

## Sunday 5th January 2020: THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD

### Collect

Gracious 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.**

### *A reading from the Book of Isaiah*

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.

*This is the word of the Lord.*

**Thanks be to God.**

### **Psalm 72 (vv10-15)**

10 May the kings of Tarshish and of the isles give presents:  
the kings of Sheba and Seba bring their gifts.

11 May all kings fall down before him:  
and all nations do him service.

12 For he shall deliver the poor - when he crieth:  
the needy also and him that hath no helper.

13 He shall have pity upon the lowly and poor:  
and shall preserve the lives of the needy.

14 He shall deliver them from oppression and violence:  
and dear shall their blood be in his sight.

15 Long may he live, and may there be given unto him of the gold of Sheba:  
may prayer be made for him continually, and may men bless him every day.

## ***A reading from St Paul's Letter to the Ephesians***

Ephesians 1. 3–14

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, 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 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.

*This is the word of the Lord.*

**Thanks be to God.**

*Listen to the Gospel of Christ according to Saint Matthew.*

Matthew 2. 1-12

**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.**

## Sunday 12th January 2020: THE BAPTISM OF CHRIST

### Collect

Eternal Father, who at the baptism of Jesus revealed him to be your Son, anointing him with the Holy Spirit: grant that we who are born again by water and the Spirit may rejoice to be called your children; 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.**

### *A reading from the Book of Isaiah*

Isaiah 42. 1-9

Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations. He will not cry or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street; a bruised reed he will not break, and a dimly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice. He will not grow faint or be crushed until he has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands wait for his teaching.

Thus says God, the Lord, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people upon it and spirit to those who walk in it: I am the Lord, I have called you in righteousness, I have taken you by the hand and kept you; I have given you as a covenant to the people, a light to the nations, to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness. I am the Lord, that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to idols. See, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare; before they spring forth, I tell you of them.

*This is the word of the Lord.*

**Thanks be to God.**

### Psalm 29

1 Ascribe unto the Lord O ye hosts of heaven:

ascribe unto the Lord glory and strength.

2 Ascribe unto the Lord the honour due unto his name:

worship the Lord in raiment of holiness.

3 The voice of the Lord is upon the waters:

it is the glorious God that maketh the thunder, even the Lord upon the great waters.

4 The voice of the Lord is mighty in operation:

the voice of the Lord is a glorious voice.

5 The voice of the Lord breaketh the cedar-trees:

yea the Lord breaketh the I cedars of Lebanon.

6 He maketh them also to skip like a calf:

Lebanon also and Siri on like young oxen.

7 The voice of the Lord divideth the lightning:

the voice of the Lord shaketh the wilderness, yea the Lord shaketh the wilderness of Kadesh.

8 The voice of the Lord maketh the hinds to be in travail, and the goats to bring forth before their time:

in his temple do all cry Glory.,

9 The Lord sitteth above the waterflood:

the Lord sitteth as King for ever.

10 The Lord shall give strength unto his people:

the Lord shall give his people the blessing of peace.

***A reading from the Acts of the Apostles***

Acts 10. 34-43

Then Peter began to speak to them: 'I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.'

*This is the word of the Lord.*

**Thanks be to God.**

*Listen to the Gospel of Christ according to Saint Matthew.*

Matthew 3. 13-17

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, 'I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?' But Jesus answered him, 'Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfil all righteousness.' Then he consented. And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.'

*This is the Gospel of the Lord.*

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## Sunday 19th January 2020: THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY

### Collect

Almighty God, in Christ you make all things new: transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace, and in the renewal of our lives make known your heavenly glory; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

### *A reading from the Book of Isaiah*

Isaiah 49. 1-7

Listen to me, O coastlands, pay attention, you peoples from far away! The Lord called me before I was born, while I was in my mother's womb he named me. He made my mouth like a sharp sword, in the shadow of his hand he hid me; he made me a polished arrow, in his quiver he hid me away. And he said to me, 'You are my servant, Israel, in whom I will be glorified.' But I said, 'I have laboured in vain, I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity; yet surely my cause is with the Lord, and my reward with my God.'

And now the Lord says, who formed me in the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob back to him, and that Israel might be gathered to him, for I am honoured in the sight of the Lord, and my God has become my strength— he says, 'It is too light a thing that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to restore the survivors of Israel; I will give you as a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.'

Thus says the Lord, the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One, to one deeply despised, abhorred by the nations, the slave of rulers, 'Kings shall see and stand up, princes, and they shall prostrate themselves, because of the Lord, who is faithful, the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you.'

*This is the word of the Lord.*

**Thanks be to God.**

### **Psalm 40. 1-11**

1 I waited patiently for the Lord:

and he inclined unto me and heard my calling.

2 He brought me also out of the miry pit, out of the slime and clay:

and set my feet upon a rock and ordered my goings.

3 And he hath put a new song in my mouth:

even a thanksgiving unto our God.

4 Many shall see it and fear:

and shall put their trust in the Lord.

5 Blessed is the man that hath set his hope in the Lord:

and turned not unto the proud and to such as go about with lies.

6 O Lord my God, great are the wondrous works which thou hast done, and thy thoughts which are to us-ward:

there is none that can be compared unto thee.

7 If I should declare them and speak of them:

they would be more than I am able to express.

8 Sacrifice and offering thou desirest not, but mine ears hast thou opened:

burnt-offering and sacrifice for sin hast thou not required.

9 Then said I 'Lo I come:

as in the volume of the book it is written for me;

10 'I delight to do thy will O my God:

yea thy law is within my heart.'

11 I have declared thy righteousness in the great congregation:

lo I will not refrain my lips O Lord, and that thou knowest.

***A reading from the First Letter of St Paul to the Corinthians*** 1 Corinthians 1. 1-9

Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes, To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, together with all those who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind—just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you—so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

*This is the word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.*

*Listen to the Gospel of Christ according to Saint John.*

John 1. 29-42

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

The next day he saw Jesus coming towards him and declared, 'Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! This is he of whom I said, "After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me." I myself did not know him; but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel.' And John testified, 'I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, "He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit." And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Son of God.'

The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, and as he watched Jesus walk by, he exclaimed, 'Look, here is the Lamb of God!' The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, 'What are you looking for?' They said to him, 'Rabbi' (which translated means Teacher), 'where are you staying?' He said to them, 'Come and see.' They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o'clock in the afternoon. One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. He first found his brother Simon and said to him, 'We have found the Messiah' (which is translated Anointed). He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, 'You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas' (which is translated Peter).

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

## Sunday 26th January 2019: THE THIRD SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY

### Collect

Almighty God, whose Son revealed in signs and miracles the wonder of your saving presence: renew your people with your heavenly grace, and in all our weakness sustain us by your mighty power; 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.**

### *A reading from the Book of Isaiah*

Isaiah 9. 1-4

But there will be no gloom for those who were in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he will make glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations. The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.

*This is the word of the Lord.*

**Thanks be to God.**

### **Psalm 27 (vv1, 4-9)**

1 The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom then shall I fear:

the Lord is the strength of my life; of whom then shall I be afraid?

4 One thing have I desired of the Lord that I long for:

even that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life.

5 To behold the fair beauty of the Lord:

and to seek him in his temple.

6 For in the time of trouble he shall hide me in his shadow:

yea in the secret place of his dwelling shall he hide me, and set me up upon a rock of stone.

7 And now shall he lift up mine head:

above mine enemies around about me.

8 Therefore will I offer in his dwelling an oblation with great gladness:

I will sing and speak praises unto the Lord.

9 Hearken unto my voice O Lord when I cry unto thee:

have mercy upon me and hear me.

***A reading from First Letter of St Paul to the Corinthians*** 1 Corinthians 1. 10-18

Now I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you should be in agreement and that there should be no divisions among you, but that you should be united in the same mind and the same purpose. For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there are quarrels among you, my brothers and sisters. What I mean is that each of you says, 'I belong to Paul', or 'I belong to Apollos', or 'I belong to Cephas', or 'I belong to Christ.' Has Christ been divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, so that no one can say that you were baptized in my name. (I did baptize also the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else.) For Christ did not send me to baptize but to proclaim the gospel, and not with eloquent wisdom, so that the cross of Christ might not be emptied of its power.

For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

*This is the word of the Lord.*

**Thanks be to God.**

*Listen to the Gospel of Christ according to Saint Matthew*

Matthew 4. 12-23

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the lake, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: 'Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali, on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned.' From that time Jesus began to proclaim, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.'

As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the lake—for they were fishermen. And he said to them, 'Follow me, and I will make you fish for people.' Immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed him.

Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people.

*This is the Gospel of the Lord.*

**Praise to you, O Christ.**