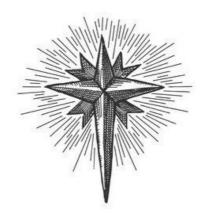


The Epiphany of our Lord



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

Welcome to St Thomas' Cathedral for this service

The Feast of the Epiphany – the Manifestation of Christ – has, in the Western Church, traditionally focused on the visit of the Magi, as recorded in St. Matthew's Gospel. In other Christian traditions, there have been differing emphases. The Declaration made at Christ's baptism in the Jordan, and the 'sign' of water turned into wine at the wedding at Cana both point to Jesus as the one who is 'God in Man made manifest'.

This Service holds together these three 'strands' of the Epiphany in an attempt to reflect not only on the Biblical accounts and their meanings, but also on the consequences for the Church of Christ's coming among us.

The Baptism of the Lord challenges us to examine our own standing before God as those who have been united with Christ in the Sacrament of Baptism. The Adoration of the Magi calls us to reflect on our devotion to Christ, both as individuals and as community in the Church. The manifestation of God's glory at Cana within the context of a marriage feast, looks forward to the hope of the new creation, when the redeemed will sit and eat at the marriage supper of the Lamb.

Do not leave this service booklet behind. Take it home with you to reflect on the prayers and readings and as a reminder of your visit.



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Order of Service

The congregation is asked to join in all text printed in **bold**.

Music before the Service

Prelude on 'Whence is that goodly fragrance?'

Harrison Oxley (1933 - 2009)

The service begins in the Chapel near the West Door. All **STAND** for the acclamation.

The Acclamation

Presbyter From the Christ who is Emmanuel, God with us,

grace, light and peace be with you

All and also with you.

Blessèd be the Lord, the God of Israel,

for he has come to his people and set them free.

Three wonders mark this holy season.

A star leads the wise men to the Christ child.

Alleluia!

Jesus is revealed as the Christ in the waters of baptism.

Alleluia!

Water is made wine at the wedding feast.

Alleluia! Praise to you, O Christ!

All join in singing the 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!

- ² 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.
- 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.

Words: John Samuel Bewley Monsell (1811-75)

Tune: WAS LEBET Melody from the Rheinhardt MS (1754)

All sit

The Bidding Led by the Presbyter

Today we celebrate the three great mysteries of the Epiphany: the revelation of the child Jesus to the Magi from the East, the baptism of the Lord by John in the Jordan River, and the turning of water into wine in the first miracle that Christ wrought, in Cana of Galilee.

In scripture, symbol and song, we enter these mysteries with prayerful hearts that we also may see the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. Through him, the Word made flesh, we make our prayer to the Father.

Let us pray that we may see the radiance of Christ made manifest among us.

Almighty God, who wonderfully created us in your own image, and yet more wonderfully restored us through your Son Jesus Christ: grant that, as he came to share in our humanity, so we may share the life of his divinity; who is alive and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

All Amen.

While singing, all process to the crib.

Carol

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 light, Star with royal beauty bright, Westward leading, still proceeding, Guide us to thy perfect light.

² Born a King on Bethlehem's plain Gold I bring to crown Him again, King forever, ceasing never, Over us all to reign:

³ Frankincense to offer have I; Incense owns a deity nigh; Prayer and praising, all men raising, Worship Him God on high:

Continued

⁴ Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume Breathes a life of gathering gloom; Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying, Sealed in the stone cold tomb:

Glorious now behold him arise,
 King and God and sacrifice;
 Alleluia, Alleluia!
 Peals through the earth and skies.

John Hopkins Jr. (1820 - 1891)

Please be **SEATED**

The King of all the World is revealed to the Magi



Out of the silence comes the voice

Lo, sages from the East are gone To where the star hath newly shone: Led on by light to Light they press, And by their gifts their God confess.

A minister says

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

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

They shall bring gold and frankincense and proclaim the praise of the Lord.

Incense, symbolic of the Magi's gifts, is brought, and the Cantor sings

Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the universe: you receive our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. May our prayers be set forth in your sight as incense, and the lifting up of our hands be an evening sacrifice.

All repeat

Blessed be God forever.

The gift of incense is placed at the crib.

Reading

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.

Continued

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.

Matthew 2, I-II

The Collect for the Epiphany Read by the Presbyter

O God,
who by the leading of a star
manifested your only Son
to the peoples of the earth:
mercifully grant that we
who know you now by faith
may at last behold your glory face to face;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

All stand and sing the hymn

The Christ is revealed in the waters of Baptism



Hymn

Songs of thankfulness and praise, Jesu, Lord, to thee we raise, manifested by the star to the sages from afar; branch of royal David's stem in thy birth at Bethlehem: anthems be to thee addrest, God in man made manifest.

- ² Manifest at Jordan's stream, Prophet, Priest, and King supreme; and at Cana wedding-guest in thy Godhead manifest; manifest in power divine, changing water into wine: anthems be to thee addrest, God in man made manifest.
- ³ Grant us grace to see thee, Lord, mirrored in thy holy word; may we imitate thee now, and be pure, as pure art thou; that we like to thee may be at thy great Epiphany; and may praise thee, ever blest, God in man made manifest.

Words: Christopher Wordsworth (1807–1885)

Tune: ST. EDMUND Charles Steggall (1826 –1905)

Please be seated

A minister says

I will take you from among the nations and gather you from all the countries.

I will sprinkle clean water upon you and purify you from all defilement.

A new heart I will give you and put a new spirit within you.

Water is brought and the Cantor sings

Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the universe: you bring waters out of the stony rock. For with you is the well of life, and in your light shall we see light.

All repeat

Blessed be God forever.

Water is poured into the font.

Reaffirmation of Baptismal Commitment led by the Presbyter

At your baptism you turned to Christ, repented of your sins, and renounced evil.

Do you renew your allegiance to Christ?

I do and, with God's grace,

I will follow him as my Saviour and Lord.

Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

With the help of God, I will.

Will you persevere in resisting evil, and whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

With the help of God, I will.

Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ? With the help of God, I will.

Will you seek and serve Christ in all people, loving your neighbour as yourself? With the help of God, I will.

Will you recognise Christ's authority over human society, by prayer for the world and its leaders, by defending the weak, and by seeking peace and justice? With the help of God, I will.

May God the Creator, the rock of our salvation, who has given us new birth by water and the Holy Spirit and forgiven all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, keep us faithful to our calling, now and for ever. Amen.

The Collect for the Baptism of Christ

Read by the Presbyter

Eternal Father. who at the baptism of lesus revealed him to be your Son, anointing him with the Holy Spirit: grant to us, who are born again by water and the Spirit, that we may be faithful to our calling as your adopted children; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

The New Creation is revealed in the water made wine



Hymn

During the singing of this hymn, all process to the Lady Chapel.

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.

² 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.

Words: William Chatterton Dix (1837–98)

Tune: DIX

from a chorale by Konrad Kocher (1786–1872)

A flagon of wine is brought, and the Cantor sings

Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the universe: for the marriage of the Lamb is come.

Make your Church ready, and clothe her with the righteous deeds of the saints, to join the praises of your new creation.

All repeat

Blessed be God forever.

Reading

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine gave out, the mother of lesus said to him, 'They have no wine.' And Jesus said to her, 'Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come.' His mother said to the servants, 'Do whatever he tells you.' Now standing there were six stone water-jars for the lewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to them, 'Fill the jars with water.' And they filled them up to the brim. He said to them, 'Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward.' So they took it. When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom and said to him, 'Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now.' Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

John 2. I-II

The Collect for the Third Sunday of Epiphany

Read by the Presbyter

Almighty God, whose Son revealed in signs and miracles the wonder of your saving presence: renew your people with your heavenly grace, and in all our weakness sustain us by your mighty power; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

During the singing of this hymn, all process to the Quire and take their places in front of the High Altar in the stalls.

Jesus, come! for we invite you,
Guest and Master, Friend and Lord;
Now, as once at Cana's wedding,
Speak, and let us hear your word:
Lead us through our need or doubting,
Hope be born and joy restored.

² Jesus, come in new creation,
Heaven brought near in power divine;
Give your unexpected glory
Changing water into wine:
Rouse the faith of your disciples –
Come, our first and greatest Sign!

Jesus, come! surprise our dullness,
 Make us willing to receive
 More than we can yet imagine,
 All the best you have to give:
 Let us find your hidden riches,
 Taste your love, believe, and live!

Words: Christopher Idle (b.1938) based on John 2. I-4

Tune: NEANDER found in Joachim Neander's Alpha und Omega (Bremen, 1680)

Please be seated

Out of the silence comes the voice

Now he that ruleth everything Can change the nature of the spring, And gives at Cana this for sign – The water reddens into wine.

A minister says

Christ, though he was rich, for our sake became poor that through his poverty we might be rich.

If anyone is in Christ there is a new creation the old order has passed away; behold, the new is come.

See, I am making all things new.

I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end.

Prayers of Intercession

Intercessor From the rising of the sun to its setting,

let us pray to the Lord.

That the people of God in all the world may worship in spirit and in truth,

Let us pray to the Lord:

Lord, have mercy.

That the Church may discover again that unity which is your gift, let us pray to the Lord:

Lord, have mercy.

That the nations of the earth may seek after the ways that make for peace, let us pray to the Lord:

Lord, have mercy.

That all who with Christ have entered the shadow of death may rest in peace and rise in glory, let us pray to the Lord:

Lord, have mercy.

Let us pray for the coming of the kingdom in the words our Saviour taught us,

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, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

All

May God the Father, who led the wise men by the shining of a star to find the Christ, the Light from Light, lead you also in your pilgrimage to find the Lord. **Amen.**

May God the Son, who turned water into wine at the Wedding Feast of Cana, transform your lives and make glad your hearts.

Amen.

May God the Holy Spirit, who came upon the beloved Son at his baptism in the River Jordan, pour out his gifts on you who have come to the water of new birth. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

All STAND and sing Hymn

Hail to the Lord's Anointed!
Great David's greater Son;
Hail, in the time appointed,
His reign on earth begun!
He comes to break oppression,
To set the captive free;
To take away transgression,
And rule in equity.

Words: James Montgomery (1771–1854) based on Psalm 72

O'er every foe victorious,
He on his throne shall rest,
From age to age more glorious,
All-blessing and all-blest:
The tide of time shall never
His covenant remove;
His name shall stand for ever;
That name to us is Love.

Tune: CRÜGER Adapted by William Henry Monk (1823–89) from a chorale by Johann Crüger (1598–1662)

Organ Voluntary

"Es ist das Heil uns kommen her", BWV 638 ("Salvation now has come for all")

J. S. Bach (1685 - 1750)