



The Feast of the Epiphany [Transferred from January 6]

January 4, 2026 10:15 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

✠ Processional Hymn

"We Three Kings"

Hymnal #128

1 We three kings of O - ri - ent are, bear - ing
2 Born a King on Beth - le - hem's plain, gold I
3 Frank - in - cense to of - fer have I: in - cense

1 gifts we tra - verse a - far, field and foun - tain,
2 bring to crown him a - gain, King for ev - er,
3 owns a De - i - ty nigh; prayer and prais - ing,

1 moor and moun - tain, fol - low - ing yon - der star.
2 ceas - ing nev - er o - ver us all to reign.
3 glad - ly rais - ing, wor - ship him, God Most High.

Refrain

O ——— star of won - der, star of night,
star with roy - al beau - ty bright; west - ward lead - ing,
still pro - ceed - ing, guide us to thy per - fect light!

4. Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume breathes a life of gathering gloom;
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying, sealed in the stone-cold tomb. [Refrain]

5. Glorious now behold him arise, King and God and Sacrifice;
heaven sings alleluia: alleluia the earth replies. [Refrain]

Words: John Henry Hopkins Music: *Three Kings of Orient*, John Henry Hopkins

The Opening Acclamation

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

Blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever. Amen.

Collect for Purity

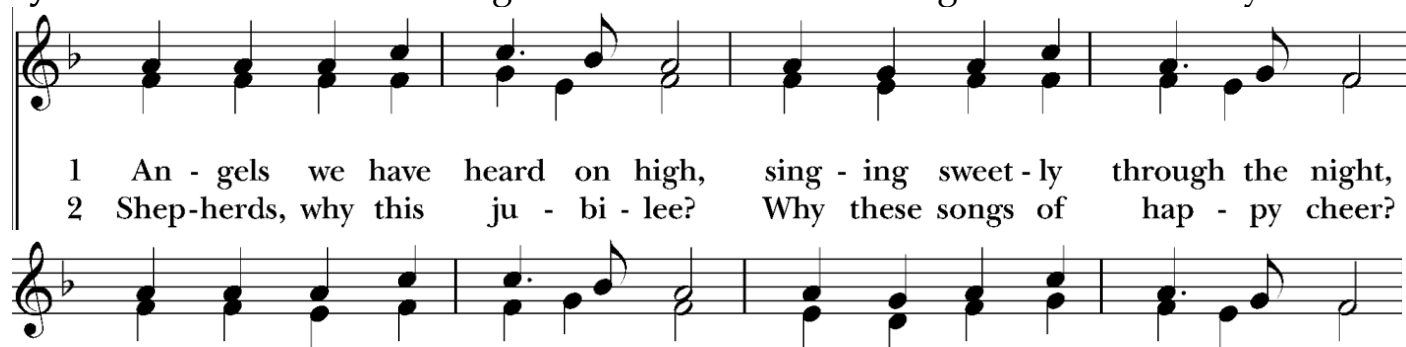
Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we

may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Hymn of Praise

"Angels We Have Heard on High"

Hymnal #96



1 An - gels we have heard on high, sing - ing sweet - ly through the night,
2 Shep-herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why these songs of hap - py cheer?

and the moun-tains in re - ply ech - o - ing their brave de - light.
What great bright-ness did you see? What glad tid - ings did you hear?

Refrain



Glo - - - - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o!



Glo - - - - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o!

Words: French carol, tr. James Chadwick Music: *Gloria*, French carol; arr. Edward Shippen Barnes

Collect of the Day

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** 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.**

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.**

Psalms 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.**

♣ Sequence Hymn

“The First Noel”

Hymnal #109

♩ = 80

1. The first No - el the an - gel did say was to cer - tain poor shep - herds in
 2. They look - ed up and saw a star shin - ing in the east, be -
 3. And by the light of that same star three wise men came from
 fields as they lay; in fields where they lay keep - ing their sheep, on a cold win - ter's
 - yond them far; and to the earth it gave great light, and so it con -
 coun - try far; to seek for a king was their in - tent, and to fol - low the
 night that was so deep. No - el, No - el, No - el, No - el, born is the
 - tin - ued both day and night.
 star wher - ev - er it went.
 22
 King of Is - - - - ra - el.

Words: English carol Music: *The First Noel*, English carol, harm. John Stainer

The Holy Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12

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

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

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 to you, Lord Christ.**

Children's Sermon and Sermon

The Rev. Pierre-Henry Buisson

Children's Chapel: *Children of all ages are welcome!*

✠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.

✠The Prayers of the People:

Prayers of the People – The Feast of the Epiphany (Rite II)

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 dwells among us in grace and truth.

Intercessor: Radiant Morning Star, whose glory has risen upon us: Give your 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 your Gospel. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Righteous King, who rules with justice: Guide the leaders of the nations, especially Donald, our President, and the Congress, that they may defend the needy, rescue the

poor, seek that abundance of peace which passes all understanding, and turn from the way of war. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

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

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

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

Lord, in your 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 you now. *[pause]* Grant them the light of your hope and the peace of your presence. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

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

Celebrant: Lord Jesus Christ, Light from Light, receive these our prayers, and grant that we, being led by your light, may at last attain to the vision of your glory; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

✠ The Peace

The Peace of the Lord be always with you. **And also with you.**

Birthday and Anniversary Prayer

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

Announcements

The Celebration of the Holy Communion

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

Offertory

"Light of the Stable"

1. Hail, hail to the newborn King
Let our voices sing Him our praises
Hail, hail to the guiding light
That brought us tonight to our Savior

2. Come now where it shines so bright
To the knowing light of the stable
Kneel close to the Child so dear
Cast aside your fear and be thankful



Chorus:
Halle hallelujah halle hallelujah
Halle hallelujah halle hallelujah

CCLI Song # 1914616
Elizabeth Rhymer | Steve Rhymer
© 1975. Renewed 2003 Tessa Publishing Company
For use solely with the SongSelect® Terms of Use.
All rights reserved. | www.ccli.com | CCLI License # 259427

✠ Presentation Hymn

Hymnal #124 ("What Star Is This," verse 5) & Doxology:

1. To God, the Father, heavenly Light, to Christ, revealed in earthly night, to God the Holy Ghost we raise our equal and unending praise.
2. Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heavenly host: praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

The Great Thanksgiving: Eucharistic Prayer B

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

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

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and every-where to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth; because in the mystery of the Word made flesh, you have caused a new light to shine in our hearts, to give the knowledge of your glory in the face of your son Jesus Christ our Lord. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Sanctus

"Holy, Holy, Holy Lord" (Sung to the tune of "Silent Night")

The musical score is written for a piano accompaniment. It features three systems of music, each with a treble and bass staff joined by a brace. The key signature is one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 6/8. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first system contains the lyrics 'Ho - ly Ho - ly Ho - ly Lord God of pow'r and might,'. The second system contains 'Hea - ven and Ear - th are full of Your glo - ry Ho - sa - na i - n the high - est'. The third system contains 'Blest is He who co - mes in the name of the Lord'. The score ends with a double bar line.

Ho - ly Ho - ly Ho - ly Lord God of pow'r and might,
Hea - ven and Ear - th are full of Your glo - ry Ho - sa - na i - n the high - est
Blest is He who co - mes in the name of the Lord

Words: Hymnal 1982 #S129 Music: *Stille Nacht*, Franz Gruber

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the World. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life. On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus

Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me." Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

We remember his death. We proclaim his resurrection. We await his coming in glory.

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with Mary, Joseph, and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your Sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever.

The Great Amen (*Sung to the tune of "Angels We Have Heard on High"*)



Music: *Gloria*, French carol

And now as our Savior Christ has 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.

The Breaking of Bread

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us:

Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

Fraction Anthem

"Jesus Lamb of God"

Je - sus, Lamb of God; You take a - way the sin of the
 world. Have mer - cy on us.
 Je - sus, Lamb of God; You take a - way the
 sin of the world. Grant us your - peace.

Chords: Am7, D, G/B, Am7, D, G/B, Em, Am7, Cm7, F, Bb/D, Gm, Cm7, F, Ab, C/E, Eb/G, Cm7, D, G/B, Am7, D, Cm7, F.

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.**

The Communion of the People

All baptized persons are welcome to receive Holy Communion. When directed by an Usher, please come forward to receive Holy Communion. If you would prefer a blessing, please indicate by crossing your arms over your chest.

Communion Music

"Christ Be Our Light"

by Bernadette Farrell

1. Longing for light, we wait in darkness
 Longing for truth, we turn to You
 Make us Your own, Your holy people
 Light for the world to see *Refrain*

Refrain:

Christ, be our light. Shine in our hearts.
 Shine through the darkness.
 Christ, be our light.
 Shine in Your church gathered today.

2. Longing for peace, our world is troubled
 Longing for hope, many despair
 Your word alone has power to save us
 Make us your living voice *Refrain*

3. Longing for food, many are hungry
 Longing for water, many still thirst
 Make us your bread broken for others
 Shared until all are fed *Refrain*

4. Longing for shelter, many are homeless
 Longing for warmth, many are cold
 Make us Your building, sheltering others
 Walls made of living stone *Refrain*

5. Many the gifts, many the people
 Many the hearts that yearn to belong
 Let us be servants to one another
 Making Your kingdom come *Refrain*

✠Prayer of Thanksgiving

Let us pray.

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

✠ The Blessing

May Almighty God, who led the Wise Men by the shining of a star to find the Christ, the Light from Light, lead you also, in your pilgrimage, to find the Lord. **Amen.**

May God, who sent the Holy Spirit to rest upon the Only-begotten at his baptism in the Jordan River, pour out that Spirit on you who have come to the waters of new birth. **Amen.**

May God, by the power that turned water into wine at the wedding feast at Cana, transform your lives and make glad your hearts. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

✠ Recessional Hymn "I Want To Walk As A Child Of The Light"

Hymnal #490



I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to fol - low Je - sus.
I want to see the bright ness of God. I want to look at Je - sus.
I'm look-ing for the com - ing of Christ. I want to be with Je - sus.

God set the star to give light to the world. The star of my life is - Je - sus.
Clear sun of righteoussess, shine on my path and show me the way to the fa - ther
When wehave run with pa - tiencethe race, we shall knowthe joy of Je - sus.

In Him there is no dark-ness at all. The night and the day are both a -
like the lamb is the light of the ci - ty of God. Shine in my heart Lord Je - sus.

✠ The Dismissal

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

Thanks be to God, alleluia, alleluia!

Postlude

Worship Assistants	January 4	January 11
Worship Leader	Mary Butler	Martin Villanueva
Musicians	Adult Ensemble	Praise Ensemble
Ushers	<i>2 needed</i>	Debbie Linard, <i>1 needed</i>
Acolyte	Kat Dittrich	Kat Dittrich
Lector	Jim Fariss	John Holbert
Chalicians	Jim Fariss, Debbie Linard <i>2 needed</i>	John Holbert, Helen Lang <i>2 needed</i>
Worship Slides	John Holbert	Lynn Lyon-Vaiden
Audio Visual	Travis Collins	TBA

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 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

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

The Reverend Pierre-Henry Buisson, Rector

Church Office: 410-848-3251 | **Email:** office@ascension-westminster.com