

# The Season of Epiphany

## Welcome to St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

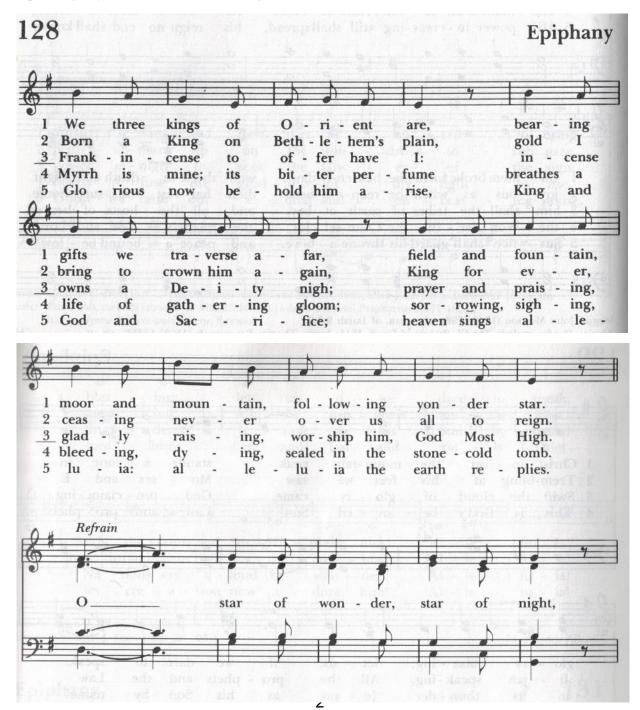
Saint Stephen's welcomes everyone who wishes to follow Christ, worship together, grow in faith and share God's love through service to others.

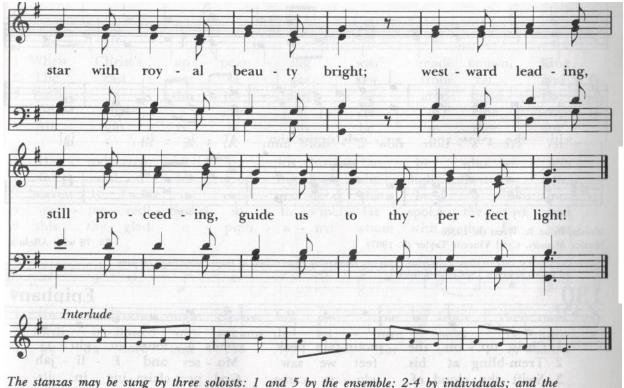
## EPIPHANY



Opening Hymn (We Three Kings)

1982 Hymnal #128





The stanzas may be sung by three soloists: 1 and 5 by the ensemble; 2-4 by individuals; and the refrain by all.

Words: John Henry Hopkins, Jr. (1820-1891), alt.

Music: Three Kings of Orient, John Henry Hopkins, Jr. (1820-1891)

88. 446 with Refrain

## The Greeting

Presider Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

**Presider** 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.** 

Gloria/Glory to God

BCP p. 356

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.

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 of the Day

Presider The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Presider Let us pray.

All: 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.

(please be seated for the lessons)

#### The Word of God

First Reading from the book 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.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

## **People: Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm 72:1-7,10-14 Deus, judicium

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

2 That he may rule your people righteously \*

and the poor with justice;

3 That the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, \*

and the little hills bring righteousness.

4 He shall defend the needy among the people; \*

he shall rescue the poor and crush the oppressor.

5 He shall live as long as the sun and moon endure, \*

from one generation to another.

6 He shall come down like rain upon the mown field, \*

like showers that water the earth.

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

10 The kings of Tarshish and of the isles shall pay tribute, \*

and the kings of Arabia and Saba offer gifts.

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

12 For he shall deliver the poor who cries out in distress, \*

and the oppressed who has no helper.

13 He shall have pity on the lowly and poor; \*

he shall preserve the lives of the needy.

14 He shall redeem their lives from oppression and violence, \*

and dear shall their blood be in his sight.

#### Second Reading from the book of Ephesians 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 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 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.

Reader: *The word of the Lord*. **People: Thanks be to God.** 

## **Gospel Reading Matthew 2:1-12**

Reader: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

People: Glory to you, Lord 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.

Reader: The Gospel of the Lord People: Praise to you, Lord Christ

## Sermon

The Nicene Creed All say together

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.

#### **Prayers of the People**

Leader: Let us pray to God, who came among us in the birth of Jesus:

Gracious God, as a star rose, and drew people from great distances to Bethlehem that they might greet the Christ-child; Draw us, your Church, and all of your people to you – that we might be the Church and the People who you call us to be. Lord, in your mercy,

#### People: Hear our prayer.

Leader: As you gave Mary your Holy Spirit, filling her with the delight of your Presence; Fill us with your Spirit, and renew our lives.

Lord, in your mercy,

## Hear our prayer.

Leader: As Gentiles streamed to Jesus' Light, and Kings to the brightness of his rising; Draw our nation, our President, and all in authority, to His brightness.

Lord, in your mercy,

#### Hear our prayer.

Leader: As angels sang 'glorias' to you and proclaimed peace on earth, and goodwill among all peoples; Bring us your peace, and bring to an end terror and strife.

Lord, in your mercy,

#### Hear our prayer.

Leader: As shepherds were drawn away from their flocks by night; Draw those who do not know you yet to the knowledge and love of you.

Lord, in your mercy,

#### Hear our prayer.

Leader: As Jesus was born in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn; Be especially present with those who have no where to lay their head, those who are vulnerable, and those who are hungry.

Lord, in your mercy,

#### Hear our prayer.

Leader: As the Holy Family gathered together in Bethlehem, and traveled together to far off lands; Bless all families, especially the families of our

parish, and protect those who travel. Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.** 

Leader: As your son came to proclaim the forgiveness of sins, and the gift of Life Eternal; Give to the departed eternal rest and let Light perpetual shine on them.

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Leader: Let us pray for our own needs and those of others, (people add their own prayers either silently or aloud). Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

**Celebrant:** O Lord our God, may the Light and Hope of this night/season, and of your Son's Incarnation, reassure our hearts that you are among us, that you hear our prayer, and that you will be with us always, even to the end of the age. In the name of Jesus of Nazareth we pray. **Amen.** 

## **Exchange of the Peace**

Presider May the peace of Christ be always with you All And also with you.

(The Ministers and People exchange socially distant signs of peace (peace sign, namaste, virtual hug)

#### **Offertory**

Presider: Through Christ let us continually offer to God the sacrifice of praise, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his Name.

Offertory Music

## The Holy Communion

The Great Thanksgiving

Rite II Prayer D BCP p. 372

Presider The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Presider *Lift up your hearts*.

People We lift them to the Lord.

Presider Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Presider

It is truly right to glorify you, Father, and to give you thanks; for you alone are God, living and true, dwelling in light inaccessible from before time and forever.

#### People:

Fountain of life and source of all goodness, you made all things and fill them with your blessing; you created them to rejoice in the splendor of your radiance.

Countless throngs of angels stand before you to serve you night and day; and, beholding the glory of your presence, they offer you unceasing praise. Joining with them, and giving voice to every creature under heaven, we acclaim you, and glorify your Name, as we sing (say),

Celebrant and People

A11:

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.

Then the Presider continues

We acclaim you, holy Lord, glorious in power. Your mighty works reveal your wisdom and love.

You formed us in your own image, giving the whole world into our care, so that, in obedience to you, our Creator, we might rule and serve all your creatures.

When our disobedience took us far from you, you did not abandon us to the power of death. In your mercy you came to our help, so that in seeking you we might find you.

Again and again you called us into covenant with you, and through the prophets you taught us to hope for salvation.

Father, you loved the world so much that in the fullness of time you sent your only Son to be our Savior. Incarnate by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, he lived as one of us, yet without sin.

To the poor he proclaimed the good news of salvation; to prisoners, freedom; to the sorrowful, joy. To fulfill your purpose he gave himself up to death; and, rising from the grave, destroyed death, and made the whole creation new.

And, that we might live no longer for ourselves, but for him who died and rose for us, he sent the Holy Spirit, his own first gift for those who believe, to complete his work in the world, and to bring to fulfillment the sanctification of all.

When the hour had come for him to be glorified by you, his heavenly Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.

At supper with them he 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."

Father, we now celebrate this memorial of our redemption.

Recalling Christ's death and his descent among the dead, proclaiming his resurrection and ascension to your right hand, awaiting his coming in glory; and offering to you, from the gifts you have given us, this bread and this cup, we praise you and we bless you.

We praise you, we bless you, we give thanks to you, and we pray to you, O Lord our God.

The Celebrant continues

Lord, we pray, that in your goodness and mercy, your Holy Spirit may descend upon us (+) and upon these gifts, sanctifying them and showing them to be holy gifts for your holy people, the bread of life and the cup of salvation, the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ.

Grant that all who share this bread and cup may become one body and one spirit, a living sacrifice in Christ, to the praise of your Name.

Remember, Lord, your one holy catholic and apostolic Church, redeemed by the blood of your Christ.

Reveal its unity, guard its faith, and preserve it in peace.

And grant that we may find our inheritance with the Blessed Virgin Mary, with Matriarchs, Patriarchs, Prophets, Apostles, and Martyrs, and all the saints who have found favor with you in ages past.

We praise you in union with them and give you glory through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, all honor and glory are yours, Almighty God and Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever. **AMEN.** 

And now as Jesus taught us, we pray:

#### 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, but 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

**Fraction**: (In silence the Presider breaks the bread)

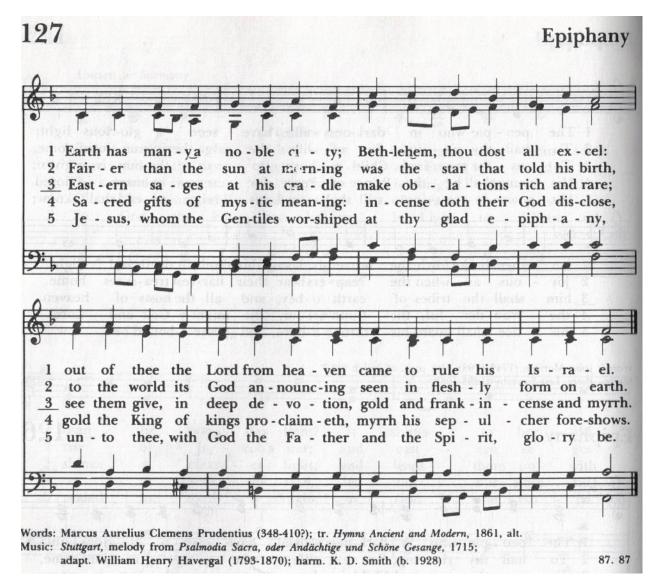
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace.

#### **Invitation to Communion:**

Presider: The gifts of God for the people of God.

(Everyone is invited to come forward and receive communion or a blessing).

Communion Music (Earth Has Many a Noble City) the 1982 Hymnal #127



Recognition of a Birthday, Anniversary, Healing, Gratitude

**Post Communion Prayer** The people stand as they are able.

Presider: Let us pray:

Presider and People

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the World in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

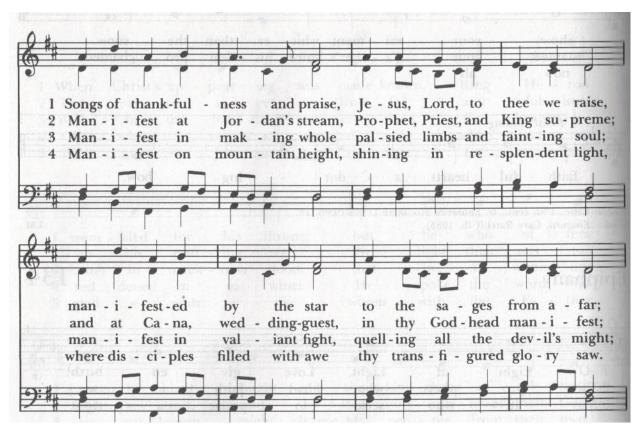
## **Blessing**

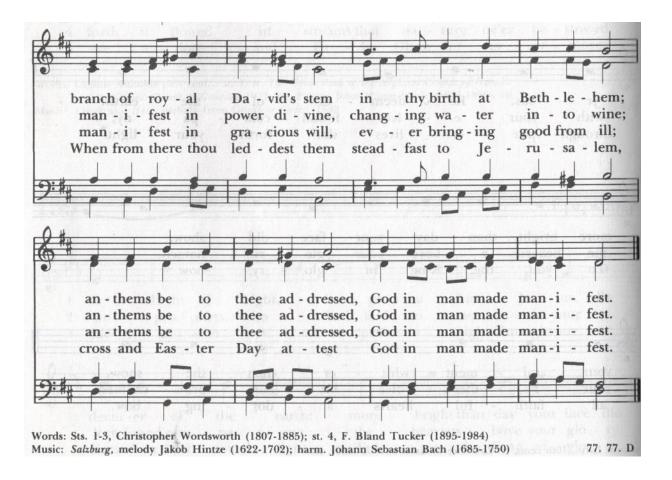
The Presider says

Be a people of peace. Let peace live in your heart and share the peace of Christ with all you meet, and the blessing of God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit be upon you and remain with you always. Amen.

**Closing Hymn** (Songs of Thankfulness and Praise)

the 1982 Hymnal #135



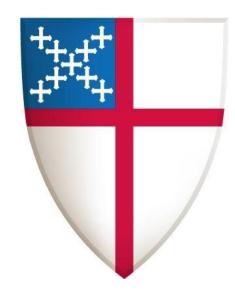


#### Dismissal

Presider: Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia!
People Thanks be to God. Alleluia, (Alleluia!)



## ST. STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH



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### Welcome Visitor!!!

Please leave your name and contact info below. If you'd like to speak with someone, please check

here

Or you can also use the QRC here to fill this out online.



☐ Info Update	Giving Envelope	es Mail News Letter
Name	(Mid.)	(Last)
Hm:	Cell	
Email:		Anv. Date
   Adrs:		BrthDate
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