



Saint Matthew's Church
Big Lamp ~ Summerhill Street
Newcastle

Text of the Mass for the Epiphany (6th January) 2025

As the priest enters the church, the following is sung:

1. From the Eastern mountains
Pressing on they come,
Wise men in their wisdom,
To His humble home;
Stirred by deep devotion,
Hasting from afar,
Ever journeying onward,
Guided by a star.

2. There their Lord and Saviour
As an infant lay,
Wondrous light that led them
Onward on their way,
Ever now to lighten
Nations from afar,
As they journey homeward
By that guiding star.

3. Thou Who in a manger
Once hast lowly lain,
Who dost now in glory
O'er all kingdoms reign,
Gather in the peoples,
Who in lands afar
Ne'er have seen the brightness
Of Thy guiding star.

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4. Gather in the outcasts,
All who've gone astray,
Throw Thy radiance o'er them,
Guide them on their way;
Those who never knew Thee,
Those who've wandered far,
Guide them by the brightness
Of Thy guiding star.

At the Crib:

Arise, shine, for your Light has come:
And the Glory of the Lord has risen upon us.

Blessed are You, Lord God of all creation; to You be glory and praise for ever. As gold in the furnace is tried and purified seven times in the fire, so purify our hearts and minds that we may be a royal priesthood acceptable in Your service. As our prayer rises in Your Presence as incense, so may we be presented before You with penitent hearts and uplifted hands to offer ourselves in Your priestly service. As You give medicine to heal our sickness and the leaves of the Tree of Life for the healing of the nations, so anoint us with Your healing power that we may be the first fruits of Your new creation. So let our lives be a witness to Your Truth that our lips may never cease to sing Your praise, Who are one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and unto the ages of ages.

Blessing and honour and glory and power be Yours, for ever and ever.
Amen.

As the priest moves to the Altar:

5. Onward through the darkness
Of the lonely night,
Shining still before them
With Thy kindly Light,
Guide them, Jew and Gentile,
Homeward from afar,
Young and old together,
By Thy guiding star.

6. Until every nation,
Whether bond or free,
'Neath Thy star-lit banner,
Jesu, follows Thee,
O'er the distant mountains
To that heavenly home
Where nor sin nor sorrow
Evermore shall come.

Words: Godfrey Thring 1823 - 1903
Music: Zundel
J Zundel c 1855

+ The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

And with thy spirit.

The Grace of God has dawned up the world through Jesus Christ our Saviour, Who has sacrificed Himself to purify a people as His own. Let us confess our sins:

God our Father, You sent Your Son full of Grace and Truth; forgive our failure to receive Him: Kyrie eleison.

Kyrie eleison.

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Jesu our Saviour, You were born in poverty and laid in a manger; forgive our greed and rejection of Your ways: Christe eleison.

Christe eleison.

Your servant Mary responded joyfully to Your call; forgive the hardness of our hearts: Kyrie eleison.

Kyrie eleison

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 Shepherds hastened to Bethlehem where they found Mary and Joseph and the Baby lying in a manger. Let God arise and let His enemies be scattered: and let those who hate Him flee before Him. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

The shepherds hastened &c

During the Gloria in excelsis, the Altar, the symbol of God's Presence, may be honoured with incense.

Glory be to God on high.

And in earth peace, goodwill towards men.

We praise Thee, we bless Thee,

we worship Thee, we glorify Thee,

we give thanks to Thee for Thy great glory,

O Lord God, heavenly King,

God the Father almighty.

O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ:

O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,

that takest away the sins of the world,

have mercy upon us.

Thou that takest away the sins of the world,

receive our prayer.

Thou that sittest at the right

hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us.

For Thou only art holy, Thou only art the Lord;

Thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost,

art most high,

+ in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Let us pray:

Lord God of the nations, we have seen the star of Your Glory rising in splendour. The radiance of Your incarnate Word pierces the darkness that covers the earth and signals the dawn of peace and justice. Make radiant the lives of Your people with that same brightness and beckon all the nations to walk as one in Your Light. We ask this through Jesus Christ, Your Word made flesh, Who lives and reigns in the unity of the Holy Spirit, the Splendour of eternal light, God, throughout all ages, world without end.

Amen.

A Reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah.

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you. And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising. Lift up your eyes round about, and see; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far, and your daughters shall be carried in the arms. Then you shall see and be radiant, your heart shall thrill and rejoice; because the abundance of the sea shall be turned to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Mid'ian 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.

Give the king your judgements, O God, ♦ and your righteousness to the son of a king.

Then shall he judge your people righteously ♦ and your poor with justice.

In his time shall righteousness flourish, ♦ and abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.

May his dominion extend from sea to sea ♦ and from the River to the ends of the earth.

The kings of Tarshish and of the isles shall pay tribute; ♦ the kings of Sheba and Seba shall bring gifts.

All kings shall fall down before him; ♦ all nations shall do him service.

For he shall deliver the poor that cry out, ♦ the needy and those who have no helper.

He shall have pity on the weak and poor; ♦ he shall preserve the lives of the needy.

A Reading from the Letter to the Church in Ephesus.

Assuming that you have heard of the stewardship of God's grace that was given to me for you, how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I have written briefly, which was not made known to the sons of men in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit; that is, how the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Gospel book is carried to the Lectern:

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! At various times in the past and in various different ways, God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets; but in our own time, the last days, He has spoken to us through His Son. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Christ's Presence in the words of the Gospel may be honoured with incense.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we have seen his star in the East, and have come to worship him." When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it is written by the prophet: `And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will govern my people Israel.'" Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star appeared; and he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him bring me word, that I too may come and worship him." When they had heard the king they went their way; and lo, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came to rest over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy; and going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

A homily may follow.

We believe in one God,
the Father almighty,
Maker of Heaven and earth,
and of all things visible and invisible.
And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds.
God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God,
begotten not made;
being of one substance with the Father,
by Whom all things were made;
Who for us men and for our salvation
came down from Heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Ghost
of the Virgin Mary, and was made man.
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried,
and the third day He rose again
according to the Scriptures,
and ascended into Heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand of the Father.
And He shall come again in glory
to judge both the quick and the dead;
Whose Kingdom shall have no end.
And we believe in the Holy Ghost,
the Lord, the Giver of life,
Who proceedeth from the Father and the Son,
Who with the Father and the Son together
is worshipped and glorified,
Who spake by the prophets.
And we believe
one Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church,
We acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins.
And we look for the resurrection of the dead,
+ and the life of the world to come. Amen.

God our Father revealed His Son to us as the Light of the world. Let us pray in the Light, given to us by His Son, for the needs of the Church and the world:

Father, the wise men came from the East to worship Your Son: grant to Christians everywhere a spirit of true adoration: Lord, hear us ... [Lord, graciously hear us.](#)

Father, You are the King of kings and Lord of lords: grant Your peace to the world: Lord, hear us ... [Lord, graciously hear us.](#)

Father, the holy Family shared the life of the people of Nazareth: protect in Your mercy our neighbours and families, together with all who are members of the communities of which we are a part: Lord, hear us ... [Lord, graciously hear us.](#)

Father, though You were rich, You became poor: through us, show Your love for the poor and powerless and strengthen all who suffer: Lord, hear us ... [Lord, graciously hear us.](#)

Father, the wise men presented to Your Son gold, frankincense and myrrh: accept the gifts we bring and the offerings of our hearts: Lord, hear us ... [Lord, graciously hear us.](#)

Father, You are the King of Heaven, the hope of all: to those who have died give the wonders of Your salvation: Lord, hear us ... [Lord, graciously hear us.](#)

In union with our Lady, Saint Matthew, Saint Philip, Saint Augustine and all the saints, we ask that as You revealed Your love for us in the Person of Your Son, so You may pour out Your Spirit on us that we may live more fully our Baptismal Covenant and reveal Your love to all the world, in and through the same Jesus Christ our Lord.

[O Lord hear my prayer, O Lord hear my prayer, when I call, answer me.](#)
[O Lord hear my prayer, O Lord hear my prayer. Come and listen to me.](#)

Christ came and proclaimed the Gospel: Peace to those who were afar off and those who were near.

The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

And with thy spirit.

As the bread and wine are brought to the Altar and prepared for the Mass, the following is sung:

The kings of Tarshish and the islands shall offer presents; the kings of the Arabians and of Sheba shall bring gifts: and all the kings of the earth shall adore Him, all nations shall serve Him.

Let us here who represent Cherubim guards around God's throne, As they cry out their thrice holy hymn, Praising the life-giving Trinity, Lay aside all earthly care. Borne by the power of angels' wings To His people now comes the King of kings. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

1. O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness!
Bow down before Him, His Glory proclaim;
With gold of obedience and incense of lowliness,
Kneel and adore Him, the Lord is His Name!

2. Low at His feet lay thy burden of carefulness,
High on His heart He will bear it for thee,
Comfort Thy sorrows and answer thy prayerfulness,
Guiding thy steps as may best for thee be.

3. Fear not to enter His courts in the slenderness
Of the poor wealth thou wouldst reckon as thine:
Truth in its beauty and love in its tenderness,
These are the offerings to lay at His shrine.

(continued over the page)

4. These, though we bring them in trembling and fearfulness,
He will accept for the Name that is dear;
Mornings of joy give for evenings of tearfulness,
Trust for our trembling and hope for our fear.

5. O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness!
Bow down before Him, His Glory proclaim;
With gold of obedience and incense of lowliness,
Kneel and adore Him, the Lord is His Name!

Words: JSBMonsell 1811 - 75

Music: Was Lebet

Melody from Reinhardt MS 1754

*The preparation of the Altar continues; incense may be used to honour
the place where Christ will become present. At the end:*

Thine, O Lord, is the greatness, the power and the glory and the victory
and the majesty. All that is in Heaven and earth is Thine:
All things come of Thee, O Lord, and of Thine own do we give Thee.

Gracious God, as once Christ received gold, frankincense and myrrh,
accept the offering of Your Church - the hearts of Your people joined in
praise and thanksgiving, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

The priest begins the great prayer of thanksgiving:

The Lord be with you.

And with thy spirit.

Lift up your hearts;

We lift them up unto the Lord.

Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.

It is meet and right so to do.

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 hosts.

Heaven and earth are full of Thy glory.

Glory be to Thee, O Lord most high.

+ Blessed is He that cometh 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 Apostles
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.

The priest holds up the consecrated Host for the people to see.

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.

The priest holds up the chalice of consecrated wine for the people to see.

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.

Dying You destroyed our death, rising You restored our life; Lord
Jesus, come in glory.

(continued over the page)

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 [*N and*] all the saints
to feast at your table in heaven.

Through Jesus Christ, our Lord,
By Whom and with Whom and in Whom,
Amen,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
Amen,
all honour and glory are Yours, almighty Father, for ever and ever.
Amen.

Instructed by saving precepts and taught by divine example, we are bold
to say:
Our Father,
Who art in Heaven,
hallowed by 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.

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.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us. O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us. O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, grant us Thy peace.

The priest holds up the consecrated elements and invites people to receive Holy Communion:

+ Behold the Lamb of God; behold Him, Who takes away the sin of the world; happy are they who are called to His Supper.

Lord, I am not worthy to receive You; but only say the Word and my soul will be healed.

Our God has appeared on earth and lived among men.

Holy Communion follows.

1. As with gladness, men of old
Did the guiding star behold;
As with joy they hailed its light,
Leading onward, beaming bright;
So, most gracious Lord, may we
Evermore be led to Thee.

2. As with joyful steps they sped
To that lowly manger-bed;
There to bend the knee before
Him Whom heaven and earth adore;
So may we with willing feet
Ever seek the mercy-seat.

(continued over the page)

3. As they offered gifts most rare
At that manger rude and bare;
So may we, with holy joy,
Pure and free from sin's alloy,
All our costliest treasures bring,
Christ! to Thee our heavenly King.

4. Holy Jesus, every day
Keep us in the narrow way;
And, when earthly things are past,
Bring our ransomed souls at last
Where they need no star to guide,
Where no clouds Thy Glory hide.

5. In the heavenly country bright,
Need they no created light;
Thou its Light, its Joy, its Crown,
Thou its Sun which goes not down;
There for ever may we sing
Alleluias to our King.

Words: W Chatterton Dix 1837 - 98

Music: Dix

From a chorale by C Kocher 1786 – 1872

Abridged by WH Monk 1823 - 89

After Holy Communion:

Blessed be His glorious Name for ever: and let the whole earth be filled
with His glory. Amen, amen.

Let us pray:

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, even Jesus Christ our
Lord.

Amen.

Notices may follow.

Christ our Lord, to Whom kings bowed in worship and offered gifts, reveal to you His Glory and pour upon you the riches of His Grace; and the + blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.

Amen.

The Mass is ended. Go in the Peace of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

O, higher than the Cherubim, more glorious than the Seraphim, lead their praises, alleluia! Thou, bearer of the eternal Word, most gracious magnify the Lord. Alleluia, alleluia, (alleluia, alleluia,) alleluia!

Pray for us, O holy Mother of God.

That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us pray:

Pour forth Your Grace into our hearts, we beseech You O Lord, that as we have known the Incarnation of Your Son, Jesus Christ, by the message of an angel, so by His Cross and Passion, we may be brought to the glory of His Resurrection; in and through the same Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

1. Bethlehem, of noblest cities
None can once with thee compare;
Thou alone the Lord from heaven
Didst for us Incarnate bear.

(continued over the page)

2. Fairer than the sun at morning
Was the star that told his birth;
To the lands their God announcing,
Hid beneath a form of earth.

3. By its lambent beauty guided,
See, the Eastern Kings appear;
See them bend, their gifts to offer,—
Gifts of incense, gold, and myrrh.

4. Solemn things of mystick meaning:
Incense doth the God disclose;
Gold a Royal child proclaimeth;
Myrrh a future tomb foreshows.

5. Holy Jesu! in thy brightness
To the Gentile world display'd!
With the Father, and the Spirit,
Endless praise to Thee be paid.

Words: Latin, Prudentious 348 - 410
Tr Edward Caswall 1814 - 78
Music: Stuttgart
Adapted from a melody in CF Witt's
Harmonia Sacra Gotha 1715

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