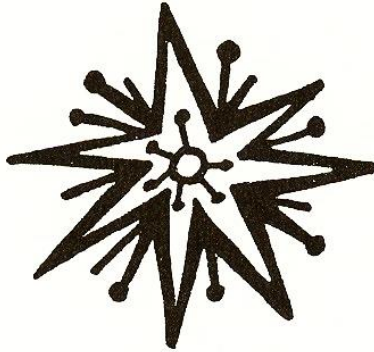


The Season Celebrating Epiphany

Arise, shine; for your light has come,
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

(Isaiah 60:1)



The Song of Simeon, Luke 2:29-32

Lord, you now have set your servant free *
to go in peace as you have promised;
For these eyes of mine have seen the Savior, *
whom you have prepared for all the world to see:
A Light to enlighten the nations, *
and the glory of your people Israel.

(Book of Common Prayer, 1979)

Holy Eucharist

Voluntary (*Please refer to the insert for title and composer.*)

Opening Hymn (*please see insert for Hymn #*)

Welcome

The Opening Acclamation

Presider: Arise, shine, for our light has come.

People: **And the glory of the Lord has risen upon us.**

The Gloria S278

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.

OR spoken:

Jesus said,

"The first commandment is this:

Hear, O Israel:

The Lord your God is the only Lord.

Love the Lord your God

with all your heart,

with all your soul,

with all your mind,

and with all your strength.

The second is this:

Love your neighbor as yourself.

There is no commandment greater than these." - Mark 12:29-31

The Collect of the Day (*see insert*)

Presider: God be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Presider: Let us pray.

Please refer to the insert for today's scripture readings.

The First Lesson

The Psalm

The Gospel

The Sermon

Affirmation of Faith (*Please stand if it is comfortable for you to do so.*)

The Nicene Creed

Presider: Let us affirm the faith of the Church:

**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 worshipped 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

Creator God, you spoke in hope, and light came forth from the darkness. We pray for your church, our diocese, bishops, clergy and all of your people.

God of life,

Hear our prayer.

Light of abundant love, be our beacon in proclaiming your love.

We pray for those who have lost their way. May your light lead them back to you.

God of light,

Hear our prayer.

Light that brings warmth; warm our hearts and hands to your service.
We pray for our world. Light the way for us to serve.

God of love,

Hear our prayer.

Glowing ember of light; fuel our passion to stand up against injustice
and help us to pursue peace and reconciliation.

God of justice,

Hear our prayer.

We pray for this land upon which we stand. We pray for the
preservation of the created world, its vegetation, creatures, waters
and people.

God of restoration,

Hear our prayer.

As the magi followed the star that led them to the Christ child,
illumine our hopes before we know them and our needs before we
ask. Star which blazes in glory, lead us to the Christ child, from
whom our salvation comes.

God of grace,

Hear our prayer.

Illuminator of the world, guide us to see and to meet the needs of
those around us. We pray for those in need of shelter, clothing and
food. We pray for those suffering from mental afflictions, physical
illnesses, and spiritual vacancy. We pray especially for: *(names from our
prayer list) Please add your intercessions.*

God of healing,

Hear our prayer.

Light of Christ which could not be dimmed by earthly death.
We pray for those who have gone before us to your eternal light, may
light perpetual shine upon them. We pray for: *(names from our
insert). Please add your intercessions.*

God of resurrection,

Hear our prayer.

Concluding Collect: *(Celebrant may use one of the following.)*

Blessed are you, Loving God, our light and our salvation. You gave your Son to shine on those who live in darkness, through your Spirit you empower us to share your light with the world. May our lives bear witness to your truth and our lips never cease to proclaim your praise. **Amen.**

Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised that when two or three are gathered your name, you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O God, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. **Amen.**

Confession of Sin

God is love and we are God's children.

There is no room for fear in love.

We love because God loved us first.

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence is kept

Almighty God,

we confess to you

and to our fellow members in the Body of Christ

that we have sinned in thought, word and deed,

and in what we have failed to do.

We are truly sorry.

Forgive us our sins,

and deliver us from the power of evil.

For the sake of your Son who died for us,

Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

The Absolution

May the God of power and love

forgive you and free you from your sins,

heal and strengthen you by the Spirit,

and raise you to new life in Christ our Savior.

Amen.

The Peace

The peace of Christ be always with you.

And also with you.

Please greet one another with a sign of peace as you are comfortable doing so.

Choral Anthem

The Great Thanksgiving

God be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

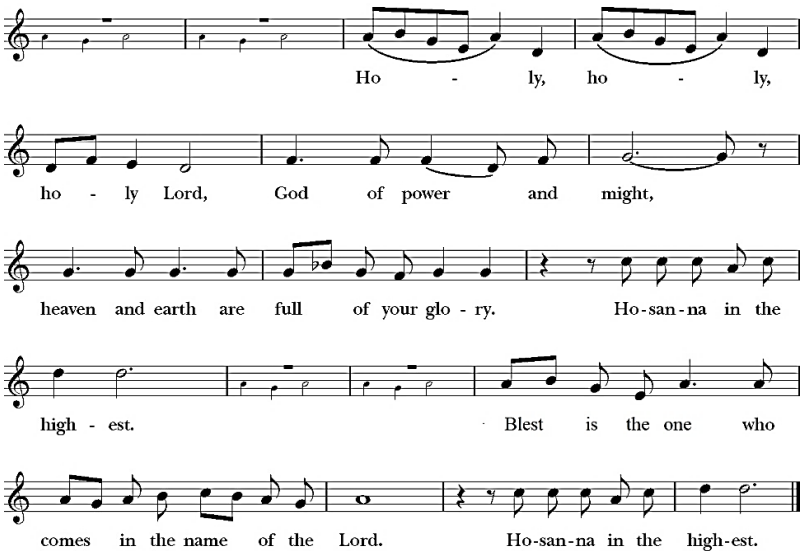
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Worship and praise belong to you, Father, in every place and at all times. You made us, all the people of the world, and everything that is. You give us the daylight. Your Word lights up our minds. Jesus was born among us to be light in our darkness. Your Spirit lives in us so that we can look at the world with your eyes. One day we will be with you in heaven, but already we laugh with the saints and angels, and sing their joyful song:

Sanctus S128



Ho - ly, ho - ly,
ho - ly Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho-san-na in the
high - est. Blest is the one who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high-est.

OR spoken:

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Father, you never forget us or turn away from us, even when we fail you. You sent your Son Jesus who gave his life for us. He healed those who were sick, cared for those who were poor, and cried with those who were sad. He forgave sinners and taught us to forgive. For all your love we give you thanks in the way that Jesus showed us.

On the night before he died, while he was having supper with his friends, Jesus took bread and offered you thanks. He broke the bread, and gave it to them, saying: "Take, eat. This is my Body: it is broken for you."

After supper, he took the cup, he offered you thanks, and gave it to them saying: "Drink this, all of you. This is my Blood of the new covenant; it is poured out for you, and for all, that sins may be forgiven. Do this in remembrance of me."

So, as we do what he told us,

we open our hearts to him;

we remember how he died

and rose again to live now in us.

Together with him we offer you these gifts:

in them we give you ourselves.

Hear us, most merciful God, and send your Holy Spirit on us and on this bread and this wine, that, overshadowed by your Spirit's life-giving power, they may be the Body and Blood of your Son. Kindle within us the fire of your love and renew us for the service of your Kingdom.

Help us, who are baptised into the fellowship of Christ's Body, to live and work to your praise and glory; may we grow together in unity and love until at last, in your new creation, we enter into our heritage in the company of Stephen and all the apostles, prophets, and of all our siblings living and departed.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord, with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory are yours, now and for ever. **Amen.**

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

The Lord's Prayer

**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 Fraction S151

Cantor
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

All
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Cantor
Christ our Pass - o - ver is sac - ri - ficed for us; there - fore let us

All
keep the feast. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

OR Spoken

The Living Bread, given for the life of the world.
Whoever eats this bread will live forever.

The Invitation

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

The Communion

Everyone is welcome to receive communion from God's table.

Gluten free wafers are available, simply let the celebrant know.

Specific information about how to receive communion is found on back page of weekly insert. (Feel free to ask questions of anyone wearing a name tag!)

Music at Communion *(see insert)*

Post Communion Prayer, Form I

Presider: Let us pray.

**All: Father of all, we give you thanks and praise
that when we were still far off
you met us in your Son and brought us home.
Dying and living, he declared your love,
gave us grace, and opened the gate of glory.
May we who share Christ's body live his risen life;
we who drink his cup bring life to others;
we whom the Spirit lights, give light to the world.
Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us,
so we and all your children shall be free,
and the whole earth live to praise your name;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Post Communion Prayer, Form II

Presider: Let us pray.

**All: O God, you now have set your servant free
to go in peace as you have promised;
For these eyes of mine have seen the Savior,
whom you have prepared for all the world to see:
A Light to enlighten the nations;
and the glory of your people Israel.
Glory to the holy and undivided Trinity, one God,
as it was in the beginning, is now and will be for ever. Amen.**

The Blessing (*Presider may choose one of these or another.*)

Blessing I

May God give to you and to all those you love
God's comfort and peace,
God's light and joy,
in this world and the next;
and the grace of our Savior Jesus Christ,
and the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit,
be with you all, now and always. **Amen.**

Blessing II

My friends, life is short
and we do not have much time
to gladden the hearts of those who travel with us,
so be quick to love and make haste to be kind.
And rest assured that God is infinitely more concerned
with the promise of our future
than the mistakes of our past.
And the grace of our Savior Jesus Christ,
and the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit,
be with you all, now and always. **Amen.**

Announcements

Closing Hymn (*Please refer to insert for Hymn #.*)

The Dismissal

Presider: Go forth into the world, sharing the light of Christ.
 Alleluia, alleluia!
People: **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!**

Voluntary (*Please refer to the insert for title and composer.*)

Liturgical Resources for Epiphany 2025

Cover Text: Isaiah 60:1 and The Song of Simeon, Luke 2:29-32 from the Book of Common Prayer, 1979.

Opening Acclamation: Isaiah 60:1

The Collect of the Day:

By Steven Shakespeare in *Prayers for an Inclusive Church*, published by Church Publishing in 2009. (*Diocesan Liturgical Commission*)

Affirmation of Faith/Creed:

This text of the Nicene Creed omits the phrase ‘and the Son’ in the third paragraph, recovering the original text of the First Councils of Nicaea and Constantinople (325 and 381CE respectively) and once again aligning ourselves with our brothers and sisters in the Orthodox Church. This version was approved for use in worship by The Episcopal Church in 1997, published in *Enriching Our Worship I*.

Prayers of the People: Adapted from prayers written by The Rev. Deacon Lora Smith, of the Diocese of Western Massachusetts, Liturgical Commission of Diocese of Western Massachusetts.

Concluding Collects for the Prayers of the People:

Form I is from *Daily Prayers for All Seasons*

Form II is from the *Order of St. Helena’s Breviary*.

The Confession of Sin: Scottish Episcopal Church

The Absolution and Peace: Scottish Episcopal Church

The Eucharistic Prayer: Scottish Episcopal Church, Adapted.

The Fraction:

Adapted from John 6:51 (“*I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.*”)

Post Communion Prayer:

Form I: Scottish Episcopal Church

Form II: *Song of Simeon, Order of St. Helena’s Breviary* version

The Blessings

Blessing I: the Church of England, Common Worship

Blessing II is one-part Celtic blessing, one-part The Rev. Ben Nelson and one third Trinitarian blessing as phrased by the *Order of St. Helena*.

SAINT STEPHEN'S PARISH
67 East Street
Pittsfield, Massachusetts

A Jubilee Parish in the Episcopal Diocese of Western Massachusetts

Our mission is to be the heart and hands of Christ:
Nourishing people, transforming lives.