



The Epiphany of Jesus Christ + January 5, 2025
10:30 am

St. Martin's Episcopal Church
Bridgewater, NJ

Please stand to sing We Three Kings

Hymnal 1982, 128

Verse One (with refrain) All Verse Two (no refrain) Men Verse Three (no refrain) All
Verse Four (no refrain) Women Verse Five (with refrain) All

Blessed be God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
And blessed be God's Kingdom, now and forever. Amen.

.Gloria

Hymnal 1982, S 278

The Lord be with you. *And also with you.*

Let us pray: 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 forever. *Amen.*

A Reading from the Prophet Isaiah *(Please be seated)*

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*

Psalm 72 *Deus, judicium*

Antiphon: All kings shall bow before him; all nations shall do him service..

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. **Antiphon.**

He shall rule from sea to sea, and from the river to the ends of the earth.

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

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 **Antiphon.**
May his Name remain for ever and be established as long as the sun endures;
May all the nations bless themselves in him and call him blessed. **Antiphon.**

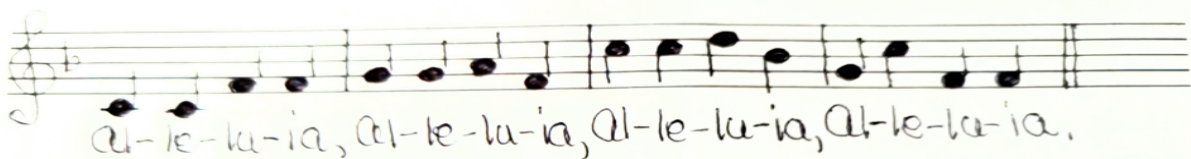
A Reading from Paul's Epistle to the Ephesians

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.

The Word of the Lord/ *Thanks be to God*

Gospel Acclamation

please stand



V: We saw his star at its rising, and have come to give him homage.

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke

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 Gospel of the Lord.

The Homily

The Nicene Creed (Please stand)

BCP, 358

The Prayers of the People

Let us worship the Savior with joy and make our prayer to our heavenly Father.

The magi came from the east to worship your Son: Father, grant to Christians everywhere the spirit of adoration. Lord of glory, *hear our prayer.*

The infant Christ received gifts of gold, incense and myrrh: Father, accept the offering of our hearts and minds. Lord of glory, *hear our prayer.*

The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ: Father, grant an abundance of peace to your world. Lord of glory, *hear our prayer.*

The Holy Family lived in exile and in the shadow of death: Father, look in mercy on all who are poor and powerless, and all who suffer, especially .
Lord of glory, *hear our prayer.*

Lamb of God, you take a-way the

sins of the world: ___ have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you

take a-way the sins of the world: ___ grant us peace.

slower

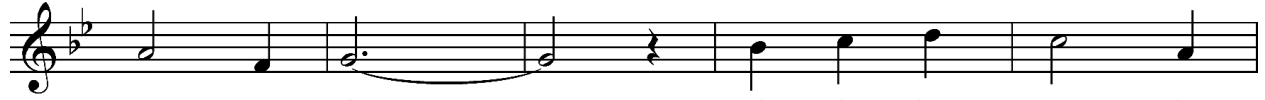
Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.
 Happy are they who are called to the Supper of the Lamb.

The Holy Communion

Communion Hymns



1 Who are these east - ern strang - ers? Why have they
 2 Why do they stop in our yard? What can they
 3 See how the ba - by's smil - ing— reach - ing to



come so far? _____ Why do they gaze in -
 hope to see? _____ Why do they come with
 hold the myrrh! _____ Why is his mo - ther



tent - ly eyes on a gold - en star? _____
 pre - sents bend - ing so rev - 'rent - ly? _____
 si - lent what can it mean to her? _____



Hush, now, hush now, let us
 Look now, look now, they must
 Come now, come now, strange the



quiet - ly fo - - - low; hush now,
 be mis - tak - - - en! Look now,
 things that hap - - - pen! Come now,



hush now, see which way they go. _____
 look now, cost - ly gifts they bring! _____
 come now, who can tell us why? _____

In the Bleak Midwinter

Blue Hymnal, 112

Post Communion Prayer (Please kneel or stand)

BCP, 365

Blessing and Dismissal

Closing Hymn: As with Gladness, Men of Old vv. 1-3

Hymnal 1982, 112

SERVING TODAY

Thurifer: Fausto Beleno Crucifer: Nick Persson

Reader: Anna Conti Eucharistic Minister: Jennifer Persson

Choir: Beth Hixenbaugh, Alison Jandak, Jane Maloney, Rob Vernon

Organist: Kathy Shanklin Celebrant: Father Rob Laws

Mass: Wednesday, 6 pm in the Lady Chapel

EPIPHANY HOUSE BLESSING

Epiphany (which means “revealing”) commemorates the visit of the Magi who came from the four corners of the world bearing gifts and following a star to meet the child who would become King. We celebrate Epiphany to remember that we too are invited to come and witness the life of Jesus and be blessed as we begin a new year.

“**Chalking the door**” is a centuries-old way to celebrate and to (literally) mark the occasion of the Epiphany with God’s blessing on our lives and homes with sacred signs and symbols used to set our homes apart as places of Christian hospitality, and as habitations of healing and rest. We invite God’s presence into our homes and ask Christ’s blessing upon all those who live, work, or visit throughout the coming year.

Each year, using blessed chalk, people mark the doorpost of their home with an inscription of the new year separated by C+M+B. In 2025, the inscription is **20+C+M+B+25**.

C+M+B are the initials of traditional names of the Magi who visited Jesus: Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar. Their initials create an anagram for a prayer in Latin:
Christus Mansionem Benedictat, which means “May Christ bless this house.”

Chalk is used in this ritual because it is an ordinary substance of the earth; “dust” put to holy use. It reminds us that we are of the dust of the ground, the most ordinary of substances, and yet are fashioned as holy beings for holy purposes. Chalk will not permanently mark the dwelling. Weather will likely cause the marking to fade over time, but each time we view the inscription upon entering our homes we will remember the reason for it and rededicate ourselves to that purpose.

Blessed chalk is available in the narthex for all who would like to use it to bless their homes,

UPCOMING EVENTS

Annual Meeting: Sunday January 26

There will be only one Mass this weekend to encourage all parishioners to attend the meeting. Meeting materials will be forthcoming.