

Closing hymn

We three kings of Orient are; bearing gifts we traverse afar  
field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star:

*O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright,  
westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.*

Born a king on Bethlehem plain, gold I bring, to crown him again-  
King for ever, ceasing never, over us all to reign:

Chorus

Frankincense to offer have I; incense owns a deity nigh:  
prayer and praising, all men raising, worship him, God most high:

Chorus

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

Chorus

Glorious now, behold him arise, King and God, and sacrifice!  
heaven sings alleluia, alleluia the earth replies:

Chorus

John Henry Hopkins (1820-1891)

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.**

Dismissal

Go in the peace of Christ.

**Thanks be to God.**

Welcome

*A churchwarden welcomes us*

Opening Hymn

Brightest and best of the sons of the morning,  
dawn on our darkness, and lend us thine aid;  
star of the east, the horizon adorning,  
guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.

Cold on his cradle the dew-drops are shining;  
low lies his head with the beasts of the stall;  
angels adore him in slumber reclining,  
Maker and Monarch and Saviour of all.

Say, shall we yield him, in costly devotion,  
odours of Edom, and offerings divine,  
gems of the mountain and pearls of the ocean,  
myrrh from the forest, or gold from the mine?

Vainly we offer each ample oblation,  
vainly with gifts would his favour secure:  
richer by far is the heart's adoration,  
dearer to God are the prayers of the poor.

Brightest and best of the sons of the morning,  
dawn on our darkness, and lend us thine aid;  
star of the east, the horizon adorning,  
guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.

Reginald Heber (1783-1826)

The Greeting

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

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

The Prayers of Penitence

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.

**Almighty God, our heavenly Father,  
we have sinned against you and against our neighbour  
in thought and word and deed,  
through negligence, through weakness,  
through our own deliberate fault.  
We are truly sorry and repent of all our sins.  
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, who died for us,  
forgive us all that is past;  
and grant that we may serve you in newness of life  
to the glory of your name. Amen.**

Absolution

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in life eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Gloria

**Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God in the highest**

**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.  
Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God in the highest**

**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.**

**Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God in the highest**

**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.**

**Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God in the highest**

The Collect

Creator of the heavens, who led the Magi by a star to worship the Christ-child: guide and sustain us, that we may find our journey's end in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Old Testament Reading: 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

Agnus Dei (sung by the choir)

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,  
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,  
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,  
grant us peace.

The 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.**

During Communion

Anthem

Prayers after Communion

Lord God, the bright splendour whom the nations seek: may we who with the wise men have been drawn by your light discern the glory of your presence in your Son, the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

*We pray together*

**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.**

Notices

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 cup of salvation,  
we proclaim his death and resurrection until he comes in glory.

**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 Mary the Mother of our Lord 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 (we sit or kneel)

*As our Saviour taught us, so we 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.  
Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,  
now and forever.  
Amen**

Breaking of the 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 one bread.**

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.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 72 (recorded by members of St Mary's choir)

Second Reading: 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 to 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 to me by the working of his pow-  
er. 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.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Reading Matthew 2: 1-12

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Matthew

**Glory to you, O Lord**

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.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

### Sermon

#### Prayers of Intercession

*The prayers conclude with*

Merciful Father,

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

### The Peace

Our Saviour Christ is the Prince of Peace.

Of the increase of his government and of peace there shall be no end.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

### Taking of the Bread and Wine

With this bread that we bring

**We shall remember Jesus.**

With this wine that we bring

**We shall remember Jesus.**

Bread for his body, wine for his blood,  
gifts from God to his table we bring.

**We shall remember Jesus.**

### Eucharistic Prayer E (with Extended Preface)

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 thanks and praise.**

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:

**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.