

Opening Hymn: We three kings of Orient are

1 *All*

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.*

2 *(Melchior)*

Born a King on Bethlehem plain,
Gold I bring, to crown him again,
King for ever, ceasing never,
Over us all to reign:

(All) O star of wonder ...

3 *(Caspar)*

Frankincense to offer have I;
Incense owns a Deity nigh;
Prayer and praising, gladly raising,
Worship him, God most high:

(All) O star of wonder ...

4 *(Balthazar)*

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

(All) O star of wonder ...

5 *(All)*

Glorious now, behold him arise,
King, and God, and sacrifice;
Heav'n sings alleluia,
Alleluia the earth replies:

O star of wonder ...

44 BCB

The Collect

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 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 Old Testament Reading

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.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Isaiah 60: 1–6

The New Testament Reading

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

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 to 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 to 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.

This is the word of the Lord.

Ephesians 3: 1–12

Thanks be to God.

The Gospel

Alleluia! Alleluia! Christ was revealed in flesh, proclaimed among the nations, and believed in throughout the world.

Alleluia!

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St 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.

St Matthew 2: 1–12

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

The Creed:

Let us declare our faith in the living God.

**We believe in God the Father,
from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son,
who lives in our hearts through faith, and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
who strengthens us with power from on high.**

**We believe in one God;
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

Offertory Hymn: Meekness and majesty

Meekness and majesty, manhood and deity,
In perfect harmony, the Man who is God.
Lord of eternity, dwells in humanity,
Kneels in humility and washes our feet.

*O what a mystery,
Meekness and majesty
Bow down and worship ...
For this is your God,
This is your God.*

Father's pure radiance, perfect in innocence,
Yet learns obedience to death on a cross.
Suff'ring to give us life
Conqu'ring through sacrifice
And as they crucify prays: 'Father forgive.'

O what a mystery ...

Wisdom unsearchable, God the invisible,
Love indestructible in frailty appears.
Lord of infinity, Stooping so tenderly,
Lifts our humanity
to the heights of his throne.

O what a mystery ...

Meekness and Majesty 728 AM

Antem: Three Kings

Solo:

Three kings from Persian lands afar
to Jordan follow the pointing star:
and this the quest of the travellers three,
where the new-born King of the Jews may be.
Full royal gifts they bear for the King;
gold, incense, myrrh are their offering.

The star shines out with a steadfast ray;
the kings to Bethlehem make their way,
and there in worship they bend the knee,
as Mary's child in her lap they see;
their royal gifts they show to the King;
gold, incense, myrrh are their offering.

Thou child of man, lo, to Bethlehem
the kings are travelling, travel with them!
The star of mercy, the star of grace,
shall lead thy heart to its resting-place.
Gold, incense, myrrh thou canst not bring;
offer thy heart to the Infant King.

As accompaniment to the Solo, the Choir sings the Chorale:

How brightly shines the morning star!
With grace and truth from heaven afar
our Jesse tree now bloweth.
Of Jacob's stem and David's line,
for thee, my Bridegroom, King divine,
my soul with love o'erfloweth.
Thy word, Jesus, inly feeds us,
rightly leads us,
life bestowing.
Praise, O praise such love o'erflowing.

Peter Cornelius (1824–1874)

Sunday 3 January 2021
Hymns, Readings, and Collect

EPIPHANY SUNDAY
The Epiphany of our Lord

Dismissal: O Worship the Lord

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.

Was lebet 49 AMNS