

**A Service of Eucharist  
for  
Epiphany**

## Opening hymn

### **Hail to the Lord's Anointed**

*sung by St Martin's Voices*

- 1 Hail to the Lord's Anointed,  
great David's greater Son!  
Hail, in the time appointed,  
his reign on earth begun!  
He comes to break oppression,  
to set the captive free,  
to take away transgression,  
and rule in equity.
  
- 2 He comes, with succour speedy,  
to those who suffer wrong;  
to help the poor and needy,  
and bid the weak be strong;  
to give them songs for sighing,  
their darkness turn to light,  
whose souls, condemned and dying,  
were precious in his sight.
  
- 3 He shall come down like showers  
upon the fruitful earth;  
that love, joy, hope, like flowers,  
spring in his path to birth;  
before him, on the mountains,  
shall peace the herald go;  
and righteousness, in fountains,  
from hill to valley flow.

4 Kings shall bow down before him,  
and gold and incense bring;  
all nations shall adore him,  
his praise all people sing;  
to him shall prayer unceasing  
and daily vows ascend,  
his kingdom still increasing,  
a kingdom without end.

5 O'er every foe victorious,  
he on his throne shall rest;  
from age to age more glorious,  
all-blessing and all-blest.  
The tide of time shall never  
his covenant remove;  
his name shall stand for ever,  
his changeless name of Love.

*James Montgomery (1771-1854)*

## **The Gathering**

*The minister introduces the service.*

In the name of the Father,  
and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit:  
*All* **Amen.**

## **The Greeting**

Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the universe.

**All From the rising of the sun to its setting  
your name is proclaimed in all the world.**

The Lord of glory be with you.

**All The Lord bless you.**

## **Prayer of Preparation**

**All 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.**

## **Confession & Absolution**

Because God was merciful,  
he saved us through the water of rebirth  
and the renewing power of the Holy Spirit.  
But through sin we have fallen away from our baptism.  
Let us return to the Lord and renew our faith in his promises  
by confessing our sins in penitence.

*Silence may be kept*

**All God our Father,  
long-suffering, full of grace and truth,  
you create us from nothing and give us life.  
You give your faithful people new life  
in the water of baptism.  
You do not turn your face from us,  
nor cast us aside.  
We confess that we have sinned  
against you and our neighbour.  
We have wounded your love  
and marred your image in us.  
Restore us for the sake of your Son,  
and bring us to heavenly joy,  
in Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.**

May the Father of all mercies  
cleans you from your sins,  
and restore you in his image  
to the praise and glory of his name,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**All 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 sins 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

*Silence may be kept*

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.  
*All Amen.*

## The Liturgy of the Word

### Readings

#### Old Testament Reading

#### **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.

**All Thanks be to God.**

## **New Testament Reading**

### **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.

This is the word of the Lord.

*All* **Thanks be to God.**

## **Gospel Reading**

### **Acclamation**

Alleluia, alleluia.

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

*All* **Alleluia.**

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

*All* **Glory to you, O Lord.**

### **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.

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

## Sermon

## Creed

We proclaim the Church's faith in Jesus Christ.

*All We believe and declare that our Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is both divine and human.*

God, of the being of the Father,  
the only Son from before time began;  
human from the being of his mother, born in the world;  
*All fully God and fully human;  
human in both mind and body.*

As God he is equal to the Father,  
as human he is less than the Father.

**All Although he is both divine and human  
he is not two beings but one Christ.**

One, not by turning God into flesh,  
but by taking humanity into God;

**All truly one, not by mixing humanity with Godhead,  
but by being one person.**

For as mind and body form one human being  
so the one Christ is both divine and human.

**All The Word became flesh and lived among us;  
we have seen his glory,  
the glory of the only Son from the Father,  
full of grace and truth.**

## **Prayers of Intercession**

*This response, or another, may be used:*

Lord of glory

**All Hear our prayer**

*At the end we may say:*

Merciful Father,

**accept these prayers**

**for the sake of your Son,**

**our Saviour Jesus Christ, Amen**

## The Liturgy of the Sacrament

### The Peace

Christ is our peace.  
If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation.  
The old has passed away: behold, everything has become new.

The peace of the Lord be always with you  
*All* **And also with you**

Let us offer one another a sign of peace

*All may exchange a sign of peace*

### The Preparation of the Table

Open the heavens, Holy Spirit,  
for us to see Jesus interceding for us;  
may we be willing to share his baptism,  
ready to share his cup  
and strengthened to serve him for ever.  
*All* **Amen**

## The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you

*All* **And also with you**

Lift up your hearts

*All* **We lift them to the Lord**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

*All* **It is right to give thanks and praise**

*The minister leads the people in praise for God's work*

*The Sanctus may be said or sung*

**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.**

*The minister recalls the Last Supper*

*The following acclamation may be used*

Great is the mystery of faith:

*All* **Christ has died:**

**Christ is risen:**

**Christ will come again.**

*The minister continues, leading to the Doxology. All respond*

*Either*

... for ever and ever

**All Amen.**

*Or*

... in songs of everlasting praise:

**All Blessing and honour**

**and glory and power**

**be yours for ever and ever.**

**Amen.**

## **The Lord's Prayer**

Believing the promises of God,  
as our Saviour taught us, so we pray

**All Our Father in heaven,**

**Hallowed be your name,**

**your kingdom come,**

**your will be done**

**on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins**

**as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Lead us not into temptation**

**but deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom,**

**the power and the glory are yours**

**now and forever.**

**Amen.**

## **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.

**All God here among us,  
light in the midst of us,  
bring us to light and life.**

## **Agnus Dei**

**All 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.**

## **Giving of Communion**

Come to this table, not because you must but because you may,  
not because you are strong, but because you are weak.

Come, not because any goodness of your own gives you a right to  
come, but because you need mercy and help.

Come, because you love the Lord a little and would like to love  
him more.

Come, because he loved you and gave himself for you.

**All We come and meet the risen Christ,  
for we are his body.**

*The president and people receive communion.*

## Prayer after Communion

*Silence is kept.*

**All Lord of all time and eternity,  
you opened the heavens and revealed yourself as Father  
in the baptism of Jesus your beloved Son:  
by the power of your Spirit  
complete the heavenly work of our rebirth  
through the waters of the new creation;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.**

## Recessional Hymn

### **Song of thankfulness and praise**

*sung by St Martin's Voices*

- 1 Songs of thankfulness and praise,  
Jesu, Lord, to thee we raise,  
manifested by the star,  
to the sages from afar;  
branch of royal David's stem  
in thy birth at Bethlehem:  
anthems be to thee addressed  
God in man made manifest.
  
- 2 Manifest at Jordan's stream,  
Prophet, Priest and King supreme;  
and at Cana wedding-guest  
in thy Godhead manifest;  
manifest in power divine,  
changing water into wine:  
anthems be to thee addressed,  
God in man made manifest.

- 3 Manifest in making whole  
palsied limbs and fainting soul;  
manifest in valiant fight,  
quelling all the devil's might;  
manifest in gracious will,  
ever bringing good from ill:  
anthems be to thee addressed,  
God in man made manifest.
- 4 Grant us grace to see thee, Lord,  
mirrored in thy holy word;  
may we imitate thee now,  
and be pure, as pure art thou;  
that we like to thee may be  
at thy great Epiphany;  
and may praise thee, ever blest,  
God in man made manifest.

*Christopher Wordsworth (1807-1885),  
and Compilers of 'Rejoice and Sing'*

## **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 with you and remain with you always  
*All* **Amen**

## **Dismissal**

Let us go in peace  
*All* **We go into the world  
to walk in God's light,  
to rejoice in God's love  
and to reflect God's glory.  
Amen.**