

The Epiphany of our Lord

INTRODUCTION

INTROIT HYMN— **47**

New English Hymnal

In the name of the Father, and of ✠ the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

All respond: Amen.

Grace, mercy and peace
from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

And also with you.

The PRAYERS OF PENITENCE are introduced.

God be gracious to us and bless us: and make
your face shine upon us.

Lord, have mercy.

℟. **Lord, have mercy.**

May your ways be known on the earth: your
saving power among the nations.

Christ, have mercy.

℟. **Christ, have mercy.**

You, Lord, have made known your salvation:
and reveal your justice in the sight of the
nations.

Lord, have mercy.

℟. **Lord, have mercy.**

May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive
us ✠ our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

Amen.

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS is sung.

**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.**

**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.**

All remain standing for the COLLECT.

O God, who by the leading of a star mani-
fested 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 lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever
and ever. **Amen.**

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING

Isa 60.1–6

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the
glory of the Lord has risen upon you. For
behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and
thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will
arise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon
you. And nations shall come to your light, and
kings to the brightness of your rising. Lift up
your eyes all round, and see; they all gather
together, they come to you; your sons shall
come from afar, and your daughters shall be
carried on the hip. Then you shall see and
be radiant; your heart shall thrill and exult,
because the abundance of the sea shall be
turned 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
bring good news, the praises of the Lord.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

from Ps 72

℟. All nations shall fall before you, O Lord
our God. (*All repeat*)

The kings of Tarshish and the isles shall pay
tribute;
the kings of Sheba and Seba shall bring gifts.
All kings shall fall down before him,
all nations shall do him service. ℟.

For he shall deliver the poor that cry out,
the needy and those who have no helper.
He shall have pity on the weak and poor;
he shall preserve the lives of the needy.

R. *All nations shall fall before you, O Lord
our God.*

He shall redeem their lives from violence and
oppression,
and dear shall their blood be in his sight.
Unto him may be given gold from Sheba,
and may they bless him all the day long. *R.*

SECOND READING *Eph 3.1–12*

A reading from the letter of Paul to the
Ephesians.

For this reason I, Paul, a prisoner for Christ
Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles – assuming
that you have heard of the stewardship of
God’s grace that was given to me for you,
how the mystery was made known to me by
revelation, as I have written briefly. When you
read this, you can perceive my insight into the
mystery of Christ, which was not made known
to the sons of men in other generations as it
has now been revealed to his holy apostles
and prophets by the Spirit. This mystery is
that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of
the same body, and partakers of the promise
in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

Of this gospel I was made a minister accord-
ing to the gift of God’s grace, which was
given me by the working of his power. To me,
though I am the very least of all the saints, this
grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the
unsearchable riches of Christ, and to bring
to light for everyone what is the plan of the
mystery hidden for ages in God who created all
things, so that through the church the manifold
wisdom of God might now be made known
to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly
places. This was according to the eternal
purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our
Lord, in whom we have boldness and access
with confidence through our faith in him.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Mt 2.2

Alleluia.

We have seen his star at its rising;
and have come to pay him homage. *Alleluia.*

GOSPEL READING

Mt 2.1–12

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Hear the Gospel ✠ of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of
Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold,
wise men from the east came to Jerusalem,
saying, “Where is he who has been born king
of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose
and have come to worship him.” When Herod
the king heard this, he was troubled, and all
Jerusalem with him; and assembling all the
chief priests and scribes of the people, he
enquired of them where the Christ was to be
born. They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea,
for so it is written by the prophet: ‘And you,
O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no
means least among the rulers of Judah; for
from you shall come a ruler who will shepherd
my people Israel.’”

Then Herod summoned the wise men
secretly and ascertained from them what time
the star had appeared. And he sent them to
Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently
for the child, and when you have found him,
bring me word, that I too may come and
worship him.” After listening to the king, they
went on their way. And behold, the star that
they had seen when it rose went before them
until it came to rest over the place where
the child was. When they saw the star, they
rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. And going
into the house they saw the child with Mary his
mother, and they fell down and worshipped
him. Then, opening their treasures, they
offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and
myrrh. And being warned in a dream not to

return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

A SERMON *may follow.*

All stand to recite the NICENE CREED.

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, (*all bow*) was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and was made man.

(*all rise*) 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, who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who 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.

The INTERCESSIONS are introduced, and all kneel. One of these responses may be used:

∇. Lord, hear us. ℞. **Lord, graciously hear us.**
or ∇. Lord, in your mercy, ℞. **Hear our prayer.**

At the Commemoration of the Departed:

∇. Rest eternal ✠ grant unto them, O Lord;
℞. **And let light perpetual shine upon them.**

The Intercessions end: Merciful Father,
Accept these prayers, for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

All stand as the priest introduces the PEACE.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

OFFERTORY HYMN— **50**

The people unite their prayers with the priest, who says the PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS.

Pray, my brothers and sisters, that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands, for the praise and glory of his name, for our good, and the good of all his Church.

Lord, accept the offerings of your Church: not gold, frankincense and myrrh, but the one who in these gifts is proclaimed, offered, and received, Jesus Christ, who is Lord for ever and ever. **Amen.**

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

The PREFACE follows.

All respond with the SANCTUS & BENEDICTUS.

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.

All kneel. After the Consecration, all acclaim:
Christ is the bread of life:

When we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim your death, Lord Jesus, until you come in glory (× 2).

The Eucharistic Prayer continues, and ends:
... for ever and ever. **Amen.**

RITE OF COMMUNION

The priest introduces the 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, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

The priest breaks the Host; AGNUS DEI is sung.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: grant us peace.

The priest gives the COMMUNION INVITATION.

God's holy gifts for God's holy people.

Jesus Christ is holy,

Jesus Christ is Lord,

to the glory of God the Father.

Holy Communion is distributed.

COMMUNION HYMN—**48**

The priest says the POST-COMMUNION prayer.

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.**

CONCLUSION

The priest gives the BLESSING and DISMISSAL.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Bow your heads and pray for God's blessing.

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, who has delivered us from the dominion of darkness, give us a place with the saints in light in the kingdom of his beloved Son. **Amen.**

May the light of the glorious gospel of Christ shine in your hearts and fill your lives with his joy and peace. **Amen.**

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

Go in the peace of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

RECESSIONAL HYMN—**49**

The service may be followed by the ANGELUS.

℣. The angel of the Lord declared unto Mary:

℟. **And she conceived by the Holy Spirit.**

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee; blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.

Holy Mary, Mother of God,

pray for us sinners, now,

and at the hour of our death.

℣. Behold the handmaid of the Lord:

℟. **Be it unto me according to thy word.**

Hail Mary ...

℣. And the Word was made flesh:

℟. **And dwelt among us.**

Hail Mary ...

℣. Pray for us, O holy Mother of God:

℟. **That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.**

Let us pray. Pour forth, we beseech you, O Lord, your grace into our hearts; that we to whom the Incarnation of Christ, your Son, was made known by the message of an angel, may by his Passion and Cross ✠ be brought to the glory of his Resurrection; through the same Christ our Lord. **Amen.**