

Epiphany Liturgy 2022





Introduction:
[Mr Doust]

It may seem like Christmas ended many days ago. Some people have taken down their trees and put away the decorations. But for Christians, the season of Christmas lasts until 6 January and ends with a very special feast.

Today is the Feast of the Epiphany when we remember the Wise Men's visit to Jesus. Their arrival was very unexpected. But so was the arrival of Jesus!

The Jewish people had been waiting a long time for God to keep his promise and send them a special saviour. They were expecting a powerful and mighty leader who would guide their nation and save them from sorrow and unfairness. God kept his promise when he sent his son, Jesus. However, he was not the kind of saviour the Jewish people expected. Jesus was born as a helpless baby in a stable to poor parents. And when he was visited by strangers from a faraway country, it became clear that Jesus had come not only to love and guide the Jewish people, but to love and guide all people, everywhere.

Epiphany means 'revelation' and it is the revelation of God's love for the world and all its people that we celebrate today.



Prayers of Penitence

[Rev Lisa]

The grace of God has dawned upon the world through our Saviour Jesus Christ, who sacrificed himself for us to purify a people as his own.

Pupil: God be gracious to us and bless us, and make your face shine upon us: Lord, have mercy.

All: **Lord, have mercy.**

Pupil: May your ways be known on the earth, your saving power among the nations: Christ, have mercy.

All: **Christ, have mercy.**

Pupil: You, Lord, have made known your salvation, and reveal your justice in the sight of the nations: Lord, have mercy.

All: **Lord, have mercy.**



Prayer [Mr Doust]

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.

All: Amen.



Pupil: A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew

‘After Jesus had been born at Bethlehem, some wise men came to Jerusalem from the east. ‘Where is the child, the king of the Jews?’ they asked. ‘We saw his star rise in the east and we have come to worship him.’ When King Herod heard this, he was troubled.

Herod gathered together his advisers and asked them where the saviour was to be born. They replied, ‘At Bethlehem, in Judea. That is what the prophet wrote long ago. He wrote, ‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judea,... out of you will come a leader who will guide my people, Israel.’ Herod questioned the wise men about the star and sent them to Bethlehem. He told them, ‘Go and find the child, and when you have found him, let me know so that I, too, may visit him.’

The wise men set out and followed the star to where it stopped over the place where the child was. The sight of the star filled them with delight. Going into the house, they saw the child with his mother, Mary. Falling to their knees they worshipped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. But they were warned in a dream not to return to Herod and instead went back to their own country by a different route.’

The Gospel of the Lord

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.



Reflection

[Rev Lisa]





Prayers of Intercession [Rev Lisa]

Today the wise men knelt before our Saviour. Let us also kneel to worship him with great joy, and to make our prayer to his heavenly Father.

Staff: Father, the wise men came from the east to worship your Son: grant to Christians everywhere a true spirit of adoration. Lord, in your mercy ...

All: **Hear our prayer.**

Staff: Father, your Son is the King of kings and Lord of lords: grant an abundance of peace to your world. Lord, in your mercy ...

All: **Hear our prayer.**

Staff: Father, the Holy Family shared the life of the people of Nazareth: protect in your mercy our neighbours and families, together with the whole community of which we are part. Lord, in your mercy ...

All: **Hear our prayer.**



Staff: Father, the wise men presented to your Son gold, incense and myrrh: accept the gifts we bring, and the offering of our hearts at the beginning of this new year. Lord, in your mercy ...

All: **Hear our prayer.**

Staff: Father, you are the King of heaven, the hope of all who trust in you: give to the faithful departed the wonders of your salvation. Lord, in your mercy ...

All: **Hear our prayer.**

Rejoicing in the fellowship of wise men, shepherds and angels, and of the Blessed Virgin Mary and Saint Joseph, we commend ourselves to your unfailing love.

Final Words & Blessing **[Rev Lisa]**