

King and God and Sacrifice

A Service for Epiphany

January 6, 2026 7:00 p.m.



Opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. Matthew 2:11

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 by thee.

As with joyful steps they sped, Savior, to thy lowly bed, There to bend the knee before thee, whom heav'n and earth adore; So may we with willing feet ever seek thy mercy seat.

As they offered gifts most rare at thy cradle, 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 heav'nly King.

Invocation (*Psalm 22:27-28*)

P In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord,

C And all the families of the nations shall worship before you.

P For kingship belongs to the Lord,

C And he rules over nations.

Confession and Absolution

P Let us confess our sins to God, our Savior and King.

C Almighty God, we have sinned against you in our thoughts, words and actions. We have turned away from your Word and will to follow our own sinful desires and the temptations of the world around us. God our King, have mercy on us and forgive us.

P God has had mercy on us. He sent his Son, born in Bethlehem, to be our Savior. Jesus offered up his life as the perfect sacrifice for the sins of the world, for our sins. I announce to you that your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

C Amen

Prayer of the Day

The Apostles' Creed

The star proclaims the King is here; But Herod, why this senseless fear? For he who offers heav'nly birth Seeks not the kingdoms of this earth.

The eastern sages saw from far And followed on his guiding star; And, led by light, to light they trod And by their gifts confessed their God.

Old Testament Reading ... Isaiah 60:1-6

Epistle Reading ... Hebrews 1:1-2, 7-9

Gospel Reading ... Matthew 2:1-12

Hymn ... "We Three Kings"

We three kings of Orient are Bearing gifts we traverse afar. Field and fountain, moor and mountain, Following yonder star. O star of wonder, star of night, Star with royal beauty bright, Westward leading, still proceeding, Guide us to thy perfect Light.

Homily

Hymn ... "We Three Kings"

Born a king on Bethlehem's plain, Gold I bring to crown him again, King forever, ceasing never Over us all to reign. O star of wonder, star of night, Star with royal beauty bright, Westward leading, still proceeding, Guide us to thy perfect Light.

Homily

Hymn ... "We Three Kings"

Frankincense to offer have I. Incense owns a Deity nigh. Prayer and praising all men raising, Worship him, God on high. O star of wonder, star of night, Star with royal beauty bright, Westward leading, still proceeding, Guide us to thy perfect Light.

Homily

Hymn ... "We Three Kings"

Myrrh is mine: Its bitter perfume Breathes a life of gathering gloom. Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying, Sealed in the stone-cold tomb. O star of wonder, star of night, Star with royal beauty bright, Westward leading, still proceeding, Guide us to thy perfect Light.

Hymn ... "We Three Kings"

Glorious now behold him arise, King and God and Sacrifice. Alleluia, alleluia! Sounds through the earth and skies. O star of wonder, star of night, Star with royal beauty bright, Westward leading, still proceeding, Guide us to thy perfect Light.

Offering

Prayers

P Lord Jesus, as we remember the wise men who sought and found and worshiped you, we acknowledge you as our King and our God and the Sacrifice for our sins. Accept today the gift of our worship and praise. Help us by your Spirit to use the gifts you have given to us, our time, our talents and our treasures, to serve others in love, as you came to serve and give yourself for us. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

Confession and Absolution (LSB 254)

Distribution Hymns (LSB 394, 395)

Benediction

P To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God,

C Be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

P The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.

C Amen.

Closing Hymn ... "What Child Is This"

LSB 370

What child is this, who, laid to rest, On Mary's lap is sleeping? Whom angels greet with anthems sweet While shepherds watch are keeping? This, this is Christ the King, Whom shepherds guard and angels sing; Haste, haste to bring him laud, The babe, the son of Mary!

Why lies he in such mean estate Where ox and ass are feeding? Good Christian, fear; for sinners here The silent Word is pleading. Nails, spear shall pierce him through, The cross be borne for me, for you; Hail, hail the Word made flesh, The babe, the son of Mary!

So bring him incense, gold and myrrh, Come, peasant, king to own him. The King of kings salvation brings; Let loving hearts enthrone him. Raise, raise the song on high, The virgin sings her lullaby; Joy, joy, for Christ is born, The babe, the son of Mary!