us in the narrow way;  
And, when earthly things are past,  
bring our ransomed souls at last  
Where they need no star to guide,  
where no clouds thy glory hide.**

**In the heavenly country bright  
 need they no created light;  
 Thou its Light, its Joy, its Crown,  
 thou its Sun which goes not down:  
 There for ever may we sing  
 Alleluyas to our King.**

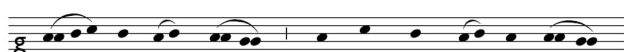
**The President takes the bread and wine:**

Lord, accept your people's gifts, not gold,  
 frankincense or myrrh, but hearts and voices  
 raised in praise of Jesus Christ, our light and our  
 salvation.

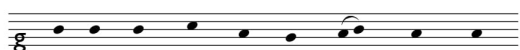
**Amen.**



The Lord be with you **R.** and al-so with you.



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



Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



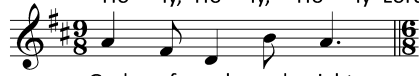
**R.** It is right to give thanks and praise.

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.  
 And now we give you thanks for, by the leading of a  
 star, you have revealed your only Son to the world,  
 that in following him we are led from darkness into  
 his marvellous light. You made us all, each  
 wonderfully different, to join with the angels and  
 sing your praise:

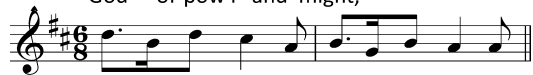
**Repeat each line after the Cantor:**



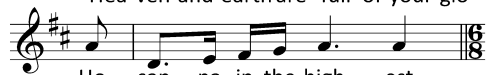
Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly Lord,



God of pow'r and might,



Hea-ven and earth are full of your glo - ry.



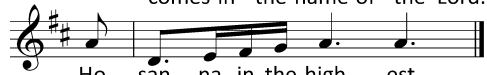
Ho - san - na in the high - est.



Bles-sed is he who



comes in the name of the Lord.



Ho - san - na in the high - est.

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.'

Great is the mystery of faith:

**Repeat each line after the Cantor:**



Christ has died,



Christ is ris'n,



Christ will come a - gain.

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 all your saints we give you  
 glory, through Jesus Christ, in the strength of the  
 Spirit, today and for ever.

**We all say together in aloud voice:**

**AMEN!**

**Silent prayer**

Rejoicing in the presence of God here amongst us,  
 let us pray as Jesus taught us, in the language of our  
 choice:

**Our Father, who art in heaven,.....**

**The President breaks the blessed bread for all to share:**

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.**

**We say Agnus Dei:**

**Jesus Lamb of God, have mercy on us.**

**Jesus, bearer of our sins, have mercy on us.**

**Jesus, redeemer of the world, grant us peace.**

**The President invites all to receive Holy Communion:**

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.**

*Baptised persons who are communicant members of Churches which subscribe to the doctrine of the Holy Trinity, and who are in good standing in their own church, may receive Holy Communion at this service. If you prefer to receive a blessing, bring this booklet with you.*

**When all have received Holy Communion:**

God of truth,  
we have seen with our eyes and touched with our hands the bread of life. Strengthen our faith that we may grow in love for you and for each other, through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. Amen.

**SIT for the notices, then STAND for**

## THE DISMISSAL

The Lord be with you.  
And also with you.

Christ the Son of God perfect in you the image of his glory and gladden your hearts with the good news of his kingdom; and the blessing of God Almighty ✠ the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you this Advent and always.  
Amen.

**We sing the final hymn:**

**O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness!  
Bow down before him, his glory proclaim;  
With gold of obedience, and incense of  
lowliness,  
Kneel and adore him, the Lord is his name!**

**Low at his feet lay thy burden of carefulness,  
High on his heart he will bear it for thee,  
Comfort thy sorrows, and answer thy  
prayerfulness,  
Guiding thy steps as may best for thee be.**

**Fear not to enter his courts in the slenderness  
Of the poor wealth thou wouldst reckon as  
thine:  
Truth in its beauty, and love in its tenderness,  
These are the offerings to lay on his shrine.**

**These, though we bring them in trembling and  
fearfulness,  
He will accept for the name that is dear;**

**Mornings of joy give for evenings of  
tearfulness,  
Trust for our trembling and hope for our fear.**

**O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness!  
Bow down before him, his glory proclaim;  
With gold of obedience, and incense of  
lowliness,  
Kneel and adore him, the Lord is his name!**

**The Deacon dismisses the people:**

One in heart and one in mind and empowered by the Spirit, go in the peace of Christ.  
Thanks be to God.

**Organ voluntary**  
Herbert Sumsion, *Prelude on "Liebster Immanuel"*

**Please do stay for refreshments!**

**Do sign the register to indicate your presence today to support a future school application.**

**If you're not on the Church WhatsApp group and would like to be – to help stay in touch with what's happening – do have a word with Marion.**

**If you worship here regularly, we do encourage you to think about giving on a monthly basis (whatever the amount), to help with our budgets and finance – more information from Marion or the Treasurers.**



**Please help the ongoing ministry of this Church by donating via scanning this QR code on a smart phone, or using one of the Contactless devices by the doors!**