



St John the Divine
Eucharist Service
Feast of the Epiphany
6th January 2021

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Welcome

Hymn: Angels, from the realms of glory
James Montgomery (1771-1854) alt. - tune: Iris
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- 1. Angels, from the realms of glory,
wing your flight o'er all the earth;
herald's of creation's story,
now proclaim Messiah's birth:
*Come and worship
Christ, the new-born King,
Come and worship,
worship Christ, the new-born King.***
- 2. Wise men, leave your contemplations,
brighter visions beam afar;
seek the great Desire of nations,
you have seen his natal star:
*Come and worship
Christ, the new-born King,
Come and worship,
worship Christ, the new-born King.***
- 3. Though an infant now we view him,
he shall fill his Father's throne,
gather all the nations to him:
every knee shall then bow down:
*Come and worship
Christ, the new-born King,
Come and worship,
worship Christ, the new-born King.***

Sentence

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

Isaiah 60.1

Let us pray.

**Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hidden:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy name,
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

GLORIA AND COLLECT

**Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to God's 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.**

Grateful for the glory revealed today through God made flesh, let us pray.

Everlasting God,
who brought the nations to your light
and kings to the brightness of your rising:
fill the world with your glory,
and show yourself to all the nations;
through him who is the true light
and the bright morning star,
Jesus Christ your Son, our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

A reading from the prophecy of Isaiah 60.1-6:

Arise, shine; for your light has come,
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.
For darkness shall cover the earth,
and thick darkness the peoples;
but the Lord will arise upon you,
and his glory will appear over you.
Nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

Lift up your eyes and look around;
they all gather together, they come to you;
your sons shall come from far away,
and your daughters shall be carried
on their nurses' arms.

Then you shall see and be radiant;
your heart shall thrill and rejoice,
because the abundance of the sea shall be brought
to you,

the wealth of the nations shall come to you.
A multitude of camels shall cover you,
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;
all those from Sheba shall come.
They shall bring gold and frankincense,
and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.

May your word live in us,

and bear much fruit to your glory.

Psalm 72.1-7, 10-14

Let all people use his name in blessing.

- ¹ Give the king your judgement, O God:
and your righteousness to the son of a king,

2 That he may judge your people rightly:
and the poor of the land with equity.

Let all people use his name in blessing.

3 Let the mountains be laden with peace
because of his righteousness:
and the hills also with prosperity for his people.

4 May he give justice to the poor among the people:
and rescue the children of the needy,
and crush the oppressor.

Let all people use his name in blessing.

5 May he live while the sun endures:
and while the moon gives light,
throughout all generations.

6 May he come down like rain upon the new-mown
fields:
and as showers that water the earth.

Let all people use his name in blessing.

7 In his time shall righteousness flourish:
and abundance of peace, till the moon shall be no
more.

10 The kings of Tarshish and of the isles
shall bring tribute:
the kings of Sheba and Seba shall offer gifts.

Let all people use his name in blessing.

11 All kings shall fall down before him:
and all nations do him service.

12 He will deliver the needy when they cry:
and the poor that have no helper.

Let all people use his name in blessing.

13 He will pity the helpless and the needy:
and save the lives of the poor.

14 He will redeem them from oppression and violence:
and their blood shall be precious in his sight.

Let all people use his name in blessing.

A reading from Paul's letter to the church in Ephesus
3.1-12:

This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles— for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given to me for you, and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: that is, the Gentiles have become fellow-heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given to me by the working of his power. Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery

hidden for ages in God who created all things; so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

May your word live in us,
and bear much fruit to your glory.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St
Matthew 2.1-12

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ

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.

This is the Gospel of the Lord,
praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

Sermon

Let us together affirm the faith of the Church:

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ,
God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose from the dead;**

he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father;
from there he will come to judge
the living and the dead.

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 PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Let us pray for the world and for the Church.

Response:

Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Almighty God, you have promised to hear our prayers.

**Grant that what we have asked in faith
we may by your grace receive,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Christ the Son of God has been revealed as a light to the nations.

Let us bring our darkness to his light, confessing our sins
in penitence and faith.

**Merciful God,
our maker and our judge,
we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
and in what we have failed to do:
we have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves;
we repent, and are sorry for all our sins.
Father, forgive us.
Strengthen us to love and obey you
in newness of life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Almighty God, who has promised forgiveness to all who
turn to him in faith:

pardon you and set you free from all your sins,
strengthen you in all goodness
and keep you in eternal life,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE GREETING OF PEACE

Our Saviour Christ is the Prince of Peace.
Of the increase of his government and of peace there
shall be no end.

cf Isaiah 9.6,7

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

Hymn: Earth has many a noble city

Aurelius Clemens Prudentius (348-c.413)

tr. Edward Caswall (1814-78) alt. - tune: Stuttgart

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1. **Earth has many a noble city –
Bethlehem alone excels:
from it came the Lord from heaven,
came to rule his Israel.**

2. **Fairer than the sun at morning
was the star that told his birth,
to the world its God announcing,
seen in human form on earth.**
3. **Eastern sages at his cradle
make their offerings rich and rare;
see them give in deep devotion
gold and frankincense and myrrh:**
4. **Sacred gifts of mystic meaning –
frankincense God to disclose,
gold the King of kings proclaiming,
myrrh his sepulchre foreshows.**
5. **Jesus, whom the gentiles worshipped
at your glad epiphany,
now to you with God the Father
and the Spirit glory be.**

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 GREAT THANKSGIVING

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 our thanks and praise.

All glory and honour be yours always and everywhere,
mighty Creator, everliving God.

We give you thanks and praise for your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ,
who by the power of your Spirit was born of Mary
and lived as one of us.

You anointed him as Messiah,
the light of the nations,
and revealed him as the hope
of all who thirst for righteousness and peace

By his death on the cross
and rising to new life,
he offered the one true sacrifice for sin
and obtained an eternal deliverance for his people.

Therefore with angels and archangels,
and with all the company of heaven,
we proclaim your great and glorious name,
for ever praising you and saying:

**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.**

Merciful God, we thank you

for these gifts of your creation,

this bread and wine,

and we pray that by your Word and Holy Spirit,

we who eat and drink them

may be partakers of Christ's body and blood.

On the night he was betrayed Jesus took bread;

and when he had given you thanks

he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying,
'Take, eat. This is my body given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me.'

After supper, he took the cup,
and again giving you thanks
he gave it to his disciples, saying,
'Drink from this, all of you.
This is my blood of the new covenant
shed for you and for many
for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it,
in remembrance of me.'

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:
Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

Therefore we do as our Saviour has commanded:
proclaiming his offering of himself
made once for all upon the cross,
his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension,
and looking for his coming again,
we celebrate, with this bread and this cup,
his one perfect and sufficient sacrifice
for the sins of the whole world.

Renew us by your Holy Spirit,
unite us in the body of your Son,
and bring us with all your people
into the joy of your eternal kingdom;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
with whom, and in whom,
in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
we worship you, Father,
in songs of never-ending praise:
**Blessing and honour and glory and power
are yours for ever and ever. Amen.**

As our Saviour Christ has taught us,
we are confident to pray,
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.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD AND THE COMMUNION

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.
We who are many are one body,
for we all share in the one bread.

Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us.
Jesus, bearer of our sins, have mercy on us.
Jesus, redeemer of the world, grant us your peace.

The gifts of God for the people of God.

Come let us take this holy sacrament of the body and
blood of Christ in remembrance that he died for us, and
feed on him in our hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

THE SENDING OUT OF GOD'S PEOPLE

Let us pray.
Lord God, the bright splendour whom the nations seek:
may we who with the wise men have been drawn by
your light discern the glory of your presence in your Son,
the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Father,
**we offer ourselves to you
as a living sacrifice
through Jesus Christ our Lord.**
**Send us out in the power of your Spirit
to live and work to your praise and glory.**

Hymn: *As with gladness men of old*
William Chatterton Dix (1837-98) alt. - tune: Dix
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- 1. 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 Lord, may we
evermore your glory see.**
- 2. As with joyful steps they sped,
Saviour, to your lowly bed,
there to bend the knee before
one whom heaven and earth adore:
so may we with willing feet
ever seek your mercy seat.**
- 3. As they offered gifts most rare
at your cradle rough and bare:
so may we with holy joy,
pure, and free from sin's alloy,
all our costliest treasures bring,
Christ, to you, our heavenly King.**
- 4. Holy Jesus, 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 your glory hide;**
- 5. in the heavenly country bright
need they no created light:
you its light, its joy, its crown,
you its sun which goes not down.
There for ever may we sing
hallelujahs to our King.**

BLESSING & DISMISSAL

May Christ the Son of God be manifest to you,
that your lives may be a light to the world;
and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son,
and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and those whom you love and pray for,
now and always. **Amen.**

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

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