



The Parish Eucharist for the Feast of the Epiphany



Sunday 5th January 2025

Entrance Hymn

As with gladness, men of old
Did the guiding star behold,
As with joy they hailed its light,
Leading inward, beaming bright,
So, most gracious God, may we
Evermore be led to thee.

As with joyful steps they sped,
To that lowly manger-bed,
There to bend the knee before
Him whom heaven and earth adore,
So may we with willing feet
Ever seek thy mercy-seat.

As they offered gifts most rare
At that manger rude and bare,
So may we with holy joy,
Pure, and free from sin's alloy,
All our costliest treasures bring,
Christ, to thee our heavenly King.

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 bring
Alleluyas to our King.

W. Chatterton Dix 1837-98
Tune: Dix

During the Hymn the Wise Men are brought to the Crib.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Blessed are you Lord our God, King of the universe.

From the rising of the sun to its setting

Your name is proclaimed in all the world.

Grace and peace be with you

and keep you in the love of Christ.

The Priest introduces the Eucharist and calls the people to penitence

Silence

Lord Jesus, illuminate the darkness of our hearts:

Lord, have mercy: **Lord, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, open our eyes to your saving love:

Christ, have mercy: **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, unstop our ears to your living word:

Lord, have mercy: **Lord, have mercy.**

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent,

have mercy on you and set you free from sin,

strengthen you in goodness and keep you in eternal life;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Gloria in Excelsis

Glory in the highest to the God of heaven!

Peace to all your people through the earth be given:

Mighty God and Father, thanks and praise we bring,

Singing alleluias to our heavenly King.

Jesus Christ is risen, God the Father's Son:

With the Holy Spirit, you are Lord alone!

Lamb once killed for sinners, all our guilt to bear,

Show us now your mercy, now receive our prayer.

Christ the world's true Saviour, high and holy one,

Seated now and reigning from your Father's throne:

Lord and God, we praise you; highest heaven adores:

In the Father's glory, all the praise be yours!

Tune: Camberwell

The Collect of the Day

Let us pray: *(Please remain Standing)*

Gracious 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 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.**

Isaiah 60. 1-6 *(Please Sit)*

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

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.

For the word of the Lord:

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading

(Please Stand)

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 night,
star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light.*

*Edward John Hopkins 1818-1901
Tune: Three Kings of Orient*

Listen to the gospel of Christ according to Saint Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

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.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

The Sermon

(Please Sit)

An Affirmation of the Faith

(Please Stand)

Let us affirm our faith in Jesus Christ the Son of God.

**Though he was divine,
he did not cling to equality with God,
but made himself nothing.
Taking the form of a slave,
he was born in human likeness.
He humbled himself
and was obedient to death,
even the death of the cross.
Therefore God has raised him on high,
and given him the name
above every name:
that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bow,
and every voice proclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

The Intercessions

Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Merciful Father,
**accept these prayers
for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

The Peace

Our Saviour Christ is the Prince of Peace: of the increase of his government and of peace there shall be no end.

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

Let us offer one another a sign of the Lord's peace.

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.

Low at his feet lay thy burden of carefulness:
high on his heart he will bear it for thee,
comfort thy sorrows, and answer thy prayerfulness,
guiding thy steps as may best for thee be.

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.

These, though we bring them in trembling and fearfulness,
he will accept for the name that is dear;
mornings of joy give for evenings of tearfulness,
trust for our trembling and hope for our fear.

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.

*J.S.B. Monsell 1811-75
Tune: Was Lebet*

The Thanksgiving

We celebrate together the gifts and grace of God.

**We take this bread,
we take this wine
to follow Christ's example
and obey his command.**

Lord, accept your people's gifts,
not gold, frankincense and myrrh,
but hearts and voices raised in praise of Jesus Christ,
our light and our salvation. **Amen.**

Eucharistic Prayer 2

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your heart.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

True and living God,
the source of life for all creation,
you have made us in your own image.
Always and everywhere we give you thanks
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Because by the leading of a star
You have revealed your only begotten Son
to the world in human form,
that in following him
we are brought out of darkness into his marvelous light.

Therefore, with angels and archangels
and with all the company of heaven
we praise your glorious name:

**Holy, holy, holy, holy,
Holy, holy, Lord God Almighty.
And we lift our hearts before you
as a token of our love.
Holy, holy, holy, holy.**

**Gracious Father, gracious Father,
Blessed is the one who comes to us
in your name.**

**And we lift our hearts before you
as we give you thanks and praise.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Blessed are you, almighty God,
because on the night he was betrayed
the Lord Jesus took bread,
and when he had given you thanks,
he broke it, gave it to his disciples and said,

Take, eat; this is my body
which is given for you:
do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper he took the cup;
when he had given you thanks
he gave to them and said,

Drink this, all of you;
this cup is the new covenant in my blood
poured out for you and for many
for the forgiveness of sins:
do this as often as you drink it
in remembrance of me.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come in glory.

Therefore, loving God,
recalling now the sacrifice of Christ your Son
once for all upon the cross
and the triumph of his resurrection,
we ask you to accept this our sacrifice of praise.

Send your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts
that we may be fed with the body and blood of your Son
and be filled with his life and goodness.

Unite us in Christ and give us your peace
that we may do your work and be his body in the world.

Through him, with him, in him,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit
all honour and glory are yours,
almighty Father, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Silence

Believing the promises of God,
as our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom,
the power and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

The Priest breaks the bread

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.
**Though we are many, we are one body
for we all share in one bread.**

The Agnus Dei is sing
**Jesus, Lamb of God: have mercy on us.
Jesus, bearer of our sins: have mercy on us.
Jesus, redeemer of the world: give us your peace.**

Jesus is the Lamb of God
who takes away the sins of the world.
Happy are those who are called to his supper.
**Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,
but only say the word and I shall be healed.**

The Sacrament is administered with these words

The body of Christ. **Amen.** The blood of Christ. **Amen.**

Those not receiving communion are invited to come forward for a Blessing

Hymn at the end of Communion

Laudate omnes gentes,
Laudate Dominum.
Laudate omnes gentes,
Laudate Dominum.

Sing praises, all you peoples,
Sing praises to the Lord.
Sing praises, all you peoples,
Sing praises to the Lord.

Based on Psalm 117, Taizé Community

Silence is kept

The Sending Out

Give thanks to the Lord for he is gracious:
his love is everlasting.

Lord God,
the bright splendour whom the nations seek:
may we who with the wise men have been drawn by your light
discern the glory of your presence in your Son,
the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Christ the Son of God gladden your hearts with the good news of his kingdom.
And the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be upon you
and remain with you always.
Amen.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ. Amen.

Final Hymn

Brightest and best of the sons of the morning,
dawn on our darkness and lend us thine aid;
star of the east, the horizon adorning,
guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.

Cold on his cradle the dew-drops are shining;
low lies his head with the beasts of the stall:
angels adore him, in slumber reclining,
maker and monarch, and Saviour of all.

Say, shall we yield him, in costly devotion,
odours of Edom, and offerings divine;
gems of the mountain, and pearls of the ocean,
myrrh from the forest, or gold from the mine?

Vainly we offer each ample oblation;
vainly with gifts would his favour secure;
richer by far is the heart's adoration;
dearer to God are the prayers of the poor.

Brightest and best of the sons of the morning,
dawn on our darkness and lend us thine aid;
star of the east, the horizon adorning,
guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.

Reginald Heber 1783-1826
Tune: Epiphany

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Notices

Refreshments. Please do join us for refreshments after the service if you can.

Praying for Growth. Please pray for the growth and renewal of the Church here in this place. Here is the Leading Your Church into Growth Prayer:

*God of Mission,
Who alone brings growth to your
Church,
Send your Holy Spirit to give
Vision to our planning,
Wisdom to our actions,
Joy to our worship,
And power to our witness.
Help our church to grow in numbers,
In spiritual commitment to you,
And in service to our local community,
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

The Community Fridge takes place every Sunday from 4-5pm at the Parish Church.

Sunday Sheet. Please take this sheet home with you for the notices for the week and to pray for what is happening in the life of our Church.

Choir Tour. The Cathedral Choir have been given the amazing opportunity of singing in Finland on a choir tour in May next year. We are raising money to make sure this can happen. For more details, and to donate online, please see the following

link: <https://gofund.me/560aa0db>

If you would like to donate in cash or by cheque, please clearly mark your donations 'Choir Finland' and hand to a member of the cathedral team or pop it in the collection plate or donation box in

the cathedral. If you are able to, please share the Go Fund Me page – from the page on the link above, click 'Share' and you can share on social media or copy the link to send to friends and family. Thank you.

Thank you to all those who decorated the churches of the Mission Area for the Christmas celebrations and to those who contributed towards the cost.

Food4Thought Lunch. This has now finished for a break over Christmas and will start back again on Thursday 16th January 2025.

The Kentigern Guild meeting for Wednesday 8th January has been postponed.

The Week Ahead

6th Monday – Feria

9am Morning Prayer

9.30am Holy Eucharist

5pm Evening Prayer

7th Tuesday – Feria

9am Morning Prayer

5pm Evening Prayer

6pm Holy Eucharist

8th Wednesday – Feria

9am Morning Prayer

10.30am Holy Eucharist

5pm Evening Prayer

9th Thursday – Feria

9am Morning Prayer

10am Holy Eucharist *at the Parish*

Church

5pm Evening Prayer

10th Friday – William Laud

9am Morning Prayer

9.30am Offeren (Welsh Eucharist)

6pm Choral Evensong

11th Saturday – Rhys Pritchard, William Williams, Isaac Williams

9am Morning Prayer

5pm Evening Prayer

12th Sunday – The Baptism of Christ

9.30am The Parish Eucharist

11am The Cathedral Eucharist

3.30pm Choral Evensong

Contact:

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Parish Church Website:

stasaphparishchurch.org.uk

Today's Readings

Isaiah 60. 1-6

Isaiah speaks of God's glory arising among his people and the peoples of the earth coming to praise him.

Psalm 72. 10-15

Ephesians 3. 1-12

Paul speaks about the mystery of Christ which was formerly hidden but now has been made known, which allows the Gentiles to come close to God.

Matthew 2. 1-12

The wise men follow a star which leads them to Jesus.

