



St. John's Episcopal Church
Epiphany Sunday ~ January 5th, 2025

We have seen his star in the East, and have come to worship him.
Matthew 2:2

The Word of God

Entrance Hymn #128 ~ *We Three Kings*

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

*Refrain: 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's plain, gold I bring to crown Him again,
King for ever, ceasing never, over us all to reign.

Refrain

Frankincense to offer have I, incense owns a Deity nigh;
prayer and praising, gladly raising, worship Him, God most High.

Refrain

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

Refrain

Glorious now behold Him arise, King and God and Sacrifice;
heaven sings al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia the earth replies.

Refrain

Officiant Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no
secrets are hid: 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.

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

O God, by the leading of a star you manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth:
Lead us, who know you now by faith, to your presence, where we may see your glory face to face; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Old Testament

[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.

The Psalm

Psalm 72:1-7,10-14

Refrain: Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

O God, with your judgment endow the king, and your justice the king's son;
He shall govern your people with justice and your afflicted ones with judgment

Refrain: Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

Justice shall flower in his days, and profound peace, till the moon be no more
May he rule from sea to sea, and from the river to the ends of the earth.

Refrain: Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

The kings of Tarshish and the Isles shall offer gifts; the kings of Arabia and Seba shall bring
tribute. All kings shall pay him homage, all nations shall serve him.

Refrain: Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

For he shall rescue the poor when he cries out, and the afflicted when he has no one to help him.
He shall have pity for the lowly and the poor; the lives of the poor he shall save.

Refrain: Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia

We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia

The Gospel

Matthew 2:1-12

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.

The Sermon

The Rev. John Beach

The Nicene Creed

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
he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from 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.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He 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 Prayers of the People

With the boldness and confidence of God's children, let us pray, saying Gracious God, Lord of Light hear our prayer.

Loving God in Christ you embrace people of every nation and make them members of the same body, sharers in the promise of the gospel. For the holy church of God, that through its faithful witness the wisdom of God in its rich variety be known in heaven and earth,
Gracious God, Lord of Light, **hear our prayer.**

Loving God, you judge the people with righteousness and the poor with justice. For nations, rulers, and authorities to forsake violence and be guided by the light of truth, that righteousness may flourish and justice abound in every land.
Gracious God, Lord of Light, **hear our prayer.**

Loving God, wise men from afar came to visit the holy family and found a place of rest and worship. For this town of Saugus and for all who live here, that we may be a community of hospitality, welcoming the stranger and sheltering the refugee.
Gracious God, Lord of Light, **hear our prayer.**

Loving God, in your providence, the land yields prosperity for the people that righteousness may prevail in the land. For our planet Earth, that we may dwell peacefully with nature, be good stewards of its resources, and share its abundance for the sake of human flourishing,
Gracious God, Lord of Light, **hear our prayer.**

Loving God, you defend the cause of the poor, give deliverance to the needy, and save those who are oppressed. For those who suffer the cruelty of poverty and all who endeavor to transform systems of economic injustice,
Gracious God, Lord of Light, **hear our prayer.**

Loving God, you take pity on the weak. For those whose bodies are enfeebled by disease or whose spirits are debilitated by illness, we pray for Elin Babin, Paul Brophy, Norma Cahill, Francine Carroll, Marie Connors, Barbara Cox, Sue Croft, Kelly Dodge, Jim & Tim Eldridge, Joanne Felci, Paul Felci, Ruth Garrett, Peggy Gibbs, Allison Gray, Patti Greene-Botticeli, Jerica Hamre, Will Hare, Carolyn Hashem, Tom Hashem, Bruce Higgins, Louis Hoelzl, Larry Kamp & Family, Doris Kelly, Jeanne Kelly-Smith, Janet Lancaster, Rachel Lesch, Melissa McSheffery, Mary & Dante, Bobby Miller, Harriet Miraglia, Jonelle Moloney, Erica Moore, Gisela Moore, Jeanine Morris, Fran Muise, Sara Murray, Carol Patroliia, Kathy Pothier, Keelan Pothier, Shirley Raithel, Debbie Rossetti, Gina Sorrentino, Sandy and David St. Clair, Nancy Scarry, Terrie Sevier, Gail Smith, Dom and Joanie Tello, Steve and Kathy, Kathy Webber, Nancy White, Lizzi, and Rachel, that they may be restored to wholeness of life. *Are there others...*
Gracious God, Lord of Light, **hear our prayer.**

Loving God, a welcoming salvation is offered in your heavenly kingdom. In particular, we pray for loved ones and friends Doris & James Smith, Richard C. Nelson, Steven D. Foster, and George Leonhardt.
Gracious God, Lord of Light, **hear our prayer.**

Loving God, your servant Paul was imprisoned for preaching the good news of Jesus. For any who are wrongly incarcerated, may they may be liberated, and for those whose guilt is valid and imprisonment warranted, may they may know genuine repentance of their sin and reconciliation with their community,
Gracious God, Lord of Light, **hear our prayer.**

Gracious God, because you have called us your children, we are bold to ask for what we need, confident in your goodness through faith in our Lord and brother, Jesus Christ.

Officiant In the light of Christ, we see the shadows of our world and of our hearts. Trusting God's grace, let us confess our sins before God and one another.

Minister and People

**Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

Officiant Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. *Amen.*

The Peace

Officiant The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People **And also with you.**

Announcements

Invitation to the Offering

God intends to unite all creation so that all may share in the promises of God's new reign. Therefore with gratitude and joy, let us render tributes and bring gifts, for we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in Christ.

The Holy Communion

Prayer over the Gifts

Gracious God, accept the offering of your Church, the hearts of your people joined in praise and thanksgiving, in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord.

The Great Thanksgiving

Officiant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Officiant Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

Officiant Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.

People **It is meet and right to do so.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord; who on the first day of the week overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Minister and People

Sanctus

S129

**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.

Officiant Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he 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. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Officiant We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. *AMEN.*

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

The Lord's Prayer

**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, and deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread

The Officiant breaks the consecrated Bread.

A period of silence is kept.

Officiant Behold the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world. Blessed are those who are called to the banquet of the Lamb.

Fraction Anthem

1982 Hymnal #S164 ~ *Christ, our Passover*

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.
Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
Therefore let us keep the feast.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

The Invitation to Holy Communion

A spiritual communion is a personal devotional that anyone can pray at any time to express their desire to receive Holy Communion at that moment, but in which circumstances impede them from actually receiving Holy Communion.

The Officiant invites the following prayer to be said by all.

My Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar. I love you above all things, and long for you in my soul. Since I cannot receive you in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, come spiritually into my heart. Cleanse and strengthen me with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let me never be separated from you. May I live in you, and you in me, in this life and in the life to come. Amen.

Anthem during Communion Contemplation

Prayer after Communion

God of all the nations of the earth, guide us with your light. Help us to recognize Christ as he comes to us in this Eucharist and in our neighbors. May we welcome him with love, for he is Lord now and for ever.

Officiant Glory to God,
All whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or
 imagine. Glory to God from generation to generation, in the Church and in
 Christ Jesus, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Blessing

Officiant May the love of Christ that shines in you shine brightly in the world wherever you go. And the blessing of God, Divine Giver, Radiant Light, and Fountain of Life bless you and keep you always.

People **Magnify the Lord and rejoice, for nothing is impossible with God. And the blessing of God who creates, redeems, and restores, be with you now and always.**

Recessional Hymn

#516 ~ *Come down, O Love Divine*

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine ever on my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong, with which the soul will long,
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till Love create a place
wherein the Holy Spirit makes a dwelling.

Dismissal

Let us go forth rejoicing in the light of God's love. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia

People Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

Announcement/Reminder

Annual Meeting

St. John's Annual Meeting will convene on **Sunday, February 2nd at 11:30**. Parishioners are encouraged to attend this important gathering to reflect on achievements, consider future goals, elect new officers, vestry members and convention delegates/representatives, review finances, and vote on the 2025 budget.

If you are interested in increasing your church participation as an officer, vestry member, or delegate, please contact the wardens, Rev. John, or a current vestry member.

Participants in this Service:

The Rev. John Beach, Officiant & Priest-in-Charge
Stephen Sikorski, Music Director
Sandy St. Clair, Worship Leader ~ Kristina Palazzo, L.E.M.

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