

The Holy Eucharist: Rite II

The Feast of the Epiphany



The Episcopal Church of The Holy Innocents
4 January, 2026 ~ 9:30 AM

Welcome! In The Episcopal Church all baptized Christians are welcomed to receive Holy Communion. BCP means The Book of Common Prayer (Red Book). You'll find the BCP and Hymnals in the pew rack in front of you.

Prelude

Voluntary

Please use this time for quiet prayer and contemplation

The Parish Notices

THE WORD OF GOD

Entrance Hymn #124 *What Star is This, With Beams so Bright* PUER NOBIS

Opening Acclamation BCP, p. 355

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father Son and Holy Spirit

People And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever. Amen

The 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. *All Amen.*

Gloria S-280 (all sing) *Gloria in excelsis* Robert Powell

The Collect of the Day:

BCP, p. 214

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 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.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 72:1-7,10-14 *(Read in unison)*

BCP, p. 685

- 1 Give the King your justice, O God, *
and your righteousness to the King's Son;
- 2 That he may rule your people righteously *
and the poor with justice;
- 3 That the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, *
and the little hills bring righteousness.
- 4 He shall defend the needy among the people; *
he shall rescue the poor and crush the oppressor.
- 5 He shall live as long as the sun and moon endure, *
from one generation to another.
- 6 He shall come down like rain upon the mown field, *
like showers that water the earth.

7 In his time shall the righteous flourish; *
there shall be abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.

10 The kings of Tarshish and of the isles shall pay tribute, *
and the kings of Arabia and Saba offer gifts.

11 All kings shall bow down before him, *
and all the nations do him service.

12 For he shall deliver the poor who cries out in distress, *
and the oppressed who has no helper.

13 He shall have pity on the lowly and poor; *
he shall preserve the lives of the needy.

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

The Epistle

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.

All Thanks be to God.

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

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord 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.

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.
People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.** (*All are seated*)

The Sermon

The Rev. Peter De Franco

Hymn during the Sermon the modified hymn, We Three Queens, will be sung by verse between parts of the sermon and to mark the entrances of the Three Queens.

We three queens of Orient are
Bearing gifts we traverse afar
Field and fountain, moor and mountain
Following yonder star

***Refrain* O Star of wonder, star of night
Star with royal beauty bright
Westward leading, still proceeding
Guide us to thy Perfect Light**

The first Queen presents her gift during the singing of Verse 2
Born a King on Bethlehem's plain
Gold I bring to crown Him again
King forever, ceasing never
Over us all to reign

Refrain

The second Queen presents her gift during the singing of Verse 3
Frankincense to offer have I
Incense owns a Deity nigh
Prayer and praising, all men raising
Worship Him, God most high

Refrain

The third Queen presents her gift during the singing of Verse 4
Myrrh is mine, its bitter perfume
Breathes of life of gathering gloom
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying
Sealed in the stone-cold tomb

Refrain

The Congregation sings the final hymn at the end of the sermon

Glorious now behold Him arise
King and God and Sacrifice
Heaven sings Alleluia,
Alleluia the earth replies

Refrain

The Prayers of the People: *by Fr. Rick Morley, Rector of St. David's Episcopal Church, Wayne, Pa. (The people may stand or kneel)*

Celebrant Let us pray to God, who is made manifest in Jesus Christ.

Leader As the prophet Isaiah rang out, "Arise, shine; for your light has come"; empower your Church, O God, to ring out the Good News of the Light of your son Jesus, which pierces even the deepest darkness.

People Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Leader As a star rose high into the nighttime sky to draw the nations to the Christ-child; send your blessing, O God, on this nation, and every nation, and draw the whole world to your peace and truth.

People Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Leader As John the Baptist guided throngs of people to the edge of the wilderness and baptized Jesus in the River Jordan, we pray that you would guide our country and our leaders especially Colleen our Mayor, Philip our Governor, Mikie our Governor-elect and Donald our President. Lead them in the ways of justice and righteousness.

People Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Leader Like the Magi who traveled from afar to bring gifts and celebrate the Savior's birth; we pray for this community, We pray for Sarah the Archbishop of Canterbury-designate; for Sean, our Presiding Bishop; for Sally our Bishop; for Erin, our Newly Called Rector for Peter, our Supply Priest and for those who celebrate their own birthdays and anniversaries.

People Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Leader As Jesus climbed the mountaintop, and proclaimed blessings on the people of the world; we pray for all who need our prayer in the silence of our hearts. (*Pause for silence.*) We pray for those on our Parish Prayer List, for the sick and the distressed, the poor and the lame.

People **Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

Leader As Jesus called his disciples to leave their nets and boats, and follow him; we pray for those we love and who have answered your call to follow Jesus to your Heavenly Kingdom. Give them your peace.

People **Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

Celebrant Lord Jesus, Light of the World, hear our prayers, and make us reflections of your Light, that the places of darkness in our world would be pierced by your Light, and that all nations would be drawn to you and be overwhelmed with joy. *People Amen.*

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

Confession

BCP, p. 360

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.*

Absolution

BCP, p. 360

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 (*All stand*)

Offertory Hymn #135 *Songs of Thankfulness and Praise*

SALZBURG

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 God thanks and praise.**

Celebrant It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. And now we give you thanks for, by the leading of a star, you have revealed your only Son to the world, that in following him we are led from darkness into his marvelous light. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Sanctus S-129 (all sing) *Holy, Holy, Holy Lord*
(*The People may stand or kneel*)

Robert Powell

Celebrant We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he 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. Whenever you

drink it, do this for the remembrance of me." Therefore, according to his command,
O Father,

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

Celebrant And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine. We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. *All: AMEN.*

The Lord's Prayer

BCP, p. 364

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 Breaking of the Bread

The Celebrant breaks the Consecrated Bread. The congregation observes a time of silence.

Fraction Anthem: S-154 (all sing) Christ Our Passover

David Hurd

(All baptized Christians are welcomed to receive Holy Communion.)

Postcommunion Prayer (Please stand)

Common Worship

Lord God, the bright splendor 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.

Blessing

May Christ, the Son of God, be manifest in you, that your lives may be a light to the world; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. Amen.

Hymn #138

All Praise to You, O Lord

CARLISLE

Dismissal

BCP, p. 366

Postlude

Voluntary

Coffee Hour is held EVERY SUNDAY in Martin Hall following the service!

Serving Today

Crucifer ~ John Wall Lector ~ Kay DeCicco

Ushers ~ TBD Chalice Bearer ~ Kay DeCicco

Thank you to Barbara Wheeler for playing organ for us while Ellen is away!

Parish Prayer List – January 4, 2026

PLEASE NOTE: If you need to add or remove a name, please contact Lisa Halpin, our Parish Administrator by Wednesday, January 7th.

Lara Sparks Deitz

Mary Ann Crewdson

Christian Balint

Warren Lamon

Pierro Family

Lovas Family

Connie

Joe

Dcn. Judy

Lynne Weidmann

Rob Meyer

Tino

Pat

Kathy Rice

Rich Cashel

Charles Sullivan

JoAnn King

Ellis Barbieri

Cindy Wood

Diane

Gia

Jeannine

Frank

Fran Iozzi

Bill Bentley

Dr. John

Nellie Riley

Mike Phillips

Chris Mercer

Katie Gillis

Will Locovare

Ollie

Bill O'Connell

Glenn Servetah

Dennis

Ann White

Debbie & Joe Reising

Peg Appleget

Meg Neff

Melanie Harman

Jessie

Doug Hunter

Judy Hamilton

Ray M.

Phil

Johnny Johnson, Jr.

Scott

Adam Baulderstone

Frank, III

Ben Giannico

Mary K.

Pat Strocchia	George Balch	Barbara Wheeler
Devin Hone	Barbara	Rick Rosenbaum
Flood Family	Kay DiCicco	Joe Verrone
Rose Federici	Anna & Matteo Mannino	Scotty Camarote
Don Deitz	Priscilla Ruoff Harvey	Gail South

Those serving in the military and other dangerous professions:

Paul Bailey, Justin A. Dumhart, Joseph Alexander, Danny Melega, Andrew Wall, Brandan White

Birthdays: Stokes B. Carrigan, IV (01/04)

Altar Flowers: This week's Altar Flowers are given in memory of Marcello & Frank Gallo's wedding anniversary, by their children and grandchildren and also to the Glory of God.

WEEKLY CALENDAR January 5 - 9

05 – Mon	Morning Prayer (FB)	9:00 AM
	Chair Yoga in MH	9:15 AM – 10:15 AM
07 – Wed	Tai Chi Class	9:30 AM – 10:30 AM
08 – Thurs	Book/Bible Study	2:00 PM
	BHCAP Meeting in MH	4:30 PM
	Vestry Meeting	7:00 PM
	“Clam-Diggers” AA Group	7:30 PM
	Compline (FB)	9:00 PM
09 – Fri	<i>Parish Office Closed</i>	

The 2026 Pledge Envelopes are marked and in the Narthex for pick up.

The Annual report needs to be finalized this week. If you have not sent your ministry area report, I must have it by tomorrow!! Thank you!

SAVE THE DATE!

Our Annual Meeting & Brunch *Sun. Jan. 11th after Service*

Please mark your calendars! See Pat if you want to help with Brunch.

The Episcopal Church of The Holy Innocents
Pearl & Marine Streets, Beach Haven, NJ 08008