



# The Feast of the Epiphany [Transferred from January 6]

January 4, 2026 8:00 a.m.



*There, ahead of them,  
went the star that they had seen  
at its rising, until it stopped over  
the place where the child was.*

*Matthew Ch. 2*



## Welcome to Church of the Ascension

Church of the Ascension provides opportunities to  
**Connect** with God and one another,  
**Grow** in faith and understanding, and  
**Serve** the Lord, one another, and the world around us.

We are an active community of faith committed to welcoming all  
and sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ.

**Christ-centered + Spirit-filled + Mission-minded**

## The Liturgy of the Word of God

✠ *Please stand as you are able.*

Welcome

Prelude

✠ Opening Acclamation

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

**And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

Collect for Purity

Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit,

that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### **Hymn of Praise**

**Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, good will towards men.**

**We praise thee, we bless thee, we worship thee, we glorify thee,**

**we give thanks to thee for thy great glory,**

**O Lord God, heavenly King, God the Father Almighty.**

**O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ; O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.**

**Thou that takest away the sins of the world, receive our prayer.**

**Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us.**

**For thou only art holy; thou only art the Lord; thou only, O Christ,**

**with the Holy Ghost, art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

### **Collect of the Day**

The Lord be with you. **And with thy spirit.** Let us pray.

O God, who by the leading of a star didst manifest thy only-begotten Son to the peoples of the earth: Lead us, who know thee now by faith, to thy presence, where we may behold thy glory face to face; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

### **The First Lesson: Isaiah 60:1-6**

A Reading from the Book of Isaiah

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.**

### **Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14**

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 Second Lesson: Ephesians 3:1-12**

A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Ephesians

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.**

### **✠The Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12**

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

**Glory be to thee, O Lord.**

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 Gospel of the Lord. **Praise be to thee, O Christ.**

### **The Sermon**

Rev. Pierre-Henry Buisson

### **✠The Nicene Creed**

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.**

**He has spoken through the Prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.**

**We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.**

**We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

### **Prayers of the People**

*Celebrant:* Let us pray to Christ, the Light of the world, who by the leading of a star was revealed to the nations, and who now dwelleth among us in grace and truth.

*Intercessor:* Radiant Morning Star, whose glory hath risen upon us: Give thy Church grace to arise and shine, that she may be a beacon to those in darkness and a faithful witness to the boundless riches of thy Gospel. Lord, in thy mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Righteous King, who rulest with justice: Guide the leaders of the nations, especially Donald, our President, and the Congress, that they may defend the needy, rescue the poor, and seek that abundance of peace which passeth all understanding.

Lord, in thy mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Desire of all nations, who hast made us fellow-heirs in one body: Break down the walls of division and fear; draw all peoples into the light of thy truth, and lead us into the unity of thy reconciling love. Lord, in thy mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Light of the home, who wast worshiped by the Magi in Bethlehem: Bless our families and our community. Grant that we may offer thee the gold of our devotion, the frankincense of our prayers, and the myrrh of our daily labors. Lord, in thy mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Giver of every good gift: We give thee thanks for the blessings of this life, especially for those celebrating birthdays this week: Diane, Brayden, Ashley, and Melissa. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace all the days of their lives.

Lord, in thy mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Physician of souls: Bring healing and comfort to those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit, especially Jenny, Lianne, Lisa, Jack, Jackie, Dewey, Noah, Karen, Drew, Mary, Christopher, the Panizari family, Rick, Danny, Darrell, Joseph, Deb, and Cheryl, and those we name before thee now. [pause] Grant them the light of thy hope and the peace of thy presence. Lord, in thy mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Eternal Light: Receive into thy heavenly kingdom all who have died, [especially ...] that they may behold thy glory face to face and dwell in the brightness of thy joy for evermore. Lord, in thy mercy, **hear our prayer.**

*Celebrant:* Lord Jesus Christ, Light from Light,: receive these our prayers, and grant that we, being led by thy light, may at last attain to the vision of thy glory; for thou livest and reignest with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. **Amen.**

### **The Confession of Sin**

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

**Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against thee in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved thee with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of thy Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in thy will, and walk in thy ways, to the glory of thy Name. Amen.**

*Celebrant:* Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy hath promised forgiveness of sins to all those who with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto him, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**The Peace:** The Peace of the Lord be always with you. **And with thy spirit.**

### **Birthday and Anniversary Prayer**

**O God, our times are in thy hands: look with favor, we pray, on thy servants as they begin another year. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace. Send thy blessings upon them, that their homes may be a haven of peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

### **Announcements**

Ascribe to the Lord the honor due his Name; bring offerings and come into his courts

*Psalm 96:8*

### **Offertory Music**

### **The Celebration of the Holy Communion**

*Thank you for your financial support! To make an online offering, please scan the QR code:*

### **✠ At the Presentation**

All things come of thee, O Lord, and of thine own have we given thee.



### **The Great Thanksgiving: Eucharistic Prayer II**

The Lord be with you. **And with thy spirit.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

Let us give thanks unto our Lord God. **It is meet and right so to do.**

It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God; because in the mystery of the Word made flesh, thou hast caused a new light to shine in our hearts, to give the knowledge of thy glory in the face of thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord.. Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and saying,

**Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts: Heaven and earth are full of thy Glory.**

**Glory be to thee, O Lord Most High. Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

All glory be to thee, O Lord our God, for that thou didst create heaven and earth, and didst make us in thine own image; and, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to take our nature upon him, and to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption. He made there a full and perfect sacrifice for the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again.

For in the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread; and when he had given thanks to thee, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat, this is my Body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Likewise, after supper, he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink this, all of you; for this is my Blood of the New Covenant, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins. Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me."

Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, we thy people do celebrate and make, with these thy holy gifts which we now offer unto thee, the memorial thy Son hath commanded us to make; having in remembrance his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; and looking for his coming again with power and great glory.

And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us, and, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, to bless and sanctify these gifts of bread and wine, that they may be unto us the Body and Blood of thy dearly-beloved Son Jesus Christ.

And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, whereby we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies. Grant, we beseech thee, that all who partake of this Holy Communion may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, and be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction; and also that we and all thy whole Church may be made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord;

By whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. **AMEN.**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

And now, as our Savior Christ hath taught us, we are bold to say:

**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 the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

### **Breaking of the Bread**

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

**Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, **Have mercy upon us.**

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, **Have mercy upon us.**

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, **Grant us thy peace.**

**We do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.**

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving. **Amen.**

**Communion:** *All baptized persons are welcome to receive Holy Communion. When directed by an Usher, please come forward to receive Holy Communion kneeling or standing at the Communion Rail.*

**Communion Music**

### Post Communion Prayer

Let us pray. Almighty and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of thine everlasting kingdom. And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.

### The Blessing

May Christ, the Son of God, be manifest in you, that your lives may be a light for 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.**

### ✠The Dismissal:

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord, Alleluia, alleluia!

**Thanks be to God, Alleluia, alleluia!**

### **Postlude**

<b>Worship Assistants</b>	<b>January 4</b>	<b>January 11</b>
Organist	Mary Butler	
Usher	<i>1 needed</i>	Bill Sears
Lector	Mary Lou Berg	Barbara Sears
Acolyte	<i>1 needed</i>	Beverly Baker

### January Altar Guild:

Janice Hobart, Jill Horn, Emelia Howe, Deb Vana

**The Bread and Wine** are given to the glory of God by Tom and Sharon Schwartz, in celebration of their granddaughter's birthday.

### Attendance – December 28:

8:00 am – 17    10:15 am In-person – 50    YouTube – 2    Facebook – 2    **Total: 71**

### Readings for Next Sunday: First Sunday after the Epiphany - A

Isaiah 42:1-9   Psalm 29   Acts 10:34-43   Matthew 3:13-17

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**Church of the Ascension | 23 North Court Street | Westminster, Maryland 21157**

The Reverend Pierre-Henry Buisson, Rector

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