

Festal Eucharist for the Feast of the Epiphany



**Truro
Cathedral**
sacred space, common ground

Welcome to this great cathedral church dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary. We welcome you whether you have been a Christian for many years or haven't been to church recently or ever before. We recognise that no one has all the answers and that we are all people living with our own questions and doubts. In this celebration of the Eucharist we remember with thanksgiving the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, and the giving of himself to us today in the form of bread and wine, which are for us his body and blood.

Today we enter the season of Epiphany. In the Western churches, the Epiphany (meaning '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, Epiphany-tide 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 season of joyful celebration that begins at Christmas now continues through the successive Sundays of Epiphany, and the festal cycle ends only with the Feast of the Presentation (Candlemas). The child who has been manifested to the magi at his birth is now recognized by Simeon and Anna, when he comes to be presented in the Temple according to the Law of Israel. He is both 'a light to lighten the Gentiles' and 'the glory of God's people Israel'. But the redemption he will bring must be won through suffering; the Incarnation is directed to the Passion; and Simeon's final words move our attention away from the celebration of Christmas and towards the mysteries of Easter.

Please note that Intinction (dipping the consecrated host into the chalice) is not permitted. All who usually receive Holy Communion in their own church are warmly invited to do so today. If you would prefer to receive a blessing, please bring this order of service with you to the altar. Gluten free wafers are available at the altar.

Please remain **seated** while the choir sings the Introit

Stand for the procession during which the clergy and servers proceed to the crib carrying the wise men and their gifts

Presentation of the Magi

The president says

Dear friends, let us recall the visit of the wise men and the symbolic gifts they offered to the Christ-child.

The Magus offering the gold is placed in the crib as the president says:

Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the universe: to you be praise and glory 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 the service of your kingdom.

Blessed be God for ever.

The Magus offering the frankincense is placed in the crib as the president says:

Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the universe: to you be glory and praise for ever. As our prayer rises before you as incense, so may we be presented before you with penitent hearts and uplifted hands to offer ourselves in your priestly service.

Blessed be God for ever.

The Magus offering the myrrh is placed in the crib as the president says:

Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the universe: to you be glory and praise for ever. 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.

Blessed be God for ever.

The president sprinkles the figures with holy water and then censes the crib

From the rising of the sun to its setting **Jesus Christ is proclaimed throughout all the world. Come, let us adore him!**

Processional Hymn *during which the High Altar is censed*

Please remain standing whilst the president says

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

Amen.

The Greeting

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

And also with you.

Prayers of Penitence

The deacon invites all to confess their sins

The grace of God has dawned upon the world through the revelation of his Son Jesus Christ. Knowing our unworthiness and sin, let us therefore ask for pardon and forgiveness.

Lord Jesus, you are mighty God and Prince of peace:
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you are Son of God and Son of Mary:
Christ, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you are the Word made flesh and splendour of the Father:
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

The president says

May Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins and bring us to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The choir sings the Gloria in excelsis

Gloria in excelsis Deo,
Et in terra pax
hominibus bonae voluntatis.
Laudamus te, benedicimus te,
adoramus te, glorificamus te.

Glory to God in the highest,
and peace
to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King,
Almighty God and Father,
we worship you,

Gratias agimus tibi propter
magnam gloriam tuam,
Domine Deus,
Rex caelestis,
Deus Pater omnipotens.
Domine Fili unigenite,
Jesu Christe, Domine Deus, Agnus
Dei, Filius Patris,
qui tollis
peccata mundi,
miserere nobis.
Qui tollis peccata mundi,
suscipe deprecationem nostram.
Qui sedes ad dexteram Patris,
miserere nobis.
Quoniam tu solus Sanctus,
tu solus Dominus,
tu solus Altissimus,
Jesu Christe,
cum Sancto Spiritu:
in gloria Dei Patris.
Amen.

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

Let us pray

The president says the Collect, the special prayer for the day.

O God, who by the leading of a star manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth: mercifully grant that we, who know you now by faith, may at last behold your glory face to face; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

Please sit

The Liturgy of the Word

First Reading

At the end the reader says

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm or Canticle

The words of the response can be found on the weekly service sheet.

Second Reading

At the end the reader says

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading

All turn to face the Book of the Gospels as it passes them in the procession.

This acclamation heralds the Gospel reading.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. **Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

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

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

The deacon says

The Lord be with you **and also with you.**

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

At the end the deacon says

This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

*All remain **standing** while the Gospel procession returns.*

*The preacher says an opening invocation or prayer, and then all **sit***

The Blessing of the Chalk

Our help is the name of the Lord
The maker of heaven and earth.

The Lord shall watch over your going out and your coming in
From this time forth for evermore.

Let us pray.

Loving God, bless this chalk which you have created,
that it may be helpful to your people;
and grant that through the invocation of your most Holy Name
that we who use it in faith to write upon the door of our home
the names of your holy ones Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar
may receive health of body and protection of soul
for all who dwell in or visit our home;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Visit, O blessed Lord, our homes
with the gladness of your presence.
Bless them and all who live or visit them
with the gift of your love; and grant that
we may show your love to each other
and all whose lives we touch.
Lord Jesus Christ, be with us now and for ever.

Amen.

*We **stand** to affirm our faith.*

**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,
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and 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 and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son
is worshipped and glorified,
who 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 Intercession

Please kneel or sit

The intercessor introduces the intercessions with these words:

In the power of the Spirit and in union with Christ, let us pray to the Father.

These responses may be used

Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

or

Lord, hear us.
Lord, graciously hear us.

At the end of the prayers silence may be kept and the intercessor may say the following

Rejoicing in the fellowship of wise men, shepherds and angels,
and of the Blessed Virgin Mary and Saint Joseph,
let us join our prayers with theirs as we say:

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

or

Holy God,
**holy and strong,
holy and immortal,
have mercy on us.
Amen.**

*Please **stand***

The Liturgy of the Sacrament The Peace

Please stand and the president introduces 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.

Offertory hymn

during which a collection will be taken for the mission and work of the cathedral.

Preparation of the Table Taking of the Bread and Wine

The altar is prepared and the gifts of the people are gathered and presented.

The president says this Offertory Prayer

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.

Eucharistic Prayer A

The president says or sings

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:

The choir sings the Sanctus and Benedictus

Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus
Dominus Deus Sabaoth.
Pleni sunt coeli et terra
gloria tua.
Hosanna in excelsis.

Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full
of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.

Benedictus qui venit
in nomine Domini.
Hosanna in excelsis.

Blessed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

Please remain standing as the president continues

Accept our praises, heavenly Father,
through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ,
and as we follow his example and obey his command,
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit
these gifts of bread and wine
may be to us his body and his blood;

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.

Therefore, heavenly Father,
we remember his offering of himself
made once for all upon the cross;
we proclaim his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension;
we look for the coming of your kingdom,
and with this bread and this cup
we make the memorial of Christ your Son our Lord.

The deacon says

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

Accept through him, our great high priest,
this our sacrifice of thanks and praise,
and as we eat and drink these holy gifts
in the presence of your divine majesty,
renew us by your Spirit, inspire us with your love
and unite us in the body of your Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through him, and with him, and in him,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
with all who stand before you in earth and heaven,
we worship you, Father almighty,
in songs of everlasting praise
**Blessing and honour and glory and power
be yours for ever and ever. Amen.**

Please remain standing

The Lord's Prayer

The president introduces the Lord's Prayer with these words:

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.**

Breaking of the Bread

The president breaks the consecrated 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.**

Giving of Communion

The president says the following invitation to 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.**

Please sit. All who usually receive Holy Communion in their own church are warmly invited to do so today. If you would prefer to receive a blessing, please carry this service paper as a signal to the minister. If you would prefer not to receive the chalice, please receive in one kind (the bread) only. Gluten free wafers are available. Intinction is not permitted.

At the Distribution the president says: The body of Christ.

*The communicant replies each time **Amen**, and then receives.*

The choir sings the Agnus Dei

Agnus Dei, qui tollis
peccata mundi:
miserere nobis.

Agnus Dei, qui tollis
peccata mundi:
dona nobis pacem.

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

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

Anthem
sung by the choir

Let us pray

*Please **stand***

The president says the Post Communion prayer.

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.

**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.**

Hymn

The Blessing and Dismissal

The president says

The Lord be you.
And also with you.

May God the Father,
who led the wise men by the shining of a star
to find the Christ, the Light from light,
lead you in your pilgrimage to find the Lord.
Amen.

May God, who has delivered us from the dominion of darkness,
give us a place with the saints in light
in the kingdom of his beloved Son.

Amen.

May the light of the glorious gospel of Christ
shine in your hearts and fill your lives
with his joy and peace.

Amen.

And the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

Amen.

The deacon says

Go in the peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ, Amen.

Please remain standing as the choir clergy depart.

Organ Voluntary

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