



St. Martin's Episcopal Church
Bridgewater, New Jersey



An Abbreviated Celebration of the Holy Eucharist
with Spiritual Communion
January 6 2020

The Feast of the Epiphany

Opening Hymn: We Three Kings vv. 1, 5

*1. We three kings of Orient are, bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.*

*Refrain: O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright;
westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light!*

*5. Glorious now behold him arise, King and God and Sacrifice;
heaven sings alleluia: alleluia the earth replies. (Refrain)*

Priest: + Blessed be the One, Holy and Living God.

All: Glory to God forever and ever.

Collect of the Day

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.*

The Lesson (Isaiah 60:1-6)

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.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people/ *Thanks be to God*

Psalm 72:1-2, 6-7, 10-13 *Deus, iudicium (prayed together in unison)*

1 Give the King your justice, O God, *

and your righteousness to the King's Son;

2 That he may rule your people righteously *

and the poor with justice;

6 He shall come down like rain upon the mown field, *

like showers that water the earth.

7 In his time shall the righteous flourish; *

there shall be abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.

10 The kings of Tarshish and of the isles shall pay tribute, *

and the kings of Arabia and Saba offer gifts.

11 All kings shall bow down before him, *

and all the nations do him service.

12 For he shall deliver the poor who cries out in distress, *

and the oppressed who has no helper.

13 He shall have pity on the lowly and poor; *

he shall preserve the lives of the needy.

Alleluia Verse

Priest: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, We have seen his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage. Alleluia.

The Holy Gospel

The Holy Gospel of our + Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

All: Glory to you, Lord Christ

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. Matthew 2:1-12

The Gospel of the Lord./ *All: Praise to you, O Christ.*

The Homily

The Rev. Dr. Robert Laws

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, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. 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, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped 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 Prayers of the People

Intercessor: God of love, you revealed your Son as the Redeemer of all through the manifestation of a star to the wise men. We pray to you for the needs of our community and the world, saying, Lord hear our prayer.

Intercessor: For peace in the world and for the salvation of all, we pray to you O God of love, *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Intercessor: For your holy catholic church, that it may persevere in faith and hope, we pray to you O God of love, *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Intercessor: For the poor and the unemployed, the homeless, prisoners and refugees, we pray to you O God of love, *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Intercessor: For the sick and all who suffer in body, mind or spirit, especially the special intentions of our parish community, we pray to you O God of love, *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Intercessor: For all who have died, we pray to you O God of love, *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Intercessor: In the communion of the Ever-Blessed Virgin Mary, St. Martin, and of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life, to Christ our God. *To you, O Lord our God.*

Priest: O 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.*

Confession of Sin and Absolution

Priest: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

All: Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. *Amen.*

Priest: Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. *Amen*

The Peace and The Offertory Sentence

The Liturgy of the Altar

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 our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Gracious God, Creator of heaven and earth, through Jesus Christ our Lord; Because in the mystery of the Word made flesh, you have caused a new light to shine in our hearts, to give the knowledge of your glory in the face of your son Jesus Christ our Lord. And so this day we join with Saints and Angels in the chorus of praise that rings through eternity, lifting our voices to magnify you as we say:

***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.***

Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God. To deliver us from the power of sin and death and to reveal the riches of your grace, you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant, that she might conceive and bear a son, Jesus the holy child of God. Living among us, Jesus loved us. He broke bread with outcasts and sinners, healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor. He yearned to draw all the world to himself yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love. Then, the time came for him to complete upon the cross the sacrifice of his life, and to be glorified by you.

On the night before he died for us, Jesus was at table with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them, and said: "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine. Again, he gave thanks to you, gave it to them, and said: "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Now gathered at your table, O God of all creation, and remembering Christ, crucified and risen, who was and is and is to come, we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine, and ourselves, a living sacrifice. Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ. Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth and make us your new creation, the Body of Christ given for the world you have made. In the fullness of time bring us, with the Ever-Blessed Virgin Mary, the apostles, martyrs, prophets, St. Martin, and all your saints, to feast at the banquet prepared from the foundation of the world. Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever. AMEN.

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,
*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, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.*

The Fraction

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us; *Therefore let us keep the feast.*

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.

You are encouraged to make an act of spiritual communion during this time when we are not able to receive the Most Blessed Sacrament. You may use your own prayer, or the following:

An Act of Spiritual Communion (prayed silently)

In union, dear Lord, with the faithful at every altar of your Church where your blessed Body and Blood are being offered, I desire to offer you praise and thanksgiving. I believe that you are truly present in the Holy Sacrament. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, I beseech you to come spiritually into my heart. I unite myself to you, and embrace you with all the affections of my soul. Let me never be separated from you. Let me live and die in your love. Amen. Lord Jesus, come dwell in my heart.

Post Communion Prayer

Loving God, we give you thanks for restoring us in your image and nourishing us with your grace. Now send us forth a people forgiven and renewed; that we may proclaim your love to the world and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

Blessing

Closing Hymn: *As with gladness, men of old vv. 1-3*

*1. 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 Lord, may we evermore be led to Thee.*

*2. 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 the mercy-seat.*

*3. 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.*

Dismissal