

The First Sunday after the Epiphany
The Baptism Lord Jesus Christ
Healing Service



January 10, 2021
10:30 AM

The Liturgy of the Word

Processional Hymn: #135 *Songs of thankfulness and praise*

Please stand as you are able.

Words: Christopher Wordsworth; Music: Jakob Hintze

1 Songs of thank-ful - ness and praise, Jes - us, Lord, to thee we raise,
2 Man - i - fest at Jor - dan's stream, Pro-phet, Priest, and King su - preme;
3 Man - i - fest in mak - ing whole pal - sied limbs and faint - ing soul;
4 Man - i - fest on moun - tain height, shin - ing in re - splen - dent light,

man - i - fest - ed by the star to the sa - ges from a - far;
and at Ca - na, wed - ding - guest, in thy God - head man - i - fest;
man - i - fest in val - iant fight, quell - ing all the dev - il's might;
where dis - ci - ples filled with awe thy trans - fi - gured glo - ry saw.

branch of roy - al Da - vid's stem in thy birth at Beth - le - hem;
man - i - fest in power di - vine, chang - ing wa - ter in - to wine;
man - i - fest in gra - cious will, ev - er bring - ing good from ill;
When from there thou led - dest them stead - fast to Je - ru - sa - lem,

an - thems be to thee ad - dressed, God in man made man - i - fest.
an - thems be to thee ad - dressed, God in man made man - i - fest.
an - thems be to thee ad - dressed, God in man made man - i - fest.
cross and Eas - ter Day at - test God in man made man - i - fest.

Introduction:

Celebrant: Welcome to all of you online to Epiphany at Grace Episcopal Church in Muskogee. This season of the church year begins with the visit of the wise men to bring gifts to the newborn baby Jesus. They already recognize him as a king which frightens King Herod. This is the first manifestation of Jesus to the world and it marks the beginnings of Herod's diabolical plan to murder all the baby boys. I pray that each one of us can bear the light of Christ to a world that needs light now more than ever. Thank you for being with us.

Opening Acclamation

Celebrant: Blessed be God who comes to us in human form.

People: **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

Collect for Purity

Celebrant: 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: # S-280

Gloria in Excelsis

Please stand as you are able.

1. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and
peace to his peo - ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven - ly
King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we
give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry. 3. Lord Je - sus
Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you
take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy
on us; 5. you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re -
ceive our prayer. 6. For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One,
you a - lone are the Lord, 7. you a - lone are the Most
High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spi - rit, in the
glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

Collect of the Day

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: 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.**

We Hear God's Word

First Lesson: Isaiah 60:1-6

Please be seated.

Reader: 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.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 72:1-7,10-14

Reader: Give the King your justice, O God, *

People: **and your righteousness to the King's Son;**

Reader: That he may rule your people righteously *

People: **and the poor with justice;**

Reader: That the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, *

People: **and the little hills bring righteousness.**

Reader: He shall defend the needy among the people; *

People: **he shall rescue the poor and crush the oppressor.**

Reader: He shall live as long as the sun and moon endure, *

People: **from one generation to another.**

Reader: He shall come down like rain upon the mown field, *

People: **like showers that water the earth.**

Reader: his time shall the righteous flourish; *

People: **there shall be abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.**

Reader: The kings of Tarshish and of the isles shall pay tribute, *

People: **and the kings of Arabia and Saba offer gifts.**

Reader: All kings shall bow down before him, *

People: **and all the nations do him service.**

Reader: For he shall deliver the poor who cries out in distress, *

People: **and the oppressed who has no helper.**

Reader: He shall have pity on the lowly and poor; *

People: **he shall preserve the lives of the needy.**

Reader: He shall redeem their lives from oppression and violence, *
People: and dear shall their blood be in his sight.

Second Lesson: Ephesians 3:1-12

Reader: A reading from the book of 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.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn: #529

In Christ there is no East or West (vs1,2,3)

Please stand as you are able.

Words: John Oxenham; Music: Harry Burleigh

1 In Christ there is no East or West, in
 2 Join hands, dis - ci - ples of the faith, what -
 3 In Christ now meet both East and West, in

him no South or North, but one great fel - low -
 e'er your race may be! Who serves my Fa - ther
 him meet South and North, all Christ - ly souls are

ship of love through - out the whole wide earth.
 as his child is sure - ly kin to me.
 one in him, through - out the whole wide earth.

Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12

Please stand as you are able.

Reader: The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

People: **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.

Reader: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to you, Lord Christ**

Sermon

The Rev. Bob Wickizer

Shining Forth

Celebrant: On September 11, 2001, I was in the National Cathedral meeting with my bishop when the third airplane crashed into the Pentagon. Security interrupted our meeting and evacuated the three hundred staff and visitors to the south lawn of the cathedral. From that high point on that clear, September morning, a chill went down my spine as we looked across the Potomac River at the Pentagon burning in the distance.

I had a kind of vision or epiphany in that moment. I saw two, very different possible futures. In the first vision which I have named "The Dream of God", America and Europe grappled realistically with how the Muslim world has been treated by the west. A grand, revitalization plan was launched like the post-WWII Marshall Plan but bigger. It was a John Lennon "dreamer" kind of vision, but peace prevailed, and the world was better.

The other vision, more "realistic" some would say, was much darker with endless warfare, food scarcity and disease. In these past twenty years, the world has at least racked up two out of three of those. I am not sure we are any better now than in 2001.

I began writing this sermon at the end of the day on Wednesday this week, the actual day of Epiphany as well as the day of violence, mayhem and murder in our capitol. I did not have any visions this time, but that same chill and sinking feeling set in as I watched the news of this sad day. I turned off the television and read the scriptures preparing to write this sermon.

God incarnate, the baby Jesus, was born into a world filled with political violence, mayhem, and murder. Not long after Jesus is born, wise men or "magi" from the east arrive in Jerusalem where they ask King Herod who is the king of the Jews, where they might find this baby who has been born king of the Jews. Look what Matthew's gospel says happens next. When Herod heard about this baby who is the king of the

Jews, he is frightened. But the gospel says more. Not only is Herod frightened, but “all Jerusalem with him.”

Who else might be frightened to learn that Herod’s position was being contested by a newborn baby? Certainly not all the peasants he oppressed and taxed to death. Certainly not the occupying Roman military. The only people who would also be frightened by this news are those who benefit in some way by their relationship to the king. They benefit by getting the best jobs, political favors, money, family connections and so on. A new king, even a baby, would be bad for their business.

The magi could see right through Herod’s plot. “Let me know where you find the baby so that I can go pay homage.” Bull. Herod wants to eliminate his competition. Failing to learn where the baby Jesus is staying, Herod later has all the baby boys in Jerusalem murdered. The Holy Family learned of this plot from an angel and fled to Egypt where they stay until the crazy King Herod dies.

The story so many years ago was repeated this week. Resort to violence, mayhem, and murder all while playing the game, “who gets to be king.” This week we witnessed the stark difference between the Dream of God and the desires of man.

After all, who doesn’t want to be king of the mountain with all the money and power to do whatever you want? Isn’t that grand? I have watched people move into kingly roles in business and academia. A few of them manage to convince themselves that they deserve the top role; even those who inherited it. Money, power, and control are all human addictions that isolate us from the one inescapable fact – that we will die someday.

The dream of God is very different from the follies of humanity. God’s dream starts humbly with a baby born to peasant parents in a backwater town. God’s king is described in the psalm. “That he may rule the poor with justice... He shall defend the needy...rescue the poor and crush the oppressor...and there shall be an abundance of peace.” My first vision while watching the Pentagon smolder was like this description.

We believe that some part of the resurrected Christ lives in each one of us. We remind ourselves of this when we receive the body and blood of Christ. Christ dwells in us and we dwell in Christ. We are to carry out his mission in the world. Epiphany is sometimes called the season of light. You should seriously consider that you bring the light of Christ into the world.

We carry the light of Christ, shining out from each one of us when we call people and check on them, when we write cards and letters, when we visit them, when we show kindness to strangers, when we use the church facilities to help others, when we volunteer for non-profits, even when we smile.

There are also ways we can extinguish that light of Christ within us. We turn out the light when we judge other people, when we gossip, when we don’t listen to people, when we don’t value others. All these actions snuff out the Christ in us and send us back into the sad game of king of the mountain.

The light of Christ came into the world to save us from ourselves. You have part of that light now. It is your job to share the light you have and brighten up the world. And if your love and light stops just one king of the mountain game, then you are a blessing.

Silence for reflection after the sermon.

Nicene Creed

Please stand as you are able.

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. 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

Please kneel, sit or stand.

Reader: Bound together in Christ in the communion of the Holy Spirit, let us pray with one heart and mind to God our Father.

Reader: For peace from things that separate us from one another and for our salvation.

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Reader: For the peace of the whole world, for the welfare of the holy churches of God, especially...

People: **St. Mark's, Perry Ascension, Pawnee; Diocese of Alaska; The Anglican Church of Australia.**

Reader: For this holy gathering and for those who enter with faith, reverence, and fear of God.

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Reader: For...

People: **Michael, our Presiding Bishop; Poulson, our Bishop; Bob & Tom, our clergy; Tim & Jennifer, our wardens; vestry, delegates, all who minister in Christ, and for all the holy people of God. Lord, have mercy.**

Reader: For the world and its leaders, our nation and its people. We pray for our leaders, especially...

People: **Donald, our President; Mike, our Vice-president; Markwayne, our Congressman; James & Jim, our Senators; Kevin, our Governor; and Marlon, our Mayor. Lord, have mercy.**

Reader: For prisoners, the oppressed, all those in need or suffering, especially...

People: **Barbara & Family, Blackwell Family, Brad, Brewer Family, James & Shirley, Judy, Sherri, Bea, Eathen, Linda, John, Angie, Brian, Glen, Dante, Marilyn, Gary, Ann, Connie, Jan, Thomas, Cedric, Mary-Margaret, Jean, Barry, Cliff, Gabriella, Esther, Ann, Gwyn, Ronald, Michael all those affected by the pandemic, all the front line workers involved with patient care, and those whose suffering is known only to God.**

Reader: We pray for those in the armed services. We pray for those who have died especially...

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Reader: For ourselves, our families, and those we love. We pray for those in our parish, especially ...

People: **Maribeth, Michael, Mike, Louisa, Martha, Tad.**

Reader: Also those who are traveling, *especially...*

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Reader: Remembering our most blessed Mary and all the saints, let us offer ourselves and one another to the living God through Christ.

People: **To you, O Lord.**

Reader: Heavenly Father, you have promised to hear what we ask in the Name of your Son: Accept and fulfill our petitions, we pray, not as we ask in our ignorance, nor as we deserve in our sinfulness, but as you know and love us in your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Prayer for healing:

Celebrant: On the second Sunday of every month, we invite people to come forward for personal prayers for healing for themselves or for people they know. Let us join together in prayers for those who are suffering.

God of grace and mercy, you give us the gifts of life, a beautiful world, and time in which to live. We recognize that suffering from illness and other causes beyond our control can be part of the lives we live. We also recognize that some people may suffer for political and moral causes. And we recognize that our compassion may lead us to suffer only because loved ones and others we know are suffering. We pray for your mercy. Ease the suffering of so many. Be present with those who suffer and give them peace. Help us to recall that you once suffered for us. May we find your life-giving spirit as we wrestle with the challenges of the life we have. All this we ask in the name of Jesus who gave himself for us. **Amen**

Confession and Absolution

Celebrant: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbors.

Silence is observed.

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

Celebrant: 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.**

Peace

Please stand as you are able.

Celebrant: Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given, and his name shall be called the Prince of Peace. The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Announcements, Birthdays & Anniversary Blessings

Please be seated.

Celebrant: Ascribe to the Lord the honor due his Name; bring offerings and come into his courts with thanksgiving

Offertory Solo:

Love Came Down

Soloist: Nancy Scott

Words and Music by Hank Bentley and Lindsey Sweat

Doxology:

Please stand and sing as you are able.

*3 Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise him, all crea-tures here be - low; praise him a - bove, ye heaven - ly host: praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

The Great Thanksgiving

Sursum Corda

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you**

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them to the Lord**

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

Sanctus:#S-125

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might, hea - ven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

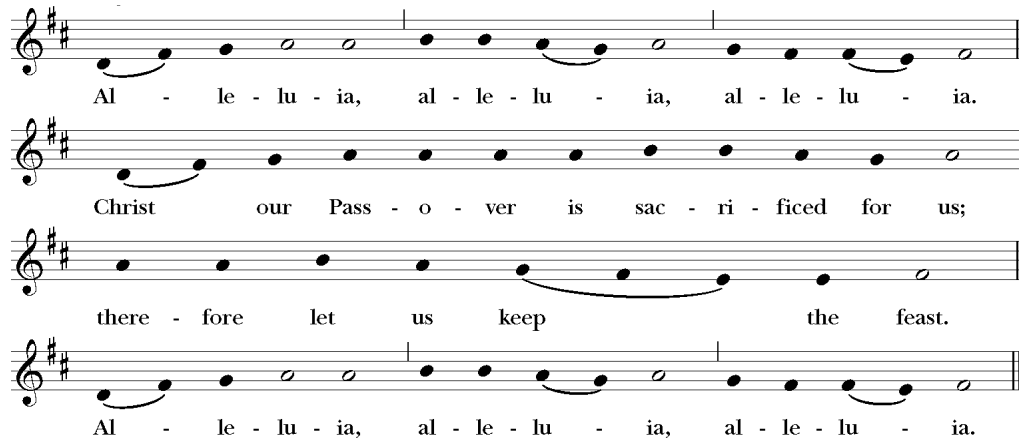
Lord's Prayer

Celebrant: And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray,

People and Celebrant: **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

Fraction Anthem: #S-154



Breaking of the Bread

A period of silence is kept.

Celebrant: 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.

Communion Solo:

I come with joy to meet my Lord

Ken Yaden

We Go Out To Do Our Work

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Celebrant & People: **Gracious God, giver of every good gift, thank you for teaching me to be generous as you have been generous with me. Thank you for showing me all that I am and all that I have are gifts from you and that these gifts from you, Lord are meant to be shared.**

Show me the joys of generosity and help me understand that others who may be unknown to me, depend upon me for help. Remind me that in my world of community, parish, family and friends, we need Good Samaritans to heal the wounds inflicted by the world. Lord, make me a gift to others in your name. Amen.

Blessing

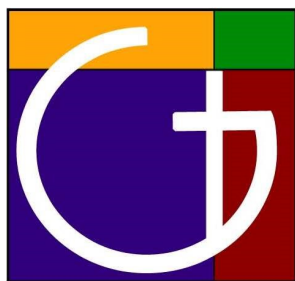
Celebrant: And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

Recession: #119**As with gladness men of old (vs. 1,4,5)**
Words: William Chatterton; Music: William Henry Monk*Please stand as you are able.*

1 As with glad - ness men of old did the guid - ing star be - hold;
4 Ho - ly Je - sus! ev - ery day keep us in the nar - row way;
5 In the heaven - ly coun - try bright, need they no cre - a - ted light;

1 as with joy they hailed its light, lead - ing on - ward, beam - ing bright;
4 and, when earth - ly things are past, bring our ran - somed souls at last
5 thou its light, its joy, its crown, thou its sun which goes not down:

1 so, most gra - cious Lord, may we ev - er - more be led to thee.
4 where they need no star to guide, where no clouds thy glo - ry hide.
5 there for ev - er may we sing al - le - lu - ias to our King.

Sending*Celebrant:* Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.*People:* **Thanks be to God.**

Grace Episcopal

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