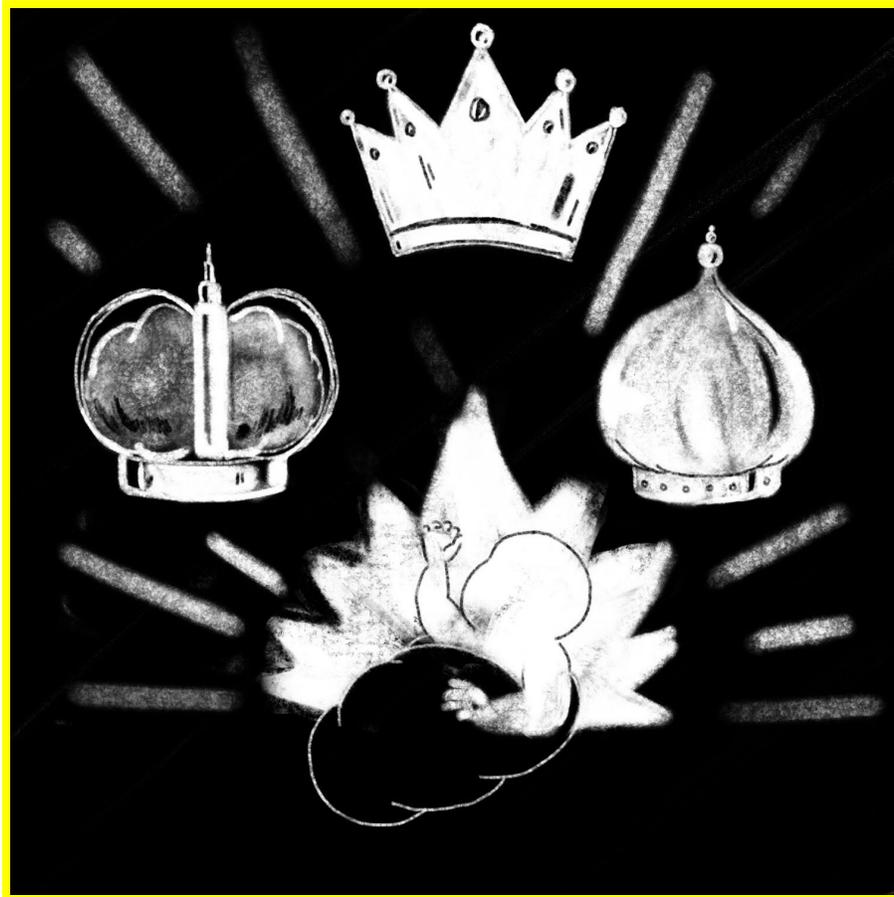


# The Feast of the Epiphany

## Morning Prayer Rite II

Sunday, January 10, 2021



*E. Flake*

**Welcome & Announcements**

## We Three Kings

## Soloists & the Congregation

### Opening Sentence

*Presider* From the rising of the sun to its setting my Name shall be great among the nations, and in every place incense shall be offered to my Name, and a pure offering; for my Name shall be great among the nations, says the Lord of hosts.

### Confession of Sin

*Presider* Let us confess our sins against God and one another.

*All* **Almighty God, Source of all that is, Giver of every good gift:  
You create all people in your image and call us to love one another as you love us.  
We confess that we have failed to honor you in the great diversity of the human family. We have desired to live in freedom,  
while building walls between ourselves and others.  
We have longed to be known and accepted for who we are,  
while making judgements of others based on the color of skin, or the shape of features, or the varieties of human experience.  
We have tried to love our neighbors individually  
while yet benefitting from systems that hold those same neighbors in oppression.  
Forgive us, Holy God.  
Give us eyes to see you as you are revealed in all people.  
Strengthen us for the work of reconciliation rooted in love.  
Restore us in your image, to be beloved community,  
united in our diversity,  
even as you are one with Christ and the Spirit,  
Holy and undivided Trinity, now and for ever.  
Amen**

*Presider* 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 Invitatory & Psalter

*Presider* Lord, open our lips.

*People* **And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

*All* **Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen. Alleluia!**

*Presider*      The Lord has shown forth his glory: Come let us adore him.

**Angels We Have Heard on High**

**Sung by all**

**The Psalm of the Day: 72:1-7, 10-14**

**Led by Emily Hursh**

Give the King your justice, O God, \*  
    and your righteousness to the King's Son;  
That he may rule your people righteously \*  
    and the poor with justice;  
That the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, \*  
    and the little hills bring righteousness.  
He shall defend the needy among the people; \*  
    he shall rescue the poor and crush the oppressor.  
He shall live as long as the sun and moon endure, \*  
    from one generation to another.  
He shall come down like rain upon the mown field, \*  
    like showers that water the earth.  
In his time shall the righteous flourish; \*  
    there shall be abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.  
The kings of Tarshish and of the isles shall pay tribute, \*  
    and the kings of Arabia and Saba offer gifts.  
All kings shall bow down before him, \*  
    and all the nations do him service.  
For he shall deliver the poor who cries out in distress, \*  
    and the oppressed who has no helper.  
He shall have pity on the lowly and poor; \*  
    he shall preserve the lives of the needy.  
He shall redeem their lives from oppression and violence, \*  
    and dear shall their blood be in his sight.

*All*      **Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.**

**The Lessons**

A reading from Paul's letter to the Ephesians

**Read by Jerry Hanen**

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 Hymn            Jesus is the Light that Shineth in Me**

A reading from the Gospel of Matthew

**Read by Deacon John Musco**

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 word of the Lord.

*People*            **Thanks be to God.**

**The Sermon**

**The Rev. Kimberlee Auletta**

**Canticle 11            The Third Song of Isaiah**

**The Apostles Creed**

**Said in unison**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,**

creator of heaven and earth.  
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.  
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the Virgin Mary.  
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.  
He descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again.  
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.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.

#### **The Offertory**

*We give thanks to God for all we have and all we are. You can give securely online here:*

<https://onrealm.org/holyapostles/give/website>

#### **Doxology**

**Sung by all**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow,  
Praise him all creatures here below,  
Praise him above ye heav'nly hosts,  
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

*Presider* And now as our Savior Jesus has taught us, we are bold to pray:

**The Lord's Prayer LEVAS-264**

**Sung by all**

**Our Father, which art in heaven, hallowed by 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors.  
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

#### **The Prayers**

**Led by Peter Saghir**

God of wonder and mystery,  
God of the stars and the universe,  
God of winding ways and straight paths,

we gather today with gratitude for the gift of your constant presence, your trustworthy guidance, and your daring risk-taking with us.

You dare to love us despite our inability to respond fully.  
You dare to care for us, despite our challenge in caring for others.  
You dare to walk with us, despite our fickleness.

On our own journeys toward the stars and guiding points you put before us, you continue to lead us forward, guiding us by the teachings of Jesus to seek justice, love kindness, and walk humbly in your loving shadow.

As we struggle with the political wrangling of this world, the wars waged for both justice and greed, the violence committed daily against the innocent, let alone the pain of broken relationships and loss, you remain steadfast in your care and devotion for your entire creation throughout the universe.

It is almost too much to take in sometimes.  
And even in our doubts and disbelief, our struggle to understand and constant misunderstanding, and our flat-out ignorance about your ways, you remain constantly present to us.

We pray for peace in this world, Lord, the kind of peace in which we celebrate diversity, are joyfully challenged by adversity, and share in the joy that is to be found everywhere.

We pray for those who are lonely,  
that you might lead us to reach out and be friends.

We pray for those who are hungry,  
that you might lead us to offer sustenance.

We pray for those who are lost,  
that you might lead us to give hope and direction.

We pray for those all who have died, that you will receive them into your loving arms, and comfort all who mourn for their loved ones.

We pray for the countries of the world,  
that we might find a way to work together to lift one another up.

We pray for our leaders in Washington, that your Spirit might guide them set an example for our country and the world to work together rather than against one another.

We pray for our country, that we may seek the places where we share commonality and seek to repair the divisions that are tearing us apart.

And we pray for ourselves, that we might continue on this journey, learning the lessons you offer, seeking the fullness of your perfection, and live as you would have us live.

Dear people of God, what else, and who else, should we pray for?

*\*\* Please give silence after each person speaks before you add your petition. If you do not have a petition or if there is too much background noise in your home, please mute yourself. You can also write your prayer in the chat.*

### **Collect of the Day**

*Presider*      The Lord be with you.

*All*              **And also with you.**

*Presider*      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. *Amen.*

### **Epiphany Prayer**

From Howard Thurman

**When the song of the angels is stilled,  
when the star in the sky is gone,  
when the kings and princes are home,  
when the shepherds are back with their flocks,  
the work of Christmas begins:  
to find the lost,  
to heal the broken,  
to feed the hungry,  
to release the prisoner,  
to rebuild the nations,  
to bring peace among the people,  
to make music in the heart.**

### **Concluding Prayer**

**Holy and everliving God,  
by your power we are created and by your love we are redeemed;  
Guide and strengthen us by your Spirit, that we may give ourselves to your service, and live  
each day in love to one another and to you, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

### **The Benediction**

*Presider*      May Christ, the Son of God, be manifest in you, that your lives may be a light to the world; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. Amen

**Closing Hymn: The Little Light of Mine**

**Sung by all**

**Dismissal**

*Deacon* Let us go forth rejoicing in the power of the Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia!

*All* **Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Passing of the Peace**

**Time for Check-in**