

The Parish Church of St Faith Great Crosby

# **The Eucharist in Epiphanytide**



## *The Epiphany Season*

In the Western churches, the Epiphany ('manifestation') became an occasion to celebrate one element in the story of Christ's birth, the visit of the far-travelled magi, understood as the manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles.

Matthew's account speaks simply of 'wise men from the east'; later tradition fixed their number at three, made them kings and recalled their resonant names – Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar. In this perspective, Epiphanytide is an apt season to pray for the worldwide mission of the Church. The feast of the Conversion of St Paul, the Apostle to the Gentiles, appropriately falls in the Epiphany season, as does the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. In the Eastern churches, the Epiphany is, rather, the celebration of Christ's baptism at the hands of John, 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', follows immediately:

*Manifest at Jordan's stream,  
Prophet, Priest, and King supreme;  
and at Cana wedding-guest  
in thy Godhead manifest.  
(Christopher Wordsworth)*

The arrangement of the Sundays of Epiphany in the Revised Common Lectionary deliberately draws out these aspects. The season of joyful celebration that begins at Christmas now continues through the successive Sundays of Epiphany, and the festal cycle ends with the Feast of the Presentation (Candlemas).

## *The Gathering*

### *Hymn*

+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.**

Almighty God,  
**to whom all hearts are open, all desires known  
and from whom no secrets are hidden;  
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.**

### *Prayers of Penitence*

The grace of God has dawned upon the world  
through our Saviour Jesus Christ,  
who sacrificed himself for us to purify a people as his own.  
Let us confess our sins.

*A period of silent reflection may follow.*

God be gracious to us and bless us,  
and make your face shine upon us:  
Lord, have mercy  
**Lord, have mercy**

May your ways be known on the earth,  
your saving power among the nations:  
Christ, have mercy  
**Christ, have mercy**

You, Lord, have made known your salvation  
and reveal your justice in the sight of the nations:  
Lord, have mercy  
**Lord, have mercy**

*Absolution*

*The president pronounces God's love and forgiveness:*

May God who loved the world so much  
that he sent his Son to be our Saviour,  
+forgive you your sins,  
and make you holy to serve him in the world,  
through 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*

*The Liturgy of the Word*

*The Old Testament Reading*  
*At the end of the Reading:*  
This is the word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

*The Psalm*

*The Epistle*  
*At the end of the Reading:*  
This is the word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

*The Gospel*

Alleluia, alleluia  
Christ was revealed in the flesh, proclaimed among the nations  
and believed in throughout the world.  
**Alleluia.**

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

*At the end of the Gospel:*

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ**

Sermon

*The Affirmation of Faith*

Let us declare our faith in God.

**We believe in God the Father,  
from whom every family  
in heaven and on earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son,  
who lives in our hearts through faith,  
and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,  
who strengthens us  
with power from on high.**

**We believe in one God;  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

*The Prayers*

All kneel or sit. Prayers of intercession and thanksgiving are offered.

The following response may be used:

Leader: Lord of glory,

**Response: Hear our Prayer**

At the end:

Father, we rejoice in our fellowship with the shepherds, the angels, the Magi, the Virgin Mary, St Faith and all the saints. In your unfailing love for us and for all people, hear and answer our prayers through your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

*The Liturgy of the Sacrament*

*The Peace*

*All stand*

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.

*All stand and sing:*

*Offertory hymn*

*Preparation of the Table*

**Lord, accept your people's gifts,  
not gold, frankincense or myrrh,  
but hearts and voices raised  
in praise of Jesus Christ, our light and our salvation.  
Amen.**

**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 of you,  
and of your own do we give you.**

## *The Eucharistic Prayer*

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.**

Father, we give you thanks and praise  
through your beloved Son Jesus Christ,  
your living Word, through whom you have created all things;  
who was sent by you in your great goodness to be our Saviour.

By the power of the Holy Spirit he took flesh;  
as your Son, born of the blessed Virgin, he lived on earth  
and went about among us;  
he opened wide his arms for us on the cross;  
he put an end to death by dying for us;  
and revealed the resurrection by rising to new life;  
so he fulfilled your will and won for you a holy people.

And now we give you thanks,  
because in the incarnation of the Word,  
a new light has dawned upon the world,  
that all 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 that 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.**

Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness;  
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit,  
and according to your holy will,  
these gifts of bread and wine may be to us  
the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;

who, in the same night that he was betrayed,  
took bread and gave you thanks;  
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take, eat; this is my body, which is given for you;  
do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper he took the cup  
and gave you thanks; he gave it to them, saying:

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.

Great is the mystery of faith:  
**Christ has died;**  
**Christ is risen;**  
**Christ will come again.**

And so, Father, calling to mind  
his death on the cross,  
his perfect sacrifice made once  
for the sins of the whole world;  
rejoicing in his mighty resurrection  
and glorious ascension,  
and looking for his coming in glory,  
we celebrate this memorial of our redemption.

As we offer you this our sacrifice  
of praise and thanksgiving,  
we bring before you this bread and this cup  
and we thank you for counting us worthy  
to stand in your presence and serve you.

Send the Holy Spirit on your people  
and gather into one in your kingdom  
all who share this one bread and one cup,  
so that we, in the company of the  
Blessed Virgin Mary, St Faith, the Magi,  
the shepherds, the angels and all the saints,  
may praise and glorify you for ever,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord;  
by whom, and with whom, and in whom,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father,  
for ever and ever.

**Amen.**

## *The Lord's Prayer*

As we long for the unity of all peoples on the earth,  
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 Breaking of the Bread*

*The president breaks the consecrated bread.*  
We break the bread of life, and that life is the light of the world.  
**God here amongst us,  
Light in the midst of us,  
bring us to light and life.**

## *Agnus Dei*

**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 your peace.  
OR  
Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us;**

**Jesus, Bearer of our Sins, have mercy on us;  
Jesus, Redeemer of the World, grant us peace.**

*Invitation to Communion*

Christ is the true bread which has come down from heaven.  
**Lord, give us this bread always.**

*At the distribution of communion, the minister says to each communicant:*

The Body of Christ

The Blood of Christ      and each responds: **Amen.**

After Communion, silence is kept, and on Sundays, the Angelus is rung.

*Prayer After Communion*

*all respond:*

**Amen.**

**Almighty God,  
we thank you for feeding us  
with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.  
Through him we offer you our souls and bodies  
to be a living sacrifice.  
Send us out in the power of your Spirit  
to live and work to your praise and glory.  
Amen.**

*The Dismissal*

*Hymn*

*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. Alleluia, alleluia.

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.**

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