



*Evening Prayer for
The Feast of the Epiphany*

Streaming Wednesday, January 6th at 7:00 pm
from St. John's Episcopal Church • Huntington, WV

The Cantor sings *Conditor alme siderum* as we gather for worship.

*Creator of the stars of night,
your people's everlasting light,
O Christ, Redeemer of us all,
we pray you hear us when we call.*

*In sorrow that the ancient curse
should doom to death a universe,
you came, O Savior, to set free
your own in glorious liberty.*

*When this old world drew on toward night,
you came; but not in splendor bright,
not as a monarch, but the child
of Mary, blameless mother mild.*

*At your great Name, O Jesus, now
all knees must bend, all hearts must bow:
All things on earth with one accord,
like those in heaven, shall call you Lord.*

*Come in your holy might, we pray,
redeem us for eternal day;
defend us while we dwell below
from all assaults of our dread foe.*

*To God the Father, God the Son,
and God the Spirit, Three in One,
praise, honor, might, and glory be
from age to age eternally.*

Mode 4

Evening Prayer: Rite II

A chime sounds, our service begins.

In this liturgy, the peoples' responses are in bold text.

Leader: Light and peace in Jesus Christ our Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

If I say, "Surely the darkness will cover me, and the light around me turn to night," darkness is not dark to you, O Lord; the night is as bright as the day; darkness and light to you are both alike.

Psalm 139:10-11

Let us pray.

Almighty God, we give you thanks for surrounding us, as daylight fades, with the brightness of the vesper light; and we implore you of your great mercy that, as you enfold us with the radiance of this light, so you would shine into our hearts the brightness of your Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate Word: Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

O Gracious Light *Phos hilaron* (S59)

Sung by the Cantor

*O gracious Light,
pure brightness of the everliving Father in heaven,
O Jesus Christ, holy and blessed!*

*Now as we come to the setting of the sun,
and our eyes behold the vesper light,
we sing your praises, O God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.*

*You are worthy at all times to be praised by happy voices,
O Son of God, O Giver of life,
and to be glorified through all the worlds.*

The Confession is made and Absolution is given.

Leader: Let us confess our sins.

**Almighty and merciful God,
We confess that we have sinned against you
and one another in both our actions
and our inactions.**

**We recognize that in Jesus our light has come,
Yet often we choose to walk in the shadows
and ignore the light.**

**Gracious God, forgive our sins
And remove from us the veil of darkness
which shrouds our lives.**

**Illumine us by your Word
So we may shine with the radiance
of Christ's glory. Amen.**

Almighty God, who pardons all who truly repent, forgive us our sins, send the light of Christ to our darkened world, strengthen us by the Holy Spirit, and keep us in life eternal; Know that you are forgiven and be at peace. **Amen.**

Leader: O God, make speed to save us.

People: O Lord, make haste to help us

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!

Leader: He comes in splendor, the King who is our peace;
People: **he is supreme over all the kings of the earth.**

The Lessons

Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14 *Deus, iudicium*

Sung by the Cantor

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

The Old Testament Lesson: 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. Thanks be to God

Canticle: The Song of Simeon *Nunc Dimittis* (S405)

Sung by the Cantor

Lord, you now have set your servant free
to go in peace as you have promised;
For these eyes of mine have seen the Savior,
whom you have prepared for all the world to see:
A Light to enlighten the nations,
and the glory of your people Israel.
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 New Testament Lesson: 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. Thanks be to God*

Canticle: You are God *Te Deum laudamus* (S288)

Sung by the Cantor

You are God: we praise you;
You are the Lord: we acclaim you;
You are the eternal Father:
All creation worships you.
To you all angels, all the powers of heaven,
Cherubim and Seraphim, sing in endless praise:
 Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
 heaven and earth are full of your glory.
The glorious company of apostles praise you.
The noble fellowship of prophets praise you.
The white-robed army of martyrs praise you.
Throughout the world the holy Church acclaims you;
 Father, of majesty unbounded,
 your true and only Son, worthy of all worship,
 and the Holy Spirit, advocate and guide.
You, Christ are the king of glory,
the eternal Son of the Father.

When you became man to set us free
you did not shun the Virgin's womb.
You overcame the sting of death
and opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers.
You are seated at God's right hand in glory.
We believe that you will come and be our judge.
 Come then, Lord, and help your people,
 bought with the price of your own blood,
 and bring us with your saints
 to glory everlasting.

The Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12 *(please stand)*

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. Thanks be to God*

Meditation

The Apostles Creed

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 Prayers

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray.

The Lord's Prayer

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 thine is the power,
and thine is the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.

The Suffrages

That this evening of the Epiphany may be holy, good, and peaceful,
We entreat you, O Lord.

That the light of hope which illumines the depths of our darkness release our hearts to offer the treasure of our souls.
We entreat you, O Lord.

That we may be led in paths of peace and goodwill,
We entreat you, O Lord.

That we may be pardoned and forgiven for our sins and offenses: our greed and narrow-mindedness, our selfishness and misuse of power, our misjudgment of one another, that we may acknowledge our faults and turn to your all-merciful love,
We entreat you, O Lord.

That we may be humbled in the presence of the poor, bending the knee of our hearts to those who have no defender, and to those whose economic and personal distress pains us to encounter,
We entreat you, O Lord.

That we may know the Messiah as our constant companion in all our journeys during this new year: the joys, the disappointment, the struggles and new directions and insights,
We entreat you, O Lord.

That those who are suffering with illness and those who bear a private grief may receive relief thru your loving care,
We entreat you, O Lord.

That we give thanks for all the blessing of this life, and for the promise of the next: that we may live not by our fears but by our hopes, not by our words but by our deeds,
We entreat you, O Lord.

That we may be bound together by your Holy Spirit in the communion of St. Mary, St. Joseph, St. John and all your saints, entrusting one another and all our life to Christ,
We entreat you, O Lord.

We pray for ourselves and others either silently or aloud:

Be with us, Lord, in all our prayers and direct our way that among the changes and chances of this mortal life, we may always be defended by your gracious help; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

The Collect of the Day

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.**

A Collect for Aid against Perils

Be our light in the darkness, O Lord, and in your great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night; for the love of your only Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

A Collect for the Presence of Christ

Lord Jesus, stay with us, for evening is at hand and the day is past; be our companion in the way, kindle our hearts, and awaken hope, that we may know you as you are revealed in Scripture and the breaking of bread. Grant this for the sake of your love. **Amen.**

A Collect for Mission

O God, you manifest in your servants the signs of your presence: Send forth upon us the Spirit of love, that in companionship with one another your abounding grace may increase among us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The General Thanksgiving

**Almighty God, Father of all mercies,
we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks
to us and to all whom you have made.
We bless you for our creation, preservation,
and all the blessings of this life;
but above all for your immeasurable love
in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ;
for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.
And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies,
that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise,
not only with our lips, but in our lives,
by giving up our selves to your service,
and by walking before you
in holiness and righteousness all our days;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.**

A Prayer of St. Chrysostom

Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time withone accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfil now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. **Amen.**

The Benediction

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

The Dismissal

Let us go into the world in peace
to walk in God's light,
to rejoice in God's love
and to reflect God's glory
Amen.

O Light of Light *Jesu dulcis memoria* (134)

Sung by the Cantor

*O light of Light, Love given birth;
Jesus, Redeemer of the earth:
more bright than day your face did show,
your raiment whiter than the snow.*

*Two prophets, who had faith to see,
with your elect found company;
the heavens above your glory named,
your Father's voice his Son proclaimed.*

*May all who seek to praise aright
through purer lives show forth your light.
To you, the King of glory, now
all faithful hearts adoring bow.*

The Chalking of the Doors: An Epiphany Tradition

Observed on January 6th, the Feast of the Epiphany (also known as Twelfth Night, *Theophany*, or Three Kings Day) marks the occasion of a time-honored Christian tradition of “chalking the doors.” The formula for the ritual — adapted for 2021 — is simple: take chalk of any color and write the following above the entrance of your home: **21 + C + M + B + 21**.

The letters have two meanings. First, they represent the initials of the Magi — Caspar, Malchior, and Balthazar — who came to visit Jesus in His first home. They also abbreviate the Latin phrase, *Christus mansionem benedicat*: “May Christ bless the house.” The “+” signs represent the cross, and the “21” at the beginning and the “21” at the end mark the year. Taken together, this inscription is performed as a request for Christ to bless those homes so marked and that He stay with those who dwell therein throughout the entire year.

The chalking of the doors is a centuries-old practice throughout the world, though it appears to be somewhat less well-known in the United States. It is, however, an easy tradition to adopt, and a great practice whereby we dedicate our year to God from its very outset, asking His blessing on our homes and on all who live, work, or visit there.

Prayers of Blessing for the Chalking of the Doors:

May all who come to our home this year rejoice to find Christ living among us; and may we seek and serve, in everyone we meet, that same Jesus who is your incarnate Word, now and forever. Amen.

God of heaven and earth, you revealed your only-begotten One to every nation by the guidance of a star. Bless this house and all who inhabit it. Fill us with the light of Christ, that our concern for others may reflect your love. We ask this through Christ our Savior. Amen.

Loving God, bless this household. May we be blessed with health, goodness of heart, gentleness, and abiding in your will. We ask this through Christ our Savior. Amen.

For additional ideas on the Chalking of the Doors and to post pictures of your observation of this tradition, go to: <https://www.facebook.com/events/615995675835228/>

St. John's Episcopal Church
3000 Washington Blvd.
Huntington, WV 25701
304.525.9105

<http://www.stjohnshuntingtonwv.org/>