

Christmastide Mass 2025 – Feast of Epiphany

Entrance Hymn: We Three Kings of Orient Are

We three Kings of Orient are, Bearing gifts we traverse so far.
Field and fountain, Moor and mountain, Following yonder star.

Born a babe on Bethlehem's plain, Gold we bring to crown Him again;
Heav'n sings, "Hallelujah!" "Hallelujah!" earth replies.

**Refrain: O, star of wonder, star of night, Star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding, Guide us to the perfect light.**

Frankincense to offer have I; Incense owns a Deity nigh,
Prayer and praising, Gladly raising, worshiping God on high.

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

Glorious now behold Him rise, King and God and sacrifice;
Heav'n sings "Hallelujah!" "Hallelujah" earth replies.

(Repeat refrain)

Greeting

Presider: We gather today and start our Eucharistic Celebration in the Name of God the + Creator, Son, and Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

Introduction

Presider: We live in a world that tends to segregate people along many lines, like the weak from the powerful, binary and non binary and especially by skin color. This Christmas season and today's feast remind us that God's revelation is for all people and that Jesus was sent for all. God's will for the human race is unity—that all may be one. This vision is yet to be achieved, and there are those still very threatened by it. But today we are called to walk in the light of this truth and to ask: From whom are we still separated? What are we called to do to bridge this chasm?

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Opening Prayer

Presider: May the grace of Jesus the Christ Child, the love of God and the peace of the Holy Spirit be with you.

All: And also with you.

Presider Creator God, your glory shines as far as the east is from the west, from the north to the south, so that all people may see and be radiant, so that every heart might thrill and rejoice. Guide us on our baptismal journey in Christ. Overwhelm us with the joy of your presence. May we enter your house and pay homage to him whose infant arms were already reaching out to the ends of the earth that all may be gathered in. In your triune name, we pray.

All: Amen.

Penitential Rite

Presider: Let us remember those times we have failed to live up to the way of life the Son of God gave to us when he entered our history.

All: I confess to God, and to you my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned through my own fault,

Striking the breast and continuing

in my thoughts, in my words, in what I have done and in what I have failed to do. I ask the Blessed Mary ever Virgin, all the angels and saints and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to our merciful and loving God. Amen.

The Kyrie

Deacon: Christ Jesus, you were born to bring light to the nations: Christ have Mercy.

All: Christ, have mercy.

Deacon: Christ Jesus, you were born to shed light within all communities: Christ have mercy.

All: Christ, have mercy.

Deacon: Christ Jesus, you were born to shine your light into our hearts. Christ have mercy.

All: Christ, have Mercy

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Presider: May our Merciful God absolve you and me, a sinner, and with the authority vested in me through Jesus the Christ, I absolve you from all your sins; in the name of God the Creator +++, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen

Gloria

Presider: Let us join in prayer as we proclaim God's glory and say:

All: Glory to God in whom we live and move and have our being; and peace to God's people on earth. O God, heavenly King, wonderful Creator, we worship You, we give You thanks, we praise You for Your glory.

Jesus the Christ, only Son of God; O God, Lamb of God, You take away the sins of the world; have mercy on us. You are seated at the right hand of God; receive our prayer.

For You alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Most High, Jesus the Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God. Amen.

Prayer for Illumination

Deacon: O God of wonder, as that ancient star rose where Jesus was, so now may the light of your Holy Spirit shine in our hearts and minds as the Word is read and proclaimed. Guide us in new paths of faithfulness.

All: Amen.

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First Reading:

Isaiah 60: 1-6

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

Arise, shine, for your light has come,
the glory of Our God is rising on you,
though night still covers the earth
and darkness the peoples.
Above you Our God now rises
and God's glory now shines on you.
The nations come to your light
and their leaders to your dawning brightness.
Lift up your eyes and look around:
all are assembling and coming toward you;
your daughters and your sons
journey from afar.
At this sight, you will grow radiant,
your heart will thrill and rejoice;
the riches of the sea will flow to you,
and the wealth of the nations will come to you.
Camels in throngs will cover you,
the dromedaries of Midian and Ephah;
everyone in Sheba will come,
bringing gold and incense
and singing the praise of Our God.

*The Word of God. **R/**. Thanks be to God!*

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Responsorial Psalm

Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13

R. O God every nation on earth will adore you.

O God, with your judgment endow the ruler,
and with your justice, the ruler's decedents;
Let your people be governed with justice
and your afflicted ones with judgment.

R. O God every nation on earth will adore you.

Justice shall flower in the days of the chosen one,
and profound peace, till the moon be no more.
May your peopled be justly ruled from sea to sea,
and from the River to the ends of the earth.

R. O God every nation on earth will adore you.

The rulers of Tarshish and the Isles shall offer gifts;
the rulers of Arabia and Seba shall bring tribute.
All rulers shall pay homage to the chosen one,
all nations shall serve the chosen one of God.

R. O God every nation on earth will adore you.

For the chosen one shall rescue the poor when they cry out,
and the afflicted when there is no one to help them.
The chosen one shall have pity for the lowly and the poor;
the lives of the poor the chosen one shall save.

R. O God every nation on earth will adore you.

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Second Reading:

Ephesians 3:2-3, 5-6

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Ephesians.

I am sure that you have heard of God's grace, of which I was made a steward on your behalf; this mystery, as I have briefly described it, was given to me by revelation; unknown to the people of former ages, but now revealed by the Spirit to the holy apostles and prophets. That mystery is that the Gentiles are heirs with us, members of the body just as we are, and partakers of the promise of Jesus the Messiah through The Good News, as are we.

The Word of God. R/. Thanks be to God!

ALLELUIA!

*We have seen his star rising in the east;
and have come to do him homage.*

ALLELUIA!

Deacon: God be with you

All: And also with you

Deacon: A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew 2:1-12 .

All:

Deacon to self: May the words of the Gospel be on your mind and on your lips and in your heart and may you worthily proclaim them.

After Jesus' birth in Bethlehem of Judea, during the reign of Herod the ruler, astrologers from the east arrived one day in Jerusalem inquiring, "Where is the newborn ruler of the Jews? We observed his star at its rising and have come to pay homage." At this news, Herod became greatly disturbed, and all Jerusalem as well. Summoning all of the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. "In Bethlehem of Judea," they informed him. "Here is what the prophet has written:

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*And you, Bethlehem, land of Judah,
are by no means least among the leaders of Judah,
Since from you will come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel."*

Herod called the astrologers aside and found out from them the exact time of the star's appearance. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, after having instructed them, "Go and get detailed information about the child. When you have found him, report it to me - so that I may go and offer homage too."

After their audience with the ruler, they set out. The star which they had observed at its rising went ahead of them until it came to a standstill over the place where the child was. They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and upon entering the house, found the child with Mary, his mother. They prostrated themselves and did homage. Then they opened their coffers and presented the child with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

They were warned in a dream not to return to Herod, so they went back to their own country by another route.

The Good News of Salvation!

***R/.** Glory and praise to our savior Jesus Christ!*

Homily

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The Profession of Faith

All: We believe in God who made us all, and whose Divine Presence and infinite love infuses all of life and creation with the sacred.

We believe that Jesus is the face of God on earth in whom we best see the divine justice, divine mercy, and divine compassion to which we are all called. He celebrated with outcasts and sinners and touched the broken so that they could leap and dance.

We believe that Jesus suffered so that we might realize that the spirit in us can never be killed, whatever price we have to pay for staying true to the mind of God. That Jesus died and was raised on the third day. He changed all of life for all of us thereafter. He ascended into the life of God, the life beyond life, and waits there for us. He lived in those he left behind and lives in each of us as well.

We believe in the Christ who is One with the Creator and who shows us the presence of God in everything that is and calls out the sacred in ourselves. The Christ who calls us beyond the boundaries of ourselves to forgiveness, and to everything that stretches our hearts to the infinite dimensions of God.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the breath of God, who gives light to hearts now blind and infuses energy into spirits yet weary, isolated, searching and confused. That this Spirit is ever present and urges us to live joyfully and walk hopefully.

We believe in the Church as a community of the sons and daughters of God, the mystical body of Christ.

We believe that we will live forever in the embrace of God and trust that creation goes on creating in this world and in us forever. Amen.

Prayers of the Faithful

Deacon: On this great feast of Epiphany that celebrates Jesus' coming for the whole world, we pray for the many needs both here and across the earth. In great joy and gratitude, we pray, *May your light shine upon us.*

Leader: Our response today is: O God, hear our prayer.

All: O God, hear our prayer.

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Leader: That the light of Christ may bring peace to the heart of every man, woman and child... we pray.

All: O God, hear our prayer.

Leader: That the radiance of Christ may be faithfully witnessed through the preaching, teachings and actions of the church ... we pray.

All: O God, hear our prayer.

Leader: That the light of Christ may bring healing to those who sit in the darkness of poverty, injustice, violence or fear ... we pray.

All: O God, hear our prayer.

Leader: That the radiance of Christ may bring consolation to prisoners, refugees, illegal aliens and all who have no permanent home ... we pray.

All: O God, hear our prayer.

Leader: That the light of Christ may penetrate the darkness of those who act out of arrogance or abusive power ... we pray.

All: O God, hear our prayer.

Leader: For the growth of St Marguerite Faith Community, that we will be prayerful in witnessing to others Jesus' Gospel message of love and inclusion. We pray.

All: O God, hear our Prayer.

Leader: For all who suffer because of illness, injury, or age and for those who care for them including any you wish to mention at this time. (Pause)
and for all those recently deceased to rest in the everlasting domain of Christ including any you wish to mention at this time. (Pause) We pray:

All: O God, hear our Prayer.

Leader: For our neighbors, close to home and around the world, including any you wish to mention at this time. (Pause) We pray.

All: O God, hear our Prayer.

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Leader: And for all the prayers that we hold in the quiet of our hearts. (Pause) We pray:
All: O God, hear our Prayer.

Presider: Gracious God, you have shown us that your Son is the Messiah, King of all peoples. Help us to live in his light through the challenges of our lives and to reflect his glory to all those who cross our paths. We pray in his name.

All: Amen.

The Sign of Peace

Deacon: If you are offering your gift, and remember your sister or brother has something against you, leave your gift there and go; first to be reconciled to your sister or brother, and then come and offer your gift.

Presider: The peace of God be with you always.

All: And also with you.

Presider: Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another with a sign of His peace.

Offertory: The First Nowell

And by the light of that bright star, Three wise men came from country far;
To seek for a king was their intent, And to follow the star wherever it went.

This star drew nigh to the northwest, O'er Bethlehem it took its rest;
And there it did both stop and stay, Right over the place where Jesus lay.

Refrain: Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Born is the King of Israel.

Then entered in those wise men three, Full rev'rently upon their knee,
And offered there in His presence, Their gold and myrrh and frankincense.

Then let us all with one accord Sing praises to our heav'nly Lord;
Who with the Father we adore And Spirit blest forevermore.

(Repeat refrain)

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LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Preparations

Presider: Blessed are you, God of the universe, through Your goodness we have this bread to offer; which earth has given and human hands have made, let it become the bread of life.

All: Blessed be God forever.

Deacon: By the mystery of this wine and water, may we come to share in the divinity of Christ, who humbled Himself to share in our humanity.

Presider: Blessed are you, God of the universe, you are the giver of this wine, fruit of the vine and of human labor. May it become the cup of Love.

All: Blessed be God forever.

Presider: As the grain once scattered in the fields and the grapes once dispersed on the hillside and now reunited on this table in bread and wine, O God, may your whole church soon be gathered together from the corners of the earth into your kingdom.

Presider: Merciful God, we ask You to receive us and be pleased with the gifts we offer You with humble and contrite hearts.

Washing of the Hands

Presider: Creator God, cleanse my heart, and open it to whatever You wish for me.

Presider: Pray, my brothers and sisters, that these gifts may be acceptable to God.

All: May God accept these gifts, for the praise and glory of Your name, for our good and the good of all Your Church.

Prayer over the Gifts

Presider: O God, as we keep the vigil of Christmas, we celebrate this Eucharist with joy. Bless +++ this bread and this wine and make them the sacrament of our salvation. We ask this through Jesus, the Christ.

All: Amen.

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Eucharistic Prayer (Offertory)

Deacon: God dwells in you.

All: And also with you.

Deacon: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to God.

Deacon: Come to the table with thankful hearts.

All: We open our hearts to God and one another.

Preface

Presider: It is right and our joy, Creator God, to give you thanks and praise. For in the beginning, you created the heavens and the earth. Out of darkness and chaos, you brought light and order. You have given life to every living thing and made us in your image, male and female. Even when we turned away from you, loving darkness rather than light, you did not turn away from us. You sent prophets to show us the way. In the fullness of time, you sent your Son Immanuel, God with us. At his birth, the night sky lit up, with heavenly host and a guiding star. Shepherds and magi found their way to you. Women and children, tax collectors and lepers, continued to find their way to you, for you are the light of the world, shining still. Therefore, we praise you, joining our voices with angels and archangels and all the faithful of every time and place, who forever sing to the glory of your name:

All: Holy, holy, holy God! God of wonder and awe; heaven and earth are full of Your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is He who comes in the name of Our God. Hosanna in the highest!

Presider: You are holy O God of majesty, and blessed is Jesus, the Christ. Born in humility, he came to rule over all. Helpless as an infant, he showed the power of your love. Poor in things of the world, he brought the wealth of your grace. Rejected by many, he welcomed all who sought him.

In his dying and rising you gave birth to your church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

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Eucharistic Prayer: (Canon)

Presider: Gracious God, all creation celebrates your empowering presence. All your creatures hunger for the new life you promise. In Jesus, our friend and liberator, you reveal our humanity come of age, the evolutionary fulfillment of many aeons, the invitation to wholeness and the promise of new life.

Institutions

Presider: O God, you always loved the people of the world. When the time came for Christ to be glorified by you, o God, he showed the depth of his love.

Presider: While they were at supper, he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

*Take this all of you, and eat it:
This is my body. Do this in memory of me.*

Presider: After supper in the same way, he took the cup filled with wine. He gave thanks, blessed it and handed this cup to those at table and said:

*Take this, all of you, and drink:
This is the cup of my blood,
the blood of the new and everlasting covenant.
It is poured out for you and for all.
Do this in memory of me.*

Acclimation

All: When we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim God's blessings, present in our time just as in ages past, building the communion of saints, even from our own bodies.

Deacon: Great is the mystery of faith.

All Sing: *Christ has died,
Christ is risen,
Christ will come again.*

Epiclesis

Presider: Gracious God, ...
out to be the body of Christ in the world.

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Commemorations

All: Remember your worldwide church, and all its people. Grant that the various ministries we share may be a sign of the unity in diversity that is your kingdom.

Remember the world of nations. By your Spirit renew the face of the earth; let peace and justice prevail.

Remember our family and friends. Bless them and watch over them; be gracious to them and give them peace.

Remember the sick and the suffering, the aged and the dying, especially those whom we remember now in the silence of our hearts. Encourage them and give them hope.

Rejoicing in the communion of saints, we remember with thanksgiving all your faithful servants and those dear to us, whom you have called from this life, especially those whom we remember in silence. We are grateful that for them death is no more, nor is there sorrow, crying or pain, for the former things have passed away.

Conclusion

Presider: Empower us by your Spirit, O God, to be Christ's presence in the world even as Jesus was God-with-us. Give us courage to speak his truth, to seek his justice, and to love with his love. Keep us faithful in your service until Christ comes in final victory and we shall feast with all your saints in the joy of your eternal realm.

Great Amen

All: Through Christ, may all creation unfold.

With Christ, may all creation be one.

In Christ, may all life be healed.

We eat this bread; we drink this cup.

We share as one body of Christ.

We give our thanks!

Amen, amen, amen!

The Lord's Prayer

Presider: Let us praise, thank and petition our God as Jesus the Christ, God's Son taught us:

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All: 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.

Presider: In a season when every heart should be happy and light, many of us are struggling with the heaviness of life-burdens that steal our joy. We still carol the wonderful message of the Christ Child. We thank You for the gift of Jesus, our Immanuel, the Word made flesh. Your love never changes and never fades. In you we entrust our hope and our hearts.

All: For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Breaking of the Bread

Presider: This cup of blessing which we bless, is it not a participation in the Blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not a participation in the Body of Christ?

All: Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread.

Lamb of God

All: Lamb of God, You call us to the Gospel of Peace,
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You call us to the Gospel of Love,
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You call us to the Gospel of Hope,
grant us peace.

Presider: May the union of divinity and humanity +++ in Jesus the Christ bring us sanctification and eternal life.

All: Amen.

Communion Prayer

All: Jesus the Christ, Son of the living God, by the will of God and the work of the Holy Spirit, Your death brought life to the world. By Your Holy Body and Blood, free us from every evil. Keep us faithful to Your teaching and never let us be parted from You.

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Presider: We will take the Bread of heaven and call upon the name of the Christ.

All: Jesus, you have made us worthy to receive you, by saying the word and healing us.

Presider: The gifts of God are given by Jesus who said: I am the bread of life; feed on Him in faith with thanksgiving.

All: Amen.

Holy Communion - Communion Song

Communion: Leonard Cohen's Hallelujah (Christmas Version)

Amid their flock some shepherds slept, While others their night watch kept,
As darkness cloaked the one who came to ya. But with blinding light the angel throng
Revealed the Babe in joyous song In harmony proclaiming Hallelujah---

Refrain: Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallel-u-u-u-jah!

And then, as now, the very wise Seek an answer in the skies.

A star so bright it seems to shine right through ya, And, if like they, we see the light
And follow to the holy site We can share with them a Hallelujah—

CONCLUDING RITE

Prayer after Communion

Presider: God works through you.

All: And also through you.

Presider: (In peace) Let us pray (to our wondrous God):

All: We give you thanks, Holy One, for the world of wonder you have made -
forest and field, sea and sky, and for the gift of grace you have given - a little
child, lying in a manger. We thank you for the gifts of your Word and Sacrament.
In gratitude we ask that your Spirit aid us in using them for your glory. Amen.

Announcements

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Final Blessings

Deacon: Bow your heads and ask for God's blessing.

Presider: May the love of God uphold you.

All: Amen

Presider: May the light of Christ guide you.

All: Amen.

Presider: May the fellowship of the Holy Spirit fill you with joy.

All: Amen.

Presider: May Almighty God bless you, the Creator+, Son, and the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

Deacon: The mass is ended, follow the star, seek Christ's light and share with others the treasure of Christ.

All: Thanks be to God.

Closing: Songs of Thankfulness and Praise

Songs of thankfulness and praise, Jesus the Christ to thee we raise.

Manifested by the star, to the sages from afar;

Branch of David's royal stem, in your birth at Bethlehem;

Antiphon be to you address, God in flesh made manifest.

Grant us grace to see you, Lord, mirrored in your holy Word;

May we imitate you now, and on us your grace bestow.

That we like to you may be, at your great Epiphany.

And we praise you ever blest, God in flesh made manifest.

Wishing you the gift of PEACE to smoothe your way...

Wishing you the gift of JOY to brighten up your life each day...

Wishing you the gift of FAITH to see His promise shining clear...

Wishing you His LOVE to guard and guide you through the coming year.