

## **The Second Sunday After Christmas**

### **The Epiphany of Our Lord Jesus Christ**

**January 4, 2026 10:00 am**

#### **Holy Eucharist Rite II**

**Hymn # 117      *Brightest and best of the stars of the morning***

The Opening Acclamation

BCP 355

Gloria in excelsis

S 280

#### **Collect of the Day:**

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 WORD OF GOD**

#### **The Old Testament: 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.

The Word of The Lord

*People: Thanks be to God*

### **Psalm 72:1-7,10-14**

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 rulers 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.

The Word of The Lord

*People: Thanks be to God.*

**Hymn # 128**

***We three kings of Orient are***

The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ  
According to Matthew

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

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.

The Gospel of the Lord.

*People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.*

The Sermon

The Rev. Nancy L. Threadgill

Nicene Creed

BCP 358

The Prayers of the People    Form V    BCP 389

Confession of Sin    BCP 360

Exchange of the Peace

*Anthem*

*Organist and Choir*

*Doxology*

## THE HOLY COMMUNION

The Great Thanksgiving    EP “B”    BCP 367  
*Sanctus S 125*

The Lord’s Prayer    BCP 336

*The Fraction Anthem S 154*

Communion of the People

*Communion Hymn #517    How lovely is thy dwelling place*

Post Communion Prayer    BCP 366

The Blessing

*Hymn # 127    Earth has many a noble city*

The Dismissal

From *The Book of Common Prayer* 1979

Hymns for *The Hymnal* 1982

Psalms for *The Saint Helena Psalter* 2004

For those unable to receive the physical Communion at this time please pray the following:

My Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar. I desire to offer you praise and thanksgiving as I proclaim your resurrection. I love you above all things, and long for you in my soul. Since I cannot receive you in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, come spiritually into my heart. Cleanse and strengthen me with your grace, Lord Jesus. And let me never be separated from you. May I live in you, and you in me, in this life and in the life to come. Amen.

### **Prayers for a New Priest**

Almighty God, the giver of all good gifts, we humbly ask you to supply your grace to all priests who are called to the ministry of your peoples. Fill them with the Holy Spirit, the truth of your doctrine, and clothe them with piety so that they may faithfully serve where they are called. Open their hearts to the possibility and consideration of a new path whereby they may serve you. We beseech you to guide to us, the pastor you would have shepherd your people at St. Francis in the Fields and St. Mark's. Open the hearts of these parish families to acceptance of your choice for us, so that together, we may increase our faith, devotion, and obedience, and be prepared to readily do the good works you have planned for us to do. We ask these things in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

### **Discernment Prayer:**

Gracious and loving God, you teach us that things happen in your time. As we continue to wait for clergy candidates, encourage us, the people of St. Francis in the Fields and St. Mark's Episcopal Churches, to grow steadfastly in our ministries to love and serve our neighbors by sharing the Good News in Jesus Christ. Guided by the Holy Spirit, we open our hearts and minds to new opportunities and ideas, following where you lead — knowing that Jesus Christ walks with us each step of the way. As this discernment period evolves, empower the members of our Vestries and Discernment Committees to share their thoughts openly and honestly; to respect the opinions of others; and to encourage

humility, patience, and joy. Finally, instill in us a glorious vision of the future: one where we are united in love and ministry in fulfilling the mission of our baptismal vows; through our savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

### **Readers and Greeters — January 2026**

If you are unable to read or usher on the day you are scheduled, please find a substitute or let Mother

### **Sunday Readers**

January 4	Richard Burkert and Tina Grata
January 11	Donovan Pendell & Pam Hysong
January 18	Lisa Bell-Loncella & Colleen Curry
January 25	Richard Burkert and Tina Grata

### **Sunday Greeters**

January 4	Jane & Gerry Strittmatter
January 11	Tina Grata & Joann Lacko
January 18	Melisa Babalonis & Aiden
January 25	Sam & Heidi Buchan

### **Remember Today In Your Prayers:**

Carol Adams, Louise Mead, Susan Kelly and Mike Teore, Catherine McCloskey, Rick McKinley, Maryann Marchl, David Wertz & Rebecca Church, Stacy Moskal, Betty Burdge, Stephen Machik, Ardean Kreasko, Keith Hipp.

### **Continue to Remember In Your Personal Prayers:**

Bill & Doris Horner, Donovan Pendell, Bonnie Murray, Vince & Irene Joyce, Richard Burkert, Regina Hoover, Shawn & Tyler McKinley, Lou Hoffer, Maryanne Marchl.

### **Pledge Cards**

Please take time during this busy holiday to fill out your pledge card and return it to the office. If you have misplaced it, please call the office and we will mail you a new card. Cards will also be available in the Church Hall. Thank you for your promptness.

### **Church Envelopes**

Church envelopes are available in the Church Hall after Service.



**Sunday: The Second Sunday after Christmas  
The Epiphany of Our Lord Jesus Christ**

Sunday      Jan. 4<sup>th</sup>      10:00 am      Holy Eucharist Rite II

Thursday    Jan. 8<sup>th</sup>      10:00 am      Pet Food Pantry

**Next Sunday: The First Sunday After the Epiphany**

Sunday      Jan. 11<sup>th</sup>    10:00 am      Holy Eucharist Rite II

**The Second Sunday After Christmas  
The Epiphany of Our Lord Jesus Christ**

Diocesan Cycle of Prayer

The Disciplinary Board; the Committee on Constitution & Canons; Andrew Roman, Chancellor and Stephen Bloomberg, Vice-Chancellor

Alter Flowers Given To The Greater Glory of God

In Loving Memory of  
Elizabeth & Lillian Greiner  
Perpetual Flowers

**Next Week's Readings**

Isaiah 42:1-9

Psalm 29

Acts 10:34-43

Matthew 3:13-17

***Sharing Christ's love unconditionally through  
transformational worship and service***