

The Parish Church  
of  
St Richard, Aldwick



The Eucharist  
Order of Service  
for  
Epiphany

## The Season of Epiphany

In the Western churches, the Epiphany ('manifestation' or 'showing') celebrates one element in the story of Christ's birth - the visit of the wise men, usually understood as the manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles. Matthew's account speaks simply of 'wise men from the east', but later tradition fixed their number at three, made them kings and recalled their resonant names – Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar. Against this background, Epiphany tide is an apt season to pray for the worldwide mission of the Church.

In the Eastern churches, the Epiphany celebrates Christ's baptism by John the Baptist, when the heavens were opened and a voice from heaven declared Jesus to be God's beloved Son. The miracle of Cana in Galilee, where Jesus 'first manifested his glory' (John 2.11), follows immediately.

Our Sunday readings during Epiphany reflect all these events.

The season of joyful celebration that began at Christmas continues through the Sundays of Epiphany, and ends with the Feast of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple (Candlemas). The child who has been manifested to the magi at his birth is now recognized by Simeon and Anna, when Mary and Joseph bring him to the Temple to comply with the Law of Israel. He is both 'a light to lighten the Gentiles' and 'the glory of God's people Israel' (Luke 2.32). But the redemption he will bring must be won through suffering; the Incarnation points towards the Passion; and Simeon's final words move our attention away from the celebration of Christmas and towards the mysteries of Good Friday and Easter.

*From Common Worship: Times and Seasons (abridged and modified)*

## **THE GATHERING**

### **The Opening Hymn**

In the name of the Father,  
and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

### **The Greeting**

Grace mercy and peace from God our Father  
and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.  
**and also with you.**

### **Invitation to Confession**

Christ the light of the world has come to dispel the darkness of  
our hearts.  
In his light let us examine ourselves and confess our sins.

### **The Confession**

**Almighty God, our heavenly Father,  
we have sinned against you,  
through our own fault,  
in thought, and word, and deed,  
and in what we have left undone.  
We are heartily sorry,  
and repent of all our sins.  
For your Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake,  
forgive us all that is past;  
and grant that we may serve you in newness of life  
to the glory of your name.  
Amen.**

### **The Absolution**

May the God of all healing and forgiveness draw you to himself,  
and cleanse you from all your sins,  
that you may behold the glory of his Son, the Word made flesh,  
Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen**

## **The Gloria**

**Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to his people on earth.**

**Lord God, heavenly King,  
almighty God and Father,  
we worship you, we give you thanks,  
we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,  
Lord God, Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world:  
have mercy on us;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:  
receive our prayer.**

**For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High,  
Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father.  
Amen.**

## **The Collect**

*We say together the Collect (which 'collects' together the theme of the day) which can be found in the Pews Sheet.*

## **THE LITURGY OF THE WORD**

### **Scripture Readings**

*At the end of each reading the reader says*

**This is the word of the Lord.  
Thanks be to God.**

### **Gradual Hymn**

## **The Gospel**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to *N.*  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*At the end*

This is the Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **The Sermon**

## **The 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,  
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and 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,  
who with the Father and the Son  
is worshipped and glorified,  
who 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 Intercession**

In the power of the spirit and in union with Christ  
let us pray to the Father

Lord, in your mercy                      *or*  
**Hear our prayer**

Lord, hear us.  
**Lord, graciously hear us**

*And at the end*

Merciful Father,  
**Accept these prayers for the sake of your Son,  
our Saviour Jesus Christ,  
Amen.**

## **THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT**

### **The Peace**

Christ came and proclaimed the gospel,  
Peace to those who are far off  
and peace to those who are near.

The peace of the Lord be always with you  
**and also with you.**

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

## **Preparation of the Table**

### **The Offertory Hymn**

*During which the table is prepared*

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation:  
through your goodness we have this bread to offer,  
which earth has given and human hands have made.  
it will become for us the bread of life.

**Blessed be God for ever.**

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation:  
through your goodness we have this wine to offer,  
fruit of the vine and work of human hands.  
it will become for us the cup of salvation.

**Blessed be God for ever.**

Yours, Lord, is the greatness, the power, the glory, the splendour, and the majesty; for everything in heaven and on earth is yours.

**All things come from you and of your own do we give you.**

**Amen.**

### **The Eucharistic Prayer**

The Lord is here.

**His Spirit is with us.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the lord our God.

**It is right to give thanks and praise.**

*Either this extended Preface will follow*

All honour and praise be yours always and everywhere,  
mighty creator, ever-living God,  
through Jesus Christ your only Son our Lord:  
for at this time we celebrate your glory  
made present in our midst.

In the coming of the Magi  
the King of all the world was revealed to the nations.  
In the waters of baptism  
Jesus was revealed as the Christ,  
the Saviour sent to redeem us.  
In the water made wine  
the new creation was revealed at the wedding feast.  
Poverty was turned to riches, sorrow into joy.  
Therefore with all the angels of heaven we lift our voices to  
proclaim the glory of your name  
and sing our joyful hymn of praise:

*or this short preface will be used*

And now we give you thanks  
because in the incarnation of the Word,  
a new light has dawned upon the world,  
that all the nations may be brought out of darkness  
to see the radiance of your glory.  
Therefore with all the angels of heaven  
we lift our voices to proclaim the glory of your name  
and sing our joyful hymn of praise:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of power and might,  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord  
Hosanna in the highest.**

We praise and bless you, loving Father  
through Jesus Christ, our Lord;  
and as we obey his command.  
Send your Holy Spirit,  
that broken bread and wine outpoured  
may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper with his friends  
and, taking bread, he praised you.  
He broke the bread, gave it to them and said:  
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;  
Do this in remembrance of me.  
When supper was ended he took the cup of wine.



Again he praised you, 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.  
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did,  
in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice  
made once for all upon the cross.

Bringing before you the bread of life and the cup of salvation,  
we proclaim his death and resurrection  
until he comes in glory.

Great is the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died:**

**Christ is risen:**

**Christ will come again.**

Lord of all life  
help us to work together for that day  
when your kingdom comes and justice  
and mercy will be seen in all the earth.

Look with favour on your people,  
gather us in your loving arms  
and bring us with [*St Richard, St Thomas à Becket and*] all the  
saints to feast at your table in heaven.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father,  
for ever and ever.

**Amen.**

## **The Lord's Prayer**

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us:

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

*The president breaks the consecrated bread.*

We break this bread  
to share in the body of Christ.  
**Though we are many, we are one body,  
Because we all share in the one bread.**

### **AGNUS DEI**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,  
have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,  
have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,  
grant us peace.**

## **Giving of Communion**

Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world,  
Blessed are those who are called to his supper.  
**Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,  
But only say the word, and I shall be healed.**

*All are invited to receive Holy Communion or God's blessing. If the latter, please bow your head to indicate your intention to the priest.*

*Music is played and/or hymns sung during Communion.*

## **Prayer after Communion**

*We all say the Post Communion Prayer which can be found in the pews sheet*

*followed by*

**We thank you, Lord,  
that you have fed us in this sacrament,  
united us with Christ,  
and given us a foretaste of the heavenly banquet  
prepared for all peoples.  
Amen.**

## **THE DISMISSAL**

### **Notices**

### **Final Hymn**

### **The Blessing**

Christ the Son of God perfect in you the image of his glory and  
gladden your hearts with the good news of his kingdom;

And the blessing of God Almighty,  
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always  
**Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
**In the name of Christ.  
Amen.**



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