

**The Feast of the Epiphany**  
January 5, 2025

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Hymns are found in the blue *Hymnal 1982* in your pew.  
The 'S' numbers are located at the front of the hymnal.

The service begins in quiet and prayer.

**Prelude:** *The Kings of Orient* arr. Thomas Kuras (1950-1997)

**THE WORD OF GOD**

**Processional Hymn 109:** *The First Nowell*

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

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

*People* **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 96:** *Angels we have Heard on High*

**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.**

**The First 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.

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

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

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



**Choir** Give the King your <sup>1</sup>justice, O <sup>1</sup>God, \*  
and your <sup>1</sup>righteousness to the <sup>1</sup>King's <sup>1</sup>Son;

**ALL** That he may rule your <sup>1</sup>people <sup>1</sup>righteously \*  
— <sup>1</sup>and the <sup>1</sup>poor with <sup>1</sup>justice;

**Choir** That the mountains may bring pros<sup>1</sup>perity to the <sup>1</sup>people, \*  
and the <sup>1</sup>little <sup>1</sup>hills bring <sup>1</sup>righteousness.

**ALL** He shall defend the needy a<sup>1</sup>mong the <sup>1</sup>people; \*  
he shall rescue the <sup>1</sup>poor and <sup>1</sup>crush the op<sup>1</sup>pressor.

**Choir** He shall live as long as the sun and <sup>1</sup>moon en<sup>1</sup>dure, \*  
from one gene<sup>1</sup>ration <sup>1</sup>to an<sup>1</sup>other.

**ALL** He shall come down like rain upon the <sup>1</sup>möwn <sup>1</sup>field, \*  
like <sup>1</sup>showers that <sup>1</sup>water the <sup>1</sup>earth.

**Choir** In his time shall the <sup>1</sup>righteous <sup>1</sup>flourish; \*  
there shall be abundance of peace till the <sup>1</sup>moon shall <sup>1</sup>be no <sup>1</sup>more.

**ALL** The kings of Tarshish and of the <sup>1</sup>isles shall pay <sup>1</sup>tribute, \*  
and the kings of Arabia and <sup>1</sup>Saba <sup>1</sup>offer <sup>1</sup>gifts.

**Choir** All kings shall bow <sup>1</sup>down be<sup>1</sup>fore him, \*  
and all the <sup>1</sup>nations <sup>1</sup>do him <sup>1</sup>service.

**ALL** For he shall deliver the poor who cries <sup>1</sup>out in dis<sup>1</sup>tress, \*  
and the op<sup>1</sup>pressed who <sup>1</sup>has no <sup>1</sup>helper.

**Choir** He shall have pity on the <sup>1</sup>lowly and <sup>1</sup>poor; \*  
he shall pre<sup>1</sup>serve the <sup>1</sup>lives of the <sup>1</sup>needy.

**ALL** He shall redeem their lives from op<sup>1</sup>pression and <sup>1</sup>violence, \*  
and dear shall their <sup>1</sup>blood be <sup>1</sup>in his <sup>1</sup>sight.

**The Second 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.

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

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

**Sequence Hymn 124:** *What Star is This*

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

*People* **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

**The Gospel:** *Matthew 2:1-12*

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.**

**The Sermon**

**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

*Please stand or kneel*

Rejoicing in the birth of Jesus Christ, the light of the world, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God’s creation. *A brief silence* O God, may the witness of those who followed the star in the search for truth inspire us today. May we be open to your invitation to seek the light of your presence in unlikely people and unusual places. May we willingly offer our gifts in your service.

*People* **God of love, hear our prayer.**

We pray for the mission of the church. Inspire our witness to Jesus Christ that all may know the power of his forgiveness and the hope of his resurrection. Guide this parish family of St. Andrew’s as we seek to nurture the spiritual growth of our congregation and serve those in need in our community and beyond. **God of love, hear our prayer.**

O God, the fountain of wisdom, whose will is good and gracious, and whose law is truth: Guide and bless the Senators and Representatives of the 119<sup>th</sup> Congress sworn in this week. Grant them wisdom and grace in the exercise of their duties, that they may make wise decisions for the well-being of our country. **God of love, hear our prayer.**

O God, you made us in your image and redeemed us through Jesus your Son: Look with compassion on the whole human family; take away the arrogance and hatred which infect our hearts; break down the walls that separate us; unite us in bonds of love; and work through our struggle and confusion to accomplish your purposes on earth; that, in your good time, all people may serve you in harmony and peace. **God of love, hear our prayer.**

We pray for all who are in need, including all whose struggles are known to you alone, those on our prayer list, and those we name in our hearts. *Pause* Bless them with your presence and help us attend to their needs. **God of love, hear our prayer.**

In a moment of silence, let us pray for those who are dear to us. *Silence* Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours; grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us. **God of love, hear our prayer.**

We pray for those we love but see no longer. *Silence* Receive them into the arms of your mercy, into the blessed rest of everlasting peace, and into the glorious company of the saints in light. **God of love, hear our prayer.**

O God, by whose mercy and might the world turns safely into darkness and returns again into light: we give into your hands our unfinished tasks, our unresolved problems, and our unfulfilled hopes, knowing that only that which you bless will prosper. To your great love and protection we commit each other and all your people, knowing you alone are our sure defender, through Jesus Christ. **Amen.** (*South India prayer*)

*Celebrant* Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor. *Silence* **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.**

## The Peace

*Celebrant* The peace of the Lord be always with you.

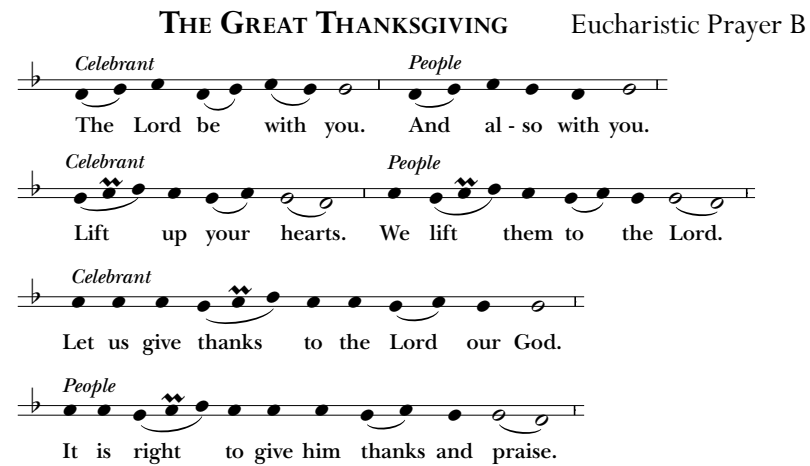
*People* **And also with you.**

**Offertory Anthem:** *The Wise Men and the Star* Oliver Tarney (b. 1984)  
The St. Andrew’s Adult Choir

*Sovereign scholars, weary of waiting, startled by starlight that kindles the sky. Eager for answers, destiny drives them, watching with wonder, they follow the star. Passing by palaces, greedy and golden, threading the byways of winter and cold, come to a doorway, low-built and lamp-lit, eagerly enter under the star. Source of all starlight, simply they see him, laid in a manger and haloed with hay. Bright in his beauty, shrouded with shadows. Steady the star shines. Follow the star.*

**Children’s Entrance Hymn 128:** *We Three Kings*

**THE GREAT THANKSGIVING** Eucharistic Prayer B



*Celebrant* The Lord be with you. *People* And al - so 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.

*The Celebrant offers our thanks to God for the grace and mercy made available to us in Christ.*

**Sanctus S-130:** *Holy, Holy, Holy Lord*

*The people stand or kneel as the Celebrant gives thanks for the reconciling work of Christ through his passion and resurrection and prays over the bread and wine.*

*Celebrant* Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

*People* **We remember his death,  
We proclaim his resurrection,  
We await his coming in glory;**

*The Celebrant continues with the Eucharistic prayer.*

*Celebrant* By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit of all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and forever. **Amen.**

*Celebrant* As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,  
**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.**

*The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.*

**Fraction Anthem S-164:** *Jesus, Lamb of God*

*Please come forward and stand or kneel at the rail. The priest will place the bread in your outstretched palm (Consecrated rice wafers are available for those with wheat allergies - simply ask the priest). You may dip (intinct) the bread in the wine in the small cup held by the Eucharistic minister. Alternatively, you may indicate your desire to drink from the common chalice by consuming the bread and remaining at the rail after the Eucharistic minister passes; another Eucharistic minister will bring the large chalice over for you to drink from directly. Please know that Christ is fully present in both the bread and the wine - there is no requirement to receive both. If you do not wish to receive communion, you may come forward, cross your hands over your chest, and receive a blessing.*

**Communion Voluntary:** *Larghetto Pastorale (Messiah)* G.F. Handel (1685-1759)  
Oliver Steissberg, Organ

**Communion Hymn 118:** *Brightest and Best*

*When Lay Eucharistic Visitors are taking Holy Communion to those unable to be with us in person, we say the following*

*Celebrant* In the name of this congregation, we send you forth bearing these holy gifts, that those to whom you go may share with us in the communion of Christ’s body and blood.

*People* **We who are many are one body, because we all share one bread, one cup.**

**Post-Communion Thanksgiving**

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

*People* **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**

**Closing Hymn 497:** *How Bright Appears the Morning Star*

**Dismissal**

*The young people are invited to come forward during the hymn to participate in the dismissal.*

*Young people* Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

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

**Postlude:** *Choral Fantasia on “Wie schön leuchtet der Morgenstern”*  
Dietrich Buxtehude (1637-1707)