



Sunday, January 4, 2026  
The Feast of the Epiphany



## **AN INTRODUCTION TO THE SEASON OF EPIPHANY**

In the Western churches (Roman Catholicism and Protestant traditions), the Epiphany (which means 'showing' or 'manifestation') became an occasion to celebrate one element in the story of Christ's birth, the visit of the far-traveled magi, understood as the manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles (non-Jews). The Gospel of Matthew simply speaks of 'wise men from the east'; later tradition fixed their number at three, made them kings and gave them the names of Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar. From this perspective, Epiphanytide is an apt season to pray for the worldwide mission of the Church. But in the Eastern churches (Eastern Orthodox), the Epiphany is the celebration of Christ's baptism at the hands of John, when the heavens were opened and a voice from heaven declared Jesus to be God's beloved Son. The miracle of Cana in Galilee, where Jesus 'first manifested his glory', follows immediately.

The season of joyful celebration that begins at Christmas now continues through the successive Sundays of Epiphany, and the celebratory cycle ends only with the Feast of the Presentation on February 2 when the child manifested to the magi at his birth is now recognized by Simeon and Anna when he comes to be presented in the Temple according to the Law of Israel. He is both 'a light to the Gentiles' and 'the glory of God's people Israel'. But the redemption he will bring must be won through suffering; the Incarnation is directed to the Passion; and Simeon's final words—"He has been sent as a sign from God, but many will oppose him. As a result, the deepest thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your very soul"—move our attention away from the celebration of Christmas and toward the mysteries of Easter.

## **THE COVER ART**

Laura James, "The Holy Family at Nativity"

## **PICTURES AND VIDEO**

We love pictures and videos, and we love sharing what we do on social media. When attending our events or services, you agree to our using pictures of you and any children in your charge on social media and elsewhere. If you prefer not to be included in photos or video, please inform a staff member or usher.

**PRELUDE** 10:30am only

**WELCOME**

**GATHERING HYMN** 10:30am only

**THE FIRST NOWELL**

**H 109**

The musical score for "The First Nowell" consists of three staves of music in G major, common time, with a treble clef. The music is divided into four sections: 1. The first section contains three staves of lyrics with three-line endings. 2. The second section contains three staves of lyrics with two-line endings. 3. The third section contains three staves of lyrics with three-line endings. 4. The fourth section is a "Refrain" section with three staves of lyrics. The music features simple chords (G, C, D, E, A) and some eighth-note patterns. The lyrics are as follows:

1 The first No - well the an - gel did say  
2 They look - ed up and saw a star  
3 And by the light of that same star

1 was to cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay;  
2 shin - ing in the east be - yond them far,  
3 three wise men came from coun - try far;

1 in fields as they lay, keep - ing their sheep,  
2 and to the earth it gave great light,  
3 to seek for a king was their in - tent,

1 on a cold win - ter's night that was so deep.  
2 and so it con - tin - ued both day and night.  
3 and to fol - low the star wher - ev - er it went.

*Refrain*

No - well, No - well, No - well, No - well,  
born is the King of Is - ra - el.

## OPENING ACCLAMATIONS *Stand*

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

People                  **From the rising of the sun to its setting your name is proclaimed in all the world.**

Leader                  The Lord of glory be with you.

People                  **The Lord bless you.**

## THE COLLECT FOR PURITY

Leader                  Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our heart by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord.

People                  **Amen.**

## GLORIA 8:30am. *Stand*

Leader                  Arise, shine out, for your light has come;

People                  **the glory of the Lord is rising upon you.**

Leader                  The nations will come to your light,

People                  **and rulers to your dawning brightness.**

Leader                  They shall bring gold and frankincense,

People                  **and proclaim the praise of the Lord.**

Leader                  Your gates will lie open continually,

People                  **shut neither by day nor by night.**

Leader                  No more will the sun give you daylight,

People                  **nor moonlight shine upon you.**

Leader                  But the Lord will be your everlasting light,

People                  **your God will be your splendor. Amen.**

## GLORIA Stand

Refrain:

Glo - ry to God, glo - ry in the high - est,  
glo - ry to God in the high - est, and on earth  
peace to peo - ple of good will.

*To Verses*

1. We praise you,  
we bless you, we adore you,  
we glorify you,  
we give you thanks for your great glory, for your great glory  
Lord God, heavenly King,  
O God, almighty Father. **Refrain**

2. Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,  
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,  
you take away the sins of the world,  
have mercy on us;  
you take away the sins of the world,  
receive our prayer;  
you are seated at the right hand, the right hand of the Father,  
have mercy on us. **Refrain**

3. 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. **To Amen below**

A - men, a - men, a men, a - men,  
A - men, a - men, a - men.

## THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Leader The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Leader 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 for ever.

# WE HEAR THE SACRED STORIES *Sit*

## THE FIRST LESSON

Reader A reading from the book of 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.

## The Word of the Lord.

## People

Thanks be to God.

## PSALM OF THE DAY

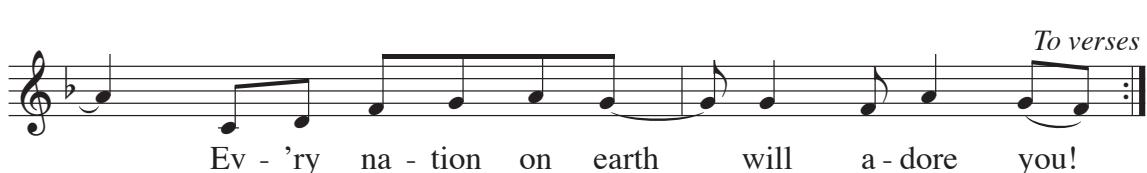
## PSALM 72

At 8:30am, all speak the antiphon: **Ev'ry nation on earth will adore you, Lord.** At 10:30, the congregation sings the antiphon one time through before the spoken verses.

Refrain



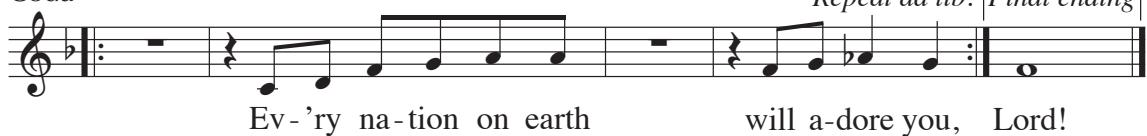
Ev - 'ry na - tion on earth will a - dore you, Lord.



Ev - 'ry na - tion on earth will a - dore you!

To verses

Coda



Ev - 'ry na - tion on earth will a - dore you, Lord!

Repeat ad lib. Final ending

Verses

1. O God, give your judgment to the king and to his son  
that they govern with grace, and bring justice to the poor.  
May the mountains and hills bring forth justice and peace.  
May the king defend the poor and save their children!
2. You will rescue the poor when they cry out for help.  
You pity the weak and save them all from death.  
The lives of the pris'ners are precious in your sight.  
They will pray for you always and bless you all the day!
3. Like the sun and the moon, you endure from age to age,  
your mercy descending like raindrops on the earth.  
Justice shall flourish abundant all our days,  
and peace overflow 'til the moon falls from the sky.
4. Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel,  
for only with God can all of this be done.  
Ever blessed be our God's fantastic name.  
May the glory of the Lord fill the earth. Amen!

## THE SECOND LESSON

Reader

A reading from the letter to the Ephesians.

3:1-12

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.

People

**Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ANTIphon 10:30am**

**JESUS, THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD**

*Sing verse 1 and refrain before Gospel Reading.*

1. See the Bright and Morn - ing Star,  
Je - sus, the Light of the World!

He has ris - en in our hearts,  
Je - sus, the Light of the World!

Walk in the Light, beau - ti - ful Light;

Come where His love and His mer - cy are bright.

Shine all a - round us by day and by night,  
Je - sus, the Light of the World.

## THE GOSPEL

Deacon                    The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.                    2:1-12

People                    **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.

The Gospel of the Lord.

People                    **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

**GOSPEL ANTIPHON** *At 10:30am, sing the refrain above one time through.*

**SERMON** *Sit*

**THE REV. LAURIE ANZILOTTI**

**THE NICENE CREED** *Stand*

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:  
by the power of the Holy Spirit  
    he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,  
    and was made man.  
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 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.  
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.  
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.

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Deacon                    Let us worship the Savior with joy and make our prayer to the Eternal One.

Intercessor              The magi came from the east to worship your Child: Majesty of the Heavens, grant to Christians everywhere the spirit of adoration ... Lord of glory,  
People                    **hear our prayer.**

Intercessor              The infant Christ received gifts of gold, incense and myrrh: God of Light, accept the offering of our hearts and minds as we turn to new ways of being in this new year. Lord of glory,  
People                    **hear our prayer.**

Intercessor              The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdom of our Christ: God, grant an abundance of peace to your world especially in Ukraine and Israel. Lord of glory,  
People                    **hear our prayer.**

Intercessor              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 the migrant people on the southern border of the United States. Lord of glory,  
People                    **hear our prayer.**

Intercessor Your Son shared the life of his home and family at Nazareth: Father, protect in your love our neighbors, our families and this community of which we are a part. In particular, we pray for those on our prayer list. Lord of glory,  
**hear our prayer.**

Intercessor As we celebrate the birth of your child, Jesus, we remember those who have died in his light. Lord of glory,  
**hear our prayer.**

People

Presider All-seeing God, we rejoice in our fellowship with the shepherds, the angels, the magi, Blessed Mary the God-bearer, Saint Joseph and all the faithful departed.  
In your unfailing love for us and for all people, hear and answer our prayers through your Child, our Savior Jesus Christ.

People **Amen.**

## THE CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Deacon Let us confess our sins to God and our neighbor.

*Silence is kept for a time.*

People **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.**

Presider Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life.

People **Amen.**

## THE PEACE

Presider God has entrusted to us the message of reconciliation.

First be reconciled to one another as we offer one another a sign of peace.

*We invite you to extend the peace of God to those in the congregation.*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS *Sit*

*St. Francis' Episcopal Church is grateful for the generosity of all visitors and parishioners who contribute as part of the weekly offertory. If you wish, please place your contribution in the collection plate or use the QR code to give online. These gifts are used to support our parish in addition to parishioners' annual commitments.*



## BIRTHDAY BLESSING

Presider Watch over your children, O Lord, as their days increase; bless and guide them wherever they may be. Strengthen them when they stand; comfort them when discouraged or sorrowful; raise them up if they fall; and in their heart may your peace which passes understanding abide all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

People **Amen.**

## GATHERING AT CHRIST'S TABLE

*We return with thanksgiving the gifts God has given us. This includes bread and wine of the earth and financial offerings from our labor. Representatives of the congregation bring these to the common Eucharistic table.*

**OFFERTORY 10:30am**

**SPIRIT TAKE US HOME**

**CHRISTOPHER GRUNDY**

**REFRAIN:**

Spirit take us home, take us home by another way,  
Take us long way 'round the tyrants and their schemes.  
Give us strength to walk, show us dreams of a better day,  
And we'll pave the way with justice going home by another way.

The mountains and the hills made low, the rough places made plain  
The despots thrown down from their throne till only love remains. **REFRAIN**

No offerings for billionaires to make them richer still.  
Bring all your frankincense and myrrh that the hungry may be filled. **REFRAIN**

So when the proud boys and the klan ask where the Christ child lies,  
Just tell them that you'll let them know next time you're passing by. **REFRAIN**

**DOXOLOGY**

**PRAISE GOD FROM WHOM ALL BLESSINGS FLOW**

*As the gifts are brought forward, the congregation stands.*



The musical notation consists of three staves of music in G major, 2/2 time. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp, and a 2/2 time signature. The lyrics are: "Praise God from whom all blessings flow," followed by a repeat sign. The second staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp, and a 2/2 time signature. The lyrics are: "praise the healer of our souls; earth and moon and," followed by a repeat sign. The third staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp, and a 2/2 time signature. The lyrics are: "stars above sing praise to you, O God of Love."

*The Presider takes the bread and wine. All stand.*

Presider      The Lord be with you.

People      **And also with you.**

Presider      Lift up your hearts.

People      **We lift them to the Lord.**

Presider      Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People      **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Presider      It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, God Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

And now we give you thanks for, by the leading of a star, you have revealed your only Child to the world, that in following him we are led from darkness into his marvelous light.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

*Say at 8:30am:*

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

*Sing at 10:30am:*

Presider

Holy and gracious God: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and maker of all.

Jesus stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Savior Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper Jesus took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Presider and People

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

Presider

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, Almighty God, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling Christ's death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in Christ. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through Jesus Christ our Savior. By Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and for ever.

**AMEN**



\*A - men, a - men. A - men, a - men.



A - men, a - men. A - men, a - men, a - men.

\*Pronounced: Ay-men.

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

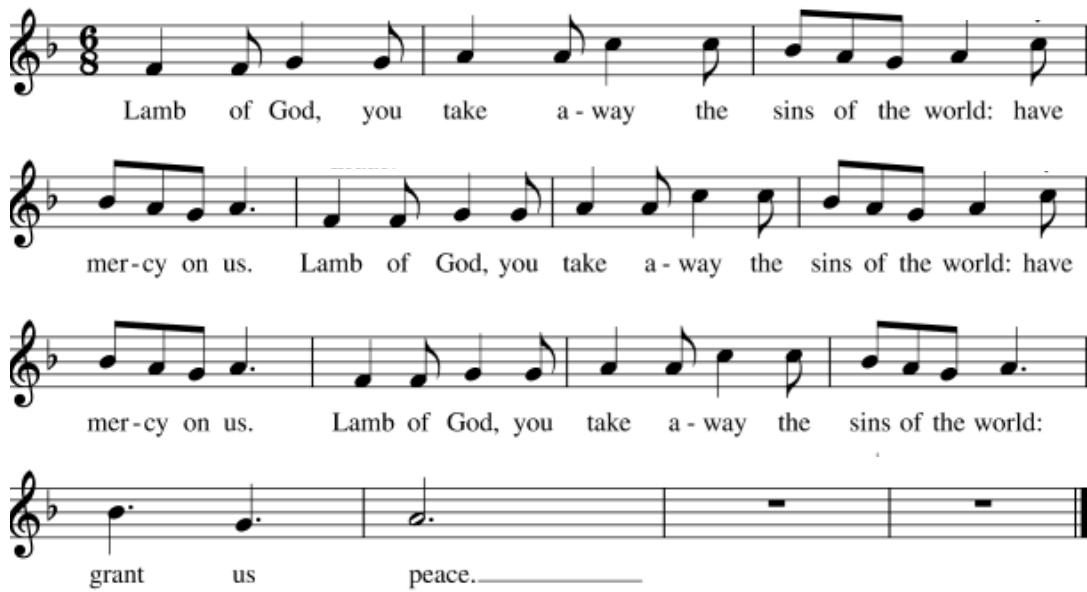
Presider And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,  
People **Our Father, who art in heaven,**  
**hallowed be thy Name,**  
**thy kingdom come,**  
**thy will be done,**  
**on earth as it is in heaven.**  
**Give us this day our daily bread.**  
**And forgive us our trespasses,**  
**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 BREAKING OF THE BREAD

*The Presider breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.*

Presider We break the bread of life, and that life is the light of the world.  
People **God here among us, light in the midst of us, bring us to light and life.**

## FRACTION ANTHEM At 8:30am, spoken. At 10:30am, sung.



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: have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sins of the world:  
grant us peace.

Presider The Gifts of God for the People of God.

*Our bread is gluten-, dairy-, and nut-friendly. This Eucharistic table does not belong to the Episcopal Church or to St. Francis'. This is God's table, and all are welcome. In the Episcopal Church, we receive both the bread and wine, the Body and Blood of Jesus. If you choose not to receive communion, please come forward and cross your arms over your heart to receive a blessing.*

1 We three kings of O - ri - ent are, bearing  
 2 Born a King on Beth - le - hem's plain, gold I  
 3 Frank - in - cense to of - fer have I: in - cense  
 4 Myrrh is mine; its bit - ter per - fume breathes a  
 5 Glo - rious now be - hold him a - rise, King and

1 gifts we tra - verse a - far, field and foun - tain,  
 2 bring to crown him a - gain, King for ev - er,  
 3 owns a De - i - ty nigh; prayer and prais - ing,  
 4 life of gath - er - ing gloom; sor - rowing, sigh - ing,  
 5 God and Sac - ri - fice; heaven sings al - le -

1 moor and moun - tain, fol - low - ing yon - der star.  
 2 ceas - ing nev - er o - ver us all to reign.  
 3 glad - ly rais - ing, wor - ship him, God Most High.  
 4 bleed - ing, dy - ing, sealed in the stone - cold tomb.  
 5 lu - ia: al - le - lu - ia the earth re - plies.

*Refrain*

O star of won - der, star of night,

star with roy - al beau - ty bright; west - ward lead - ing,

still pro - ceed - ing, guide us to thy per - fect light!

## POST COMMUNION PRAYER STAND

*Silence is kept. Then,*

Presider      God is with you.

People      **And also with you.**

Presider      Let us pray.

People      **Lord God,**

**the bright splendor 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 Child,**

**the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord.**

**Amen.**

## BLESSING

Presider      May Almighty God, 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.

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you forever.

People      **Amen.**

## SENDING HYMN 10:30am

## EPIPHANY CAROL

1. Ev - 'ry na - tion sees the glo - ry of a  
 2. Ev - 'ry tongue shall sing the prais - es of his  
 3. Once a - gain may we dis - cov - er Word made  
 4. Gath - er, God, the world to - geth - er in the

star that pierced the night. As we tell the won-drous  
 birth in deep - est night. He is heal - ing for the  
 flesh sent from a - bove In our neigh - bor, sis - ter,  
 bright-ness of your day. Fill our hearts with joy for -

sto - ry we are bathed in ra - diant light. Star sent  
 a - ges; he is Christ, our God's de - light. He pro -  
 broth - er, in the lone - ly and un - loved. May we  
 ev - er; help us walk the ho - ly way. May your

forth from high-est heav - en, danc-ing light of God's de -  
 claims with - in his be - ing all our hopes, our great de -  
 touch him, may we hold him, may we cra - dle him with  
 jus - tice rule the na - tions; may all peo - ple live as

sign, Shine up - on the gift that's giv - en: Word made  
 sires. He shall die to rise re - deem-ing all who  
 care As we learn to love each oth - er, bring - ing  
 one. Now we see our true sal - va - tion in the

flesh now born in time.  
 fol - low with their lives.  
 hope from out de - spair.  
 glo - ry of your Son.

## **DISMISSAL**

Presider      We have seen his glory,  
                  the glory revealed to all the nations.  
                  Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People        **In the name of Christ. Amen.**

## **POSTLUDE *10:30 only***