



Where is He who has been born King of the Jews?

For we have seen His star when it rose

and have come to worship Him.

+ *Matthew 2:2*

THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD

January 6, 2021



"The Adoration of the Magi" by Peter Paul Rubens, 1628-1629, Public Domain

We consider this night the mysteries revealed on the Feast of the Epiphany of our Lord. The Wise Men, or Magi, mysteriously show up in Jerusalem, and these strangers are looking for the King of the Jews. The King of the Jews mysteriously is an infant, born to a humble family in Bethlehem, not in Jerusalem. And this King of the Jews mysteriously invites all people from all nations into His kingdom. These mysteries, hidden for the ages, are revealed in Christ Jesus, the Light of the world.

OPENING HYMN: O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright

LSB 395, sts. 1-4



1 O Morn-ing Star, how fair and bright! You shine with God's
 2 Come, heav'n-ly Bride-groom, Light di-vine, And deep with-in
 3 Lord, when You look on us in love, At once there falls
 4 Al-might-y Fa-ther, in Your Son You loved us when



own truth and light, A-glow with grace and mer-cy!
 our hearts now shine; There light a flame un-dy-ing!
 from God a-bove A ray of pur-est plea-sure.
 not yet be-gun Was this old earth's foun-da-tion!



Of Ja-cob's race, King Da-vid's son, Our Lord and mas-s
 In Your one bod-y let us be As liv-ing branch-
 Your Word and Spir-it, flesh and blood Re-fresh our souls
 Your Son has ran-somed us in love To live in Him



ter, You have won Our hearts to serve You on-ly!
 es of a tree, Your life our lives sup-ply-ing.
 with heav'n-ly food. You are our dear-est trea-sure!
 here and a-bove: This is Your great sal-va-tion.



Low-ly, ho-ly! Great and glo-rious, All vic-to-rious,
 Now, though dai-ly Earth's deep sad-ness May per-plex us
 Let Your mer-cy Warm and cheer us! O draw near us!
 Al-le-lu-ia! Christ the liv-ing, To us giv-ing



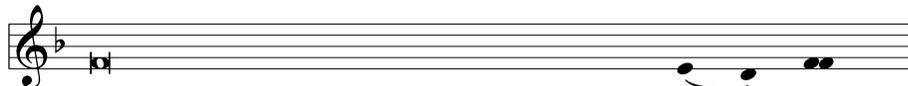
Rich in bless-ing! Rule and might o'er all pos-sess-ing!
 And dis-tress us, Yet with heav'n-ly joy You bless us.
 For You teach us God's own love through You has reached us.
 Life for-ev-er, Keeps us Yours and fails us nev-er!

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✠ SERVICE OF LIGHT ✠

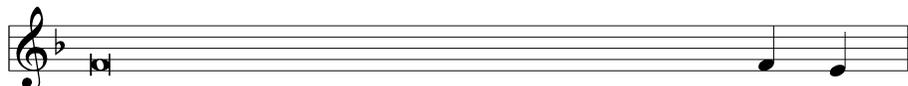
Stand

OPENING VERSICLES



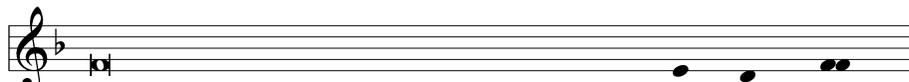
L The people walking in darkness have seen a great light.

Matthew 4:16a



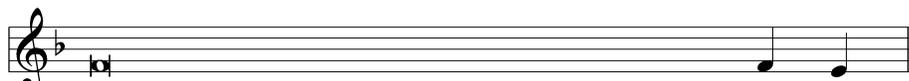
C The light shines in the darkness,
 but the darkness has not under-stood it.

John 1:5



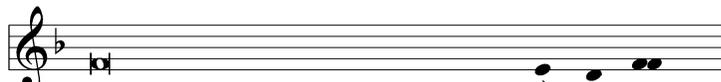
L On those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.

Matthew 4:16b



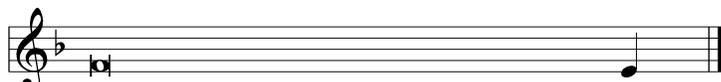
C We have seen His glory, the glory of the
one and only Son who came from the Fa - ther.

John 1:14b



L For to us a child is born, to us a Son is giv - en.

Isaiah 9:6a



C In Him was life, and that life was the light of men.

John 1:4

PHOS HILARON (The Hymn of Light)



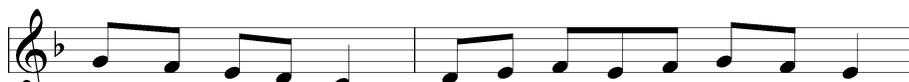
L Joy - ous light of glo - ry:



C of the im - mor - tal Fa - ther; heav - en - ly, ho - ly,



bless - ed Je - sus Christ. We have come to the



set - ting of the sun, and we look to the eve - ning light.



We sing to God, the Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Spir - it:



You are wor - thy of be - ing praised with pure voic - es for -



ev - er. O Son of God, O Giv - er of life:



the u - ni - verse pro - claims Your glo - ry.

THANKSGIVING FOR LIGHT

L Blessèd are You, O Lord our God, king of the u - ni - verse,
who led Your people Israel by a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of
fire by night. Enlighten our darkness by the light of Your Christ;
may His Word be a lamp to our feet and a light to our path;
for You are mer - ci - ful, and You love Your whole cre - a - tion
and we, Your creatures, glo - ri - fy You, Father, Son, and Ho - ly Spir - it.

C A - men.

Sit

✠ Psalmody ✠

PSALM

Psalm 141:1-4, 8

C Let my prayer rise be - fore You as in - cense,
the lift - ing up of my hands as the eve - ning sac - ri - fice.

I O Lord, I call to You; come to me quick - ly; hear my voice
when I cry to You. **C** Let my prayer rise be - fore You as in - cense,
the lift - ing up of my hands as the eve - ning sac - ri - fice.



II Set a watch be-fore my mouth, O Lord, and guard the door of my lips.



I Let not my heart in-cline to an - y e - vil thing;



let me not be oc - cu - pied in wick - ed - ness with e - vil - do - ers.



II But my eyes are turned to You, O God; in You I take ref - uge.



Strip me not of my life. **C** Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther and



to the Son and to the Ho - ly Spir - it; as it was in



the be - gin - ning, is now, and will be for - ev - er. A - men.



Let my prayer rise be - fore You as in - cense,



the lift - ing up of my hands as the eve - ning sac - ri - fice.

P Let us pray.

Let the incense of our repentant prayer ascend before You, O Lord, and let Your loving-kindness descend on us that, with purified minds, we may sing Your praises with the Church on earth and the whole heavenly host and may glorify You forever.

C Amen.



1 From God the Fa - ther, vir - gin - born To us the
 2 Be - gin - ning from His home on high, In hu - man
 3 Glide on, O glo - rious Sun, and bring The gift of
 4 A - bide with us, O Lord, we pray; The gloom of



on - ly Son came down; By death the font to con - se -
 flesh He came to die; Cre - a - tion by His death re -
 heal - ing on Your wing; To ev - 'ry dull and cloud - ed
 dark - ness chase a - way; Your work of heal - ing, Lord, be -



crate, The faith - ful to re - gen - er - ate.
 stored, And shed new joys of life a - broad.
 sense The clear - ness of Your light dis - pense.
 gin, And take a - way the stain of sin.

5 Lord, once You came to earth's domain
 And, we believe, shall come again;
 Be with us on the battlefield,
 From ev'ry harm Your people shield.

△6 To You, O Lord, all glory be
 For this Your blest epiphany;
 To God, whom all His hosts adore,
 And Holy Spirit evermore.

Text and tune: Public Domain

✠ Readings ✠

OLD TESTAMENT

Isaiah 60:1-6

P A reading from Isaiah, chapter 60.

- 1 Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.
- 2 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.
- 3 And nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your rising.
- 4 Lift up your eyes all around, 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.
- 5 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.
- 6 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.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE

Ephesians 3:1–12

P A reading from Ephesians, chapter three.

¹For this reason I, Paul, a prisoner for Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles— ²assuming that you have heard of the stewardship of God’s grace that was given to me for you, ³how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I have written briefly. ⁴When you read this, you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ, ⁵which 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. ⁶This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

⁷Of this gospel I was made a minister according to the gift of God’s grace, which was given me by the working of His power. ⁸To 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, ⁹and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things, ¹⁰so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. ¹¹This was according to the eternal purpose that He has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord, ¹²in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in Him.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C **Thanks be to God.**

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 2:1–12

P A reading from the Gospel of Saint Matthew, chapter two.

¹Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, ²saying, “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.” ³When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. ⁵They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet:

⁶ ““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.””

⁷Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. ⁸And 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.”

⁹After 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. ¹⁰When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. ¹¹And going into the house they saw the Child with Mary His mother, and they fell down and worshiped Him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered Him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. ¹²And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C **Thanks be to God.**

After the final reading, the following is spoken:

P In many and various ways, God spoke to His people of old by the prophets.

C **But now in these last days, He has spoken to us by His Son.**

SERMON

✠ CANTICLE ✠

Stand

CANTICLE: As with Gladness Men of Old

LSB 397



1 As with glad-ness men of old Did the guid-ing star be-hold;
2 As with joy-ful steps they sped, Sav-ior, to Thy low-ly bed,
3 As they of-fered gifts most rare At Thy cra-dle, rude and bare,
4 Ho-ly Je-sus, ev-'ry day Keep us in the nar-row way;
5 In the heav'n-ly coun-try bright Need they no cre-at-ed light;



As with joy they hailed its light, Lead-ing on-ward, beam-ing bright;
There to bend the knee be-fore Thee, whom heav'n and earth a-dore;
So may we with ho-ly joy, Pure and free from sin's al-loy,
And when earth-ly things are past, Bring our ran-somed souls at last
Thou its light, its joy, its crown, Thou its sun which goes not down;



So, most gra-cious Lord, may we Ev-er-more be led by Thee.
So may we with will-ing feet Ev-er seek Thy mer-cy seat.
All our cost-liest trea-sures bring, Christ, to Thee, our heav'n-ly King.
Where they need no star to guide, Where no clouds Thy glo-ry hide.
There for-ev-er may we sing Al-le-lu-ias to our King.

Text and tune: Public Domain

✠ Prayer ✠

Kneel or Remain Standing

LITANY

Mark 10:47

The congregation responds beginning just as the pastor's petition ends so that the word "Lord" is sung together



L In peace let us pray to the Lord:



C Lord, have mer-cy.

P For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For Matthew and Michael, for all pastors in Christ, for all servants of the Church, and for all the people, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For Donald, for all public servants, for the government and those who protect us, that they may be upheld and strengthened in every good deed, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For those who work to bring peace, justice, health, and protection in this and every place, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For those who bring offerings, those who do good works in this congregation, those who toil, those who sing, and all the people here present who await from the Lord great and abundant mercy, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For favorable weather, for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

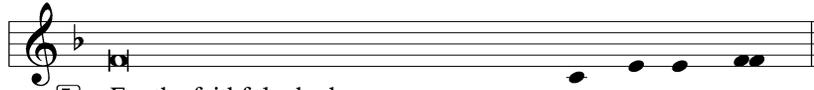
P For our deliverance from all affliction, wrath, danger, and need, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For . . . [*additional bids for prayer may be inserted here*] . . . let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

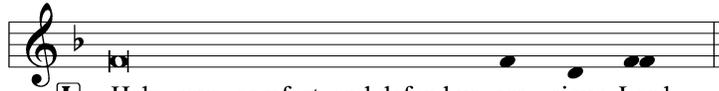
The prayers then continue:



L For the faithful who have gone before us and are with Christ, let us give thanks to the Lord:

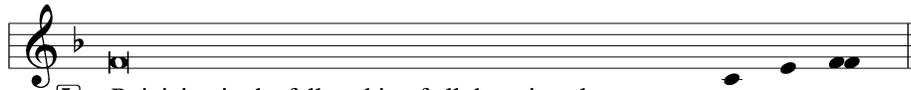


C Al - le - lu - ia.



L Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord.

Silence for individual prayer may follow.



L Rejoicing in the fellowship of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, one another, and our whole life to Christ, our Lord:



C To You, O Lord.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

P O God, by the leading of a star You made known Your only-begotten Son to the Gentiles. Lead us, who know You by faith, to enjoy in heaven the fullness of Your divine presence; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C A - men.

LORD'S PRAYER

Matthew 6:9-13

P Taught by our Lord and trusting His promises, we are bold to pray:



Our Fa - ther who art in heav - en, hal - low - ed be Thy name,
Thy king - dom come, Thy will be done on earth as
it is in heav - en; give us this day our dai - ly
bread; and for - give us our tres - pass - es as we for - give
those who tres - pass a - gainst us; and lead us not in -
to temp - ta - tion, but de - liv - er us from e - vil.
For Thine is the king - dom and the pow'r and the glo -
ry for - ev - er and ev - er. A - men.

Stand

BENEDICAMUS

Psalm 103:1

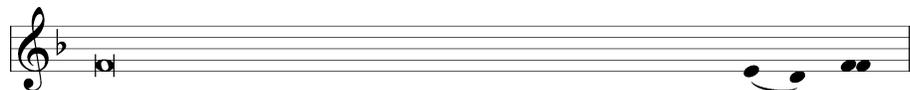


L Let us bless the Lord.



C Thanks be to God.

BENEDICTION



P The almighty and merciful Lord,
the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and pre - serve you.



C A - men.

✠ SOLI DEO GLORIA ✠
(TO GOD ALONE BE THE GLORY)