

Arise, shine; for your light has come.

Isaiah 60:1a

Episcopal Church of the Epiphany
The Epiphany
Morning Prayer
January 6, 2019, 10:30 am

We worship today according to the appointed order for Morning Prayer, Rite Two,
beginning on page 75 of the Book of Common Prayer.

Processional Hymn: *We Three Kings (we stand)*.....128

Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of
your rising.

Dearly beloved, we have come together in the presence of
Almighty God our heavenly Father, to set forth his praise, to
hear his holy Word, and to ask, for ourselves and on behalf of
others, those things that are necessary for our life and our
salvation. And so that we may prepare ourselves in heart and
mind to worship him, let us kneel in silence, and with penitent
and obedient hearts confess our sins, that we may obtain
forgiveness by his infinite goodness and mercy.

Silence. We stand or kneel.

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.

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

The Invitatory and Psalter (*we stand*)

Lord, open our lips.

And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever.
Amen. Alleluia.

The Lord has shown forth his glory: Come let us adore him.

Venite- Psalm 95.....S-35

The Psalm – Psalm 72:1-7,10-14

Give the King your justice, O God,
and your righteousness to the King's Son;

**That he may rule your people righteously
and the poor with justice;**

That the mountains may bring prosperity to the people,
and the little hills bring righteousness.

**He shall defend the needy among the people;
he shall rescue the poor and crush the oppressor.**

He shall live as long as the sun and moon endure,
from one generation to another.

**He shall come down like rain upon the mown field,
like showers that water the earth.**

In his time shall the righteous flourish;
there shall be abundance of peace till the moon shall be no
more.

**The kings of Tarshish and of the isles shall pay tribute,
and the kings of Arabia and Saba offer gifts.**

All kings shall bow down before him,
and all the nations do him service.

**For he shall deliver the poor who cries out in distress,
and the oppressed who has no helper.**

He shall have pity on the lowly and poor;
he shall preserve the lives of the needy.

**He shall redeem their lives from oppression and
violence,
and dear shall their blood be in his sight.**

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy
Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for
ever. Amen.

The Lessons (*we sit*)

The First Lesson – 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 word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Canticle 9 – *The First Song of Isaiah*.....SH 18

The Gospel Lesson – 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 word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Canticle 12 – A Song of Creation

**Glorify the Lord, all you works of the Lord,
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.**

**In the firmament of his power, glorify the Lord,
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.**

**Let the people of God glorify the Lord,
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.**

**Glorify the Lord, O priests and servants of the Lord,
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.**

**Glorify the Lord, O spirits and souls of the righteous,
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.**

**You that are holy and humble of heart, glorify the Lord,
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.**

**Let us glorify the Lord: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit;
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.**

**In the firmament of his power, glorify the Lord,
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.**

The Apostles' Creed (*we all stand*)

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again.

**He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

He will come again 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 Peace

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

Gathering Hymn: *This Little Light of Mine (we sit)*.....SH 60:1

Joys and Concerns of the Congregation

The Offering

Offertory Hymn: *In the Bleak Midwinter*.....112

Presentation Hymn: The Doxology (*we stand*).....380:3

The Prayers (*we stand or kneel*)

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Let us pray.

**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,
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

Suffrage

Show us your mercy, O Lord;
And grant us your salvation.

Clothe your ministers with righteousness;
Let your people sing with joy.

Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;
For only in you can we live in safety.

Lord, keep this nation under your care;
And guide us in the way of justice and truth.

Let your way be known upon earth;
Your saving health among all nations.

Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;
Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.

Create in us clean hearts, O God;
And sustain us with your Holy Spirit.

The Collect of the Day

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.**

A Collect for Peace

O God, the author of peace and lover of concord, to know you is eternal life and to serve you is perfect freedom: Defend us, your humble servants, in all assaults of our enemies; that we, surely trusting in your defense, may not fear the power of any adversaries; through the might of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

A Collect for this Parish

Almighty and everliving God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth, hear our prayers for this parish family. Strengthen the faithful, arouse the careless, and restore the penitent. During our Annual Meeting this afternoon, so stir us with the power of your mission in the world that we look beyond our parish and embrace your Great Commission. Grant us all things necessary for our common life, and bring us all to be of one heart and mind within your holy Church; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

A Prayer for Mission

O God, you have made of one blood all the peoples of the earth, and sent your blessed Son to preach peace to those who are far off and to those who are near: Grant that people everywhere may seek after you and find you; bring the nations into your fold; pour out your Spirit upon all flesh; and hasten the coming of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Intercessions and Thanksgivings

In our parish we pray for those who are sick or recovering from illness, including **Brian** Hudson, **Jere** Van Etten, **Greg** Dubay, **Barbara** Trogdon, **Laura** Foss, **John** Haynie, **Mike** Oniffrey, **Diane** Ellison, and the others we now name.

In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer we pray for our Companion Diocese of the Virgin Islands and its bishop, Ambrose. For all Diocesan Youth Ministries, for Pre-School Partners in Birmingham and Anniston, for Epiphany, Guntersville, for Epiphany, Leeds, and for our own church, Episcopal Church of the Epiphany.

A Prayer for Our New Growth and Development Team

Almighty God, giver of every good gift: Look graciously on your Church, and so guide the minds of those who shall choose a rector for this parish, that we may receive a faithful pastor, who will care for your people and equip us for our ministries; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

A Prayer of St. Chrysostom

Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. **Amen.**

Today we Episcopalians celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany, which marks the end of the twelve days of Christmas each year on January 6. Epiphany is a Greek word meaning “manifestation” or “appearing.” At the Feast of the Epiphany, we celebrate Jesus being made manifest or appearing as Christ. Traditionally, there are three manifestations celebrated at Epiphany.

The most widely celebrated by churches in the West is the revelation of Jesus as Christ to the three wise men, or Magi, who followed the Star of Bethlehem at Jesus’ birth. The legend speaks of “the three kings,” but scripture doesn’t pin them down to a number. The second manifestation is the baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan, which we now celebrate on the First Sunday after the Epiphany (next Sunday). The First Sunday After the Epiphany is now also known as the Baptism of Our Lord.

The third manifestation is the miracle of turning water into wine at the wedding at Cana in Galilee, Christ’s first recorded miracle. We will hear about this on January 20. For those reluctant to wait two weeks to partake of the fruit of Christ’s work, rumor has it there may be a bottle or two at today’s Annual Meeting!

Speaking of which, immediately after our worship service today, we will adjourn to the Little House for a covered dish lunch and our Annual Meeting. We will elect our vestry members for the year to come and have a chance to think about the opportunities and challenges we face as a parish.

Confirmation Classes resume next Sunday, January 13, in the Little House. Join us at 9:30 when Lee and Amanda Borden lead a conversation about the Ministry and Organization of The Episcopal Church.

Serving at Epiphany this week: Ushers: Mike Rallo and Dana Barlow Altar Guild: Betty Weldon Lay Reader: Betty Weldon Officiant: Maurice McCord Refreshments: Laura Williams	And next: Ushers: Pam and Eddie Harper Altar Guild: Pam Van Etten Lay Reader: Lee Borden Lay Eucharistic Minister: Lavonne Hart Refreshments: Brian Hudson
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