

# LAST SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

*Saint Peter's Brighton Beach*



Detail from window at Saint Peter's

Presiding priest:  
Rev'd Jonathan Chamberlain

Preacher:  
Rev'd Chester Lord

Organist:  
Andrew Kerr

**10AM**  
**SUNG EUCHARIST**

## INTRODUCTION TO THE SEASON OF EPIPHANY

In the Western churches, the Epiphany ('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, Epiphanytide 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 arrangement of the Sundays of Epiphany in the Revised Common Lectionary deliberately draws out these aspects.

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 switch off all mobile phones***

# GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

## PROCESSIONAL HYMN

As with gladness, men of old  
Did the guiding star behold  
As with joy they hailed its light  
Leading onward, beaming bright  
So, most glorious Lord, may we  
Evermore be led to Thee.

As with joyful steps they sped  
To that lowly manger bed  
There to bend the knee before  
Him Whom Heaven and earth adore;  
So may we with willing feet  
Ever seek Thy mercy seat.

As they offered gifts most rare  
At that manger 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 heavenly King.

Holy Jesus, every day  
Keep us in the narrow way;  
And, when earthly things are past,  
Bring our ransomed souls at last  
Where they need no star to guide,  
Where no clouds Thy glory hide.

In the heavenly country bright,  
Need they no created light;  
Thou its Light, its Joy, its Crown,  
Thou its Sun which goes not down;  
There forever may we sing  
Alleluias to our King!

*The presiding priest greets all in the name of the Lord*

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

**Amen**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

*The presiding priest says the sentence of the day.*

It is the God who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness,' who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

*2 Cor 4.6*

*The presiding priest introduces the prayer of preparation.*

Let us pray:

**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 AND ABSOLUTION**

*The presiding priest introduces the Two Great Commandments:*

'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.' Jesus said: 'This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: you shall love your neighbour as yourself.'

*The kyrie is sung:*

***Lord, have mercy***  
***Christ, have mercy***  
***Lord, have mercy***

*The presiding priest introduces the prayer of confession.*

Christ the grace of God has dawned upon the world with healing for all.

*Silence is kept.*

Let us bring our weaknesses and infirmities to him, confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

**Merciful God,  
our maker and our judge,  
we have sinned against you  
in thought, word, and deed,  
and in what we have failed to do:  
we have not loved you with our whole heart;  
we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves;  
we repent, and are sorry for all our sins.  
Father, forgive us.  
Strengthen us to love and obey you  
in newness of life;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*The presiding priest pronounces the Absolution*

May the God of all healing and forgiveness  
draw you to himself  
and cleanse you from all your sins,  
that you may behold the glory of his Son,  
the Word made flesh,

Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## **THE GLORIA**

The Gloria is sung:

**Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to God's 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 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 OF THE DAY**

*The presiding priest introduces the Collect*

Let us pray that the love of God will be a light to the world. We pray the prayer of the day together:

***Silence is kept***

Almighty God,  
whose Son was revealed in majesty  
before he suffered death upon the cross:  
give us faith to perceive his glory,  
that being strengthened by his grace  
we may be changed into his likeness, from glory to glory;  
through the same Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

*please sit*

### FIRST READING

A reading from the second Book of Kings.

2 Kings 2:1-12

#### **Elijah Ascends to Heaven**

Now when the Lord was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. Elijah said to Elisha, “Stay here; for the Lord has sent me as far as Bethel.” But Elisha said, “As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.” So they went down to Bethel. The company of prophets<sup>[a]</sup> who were in Bethel came out to Elisha, and said to him, “Do you know that today the Lord will take your master away from you?” And he said, “Yes, I know; keep silent.”

Elijah said to him, “Elisha, stay here; for the Lord has sent me to Jericho.” But he said, “As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.” So they came to Jericho. The company of prophets<sup>[b]</sup> who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha, and said to him, “Do you know that today the Lord will take your master away from you?” And he answered, “Yes, I know; be silent.”

Then Elijah said to him, “Stay here; for the Lord has sent me to the Jordan.” But he said, “As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.” So the two of them went on. Fifty men of the company of prophets<sup>[c]</sup> also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up, and struck the water; the water was parted to the one side and to the other, until the two of them crossed on dry ground.

When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, “Tell me what I may do for you, before I am

taken from you.” Elisha said, “Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit.” He responded, “You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not.” As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven. Elisha kept watching and crying out, “Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!” But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

For the word of the Lord,

**thanks be to God.**

## **PSALM 50**

### **The Acceptable Sacrifice**

The mighty one, God the Lord, speaks:  
and summons the earth  
from the rising of the sun to its setting.  
Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty:  
God shines forth.  
Our God comes and does not keep silence:  
before him is a devouring fire,  
and a mighty tempest all around him.  
He calls to the heavens above:  
and to the earth, that he may judge his people.  
“Gather to me my faithful ones:  
who made a covenant with me by sacrifice!”  
The heavens declare his righteousness:  
for God himself is judge.

## **SECOND READING**

A reading from the second letter to the Corinthians.

*2 Cor 4.3-12*

And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake. For it is the God who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.



But we have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us. We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be made visible in our bodies. For while we live, we are always being given up to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus may be made visible in our mortal flesh. So death is at work in us, but life in you.

For the word of the Lord,

**thanks be to God.**

### **GRADUAL HYMN**

*please stand*

1 Unto us a boy is born!  
King of all creation,  
came he to a world forlorn,  
the Lord of every nation.

2 Cradled in a stall was he  
with sleepy cows and asses;  
but the very beasts could see  
that he all folk surpasses.

3 Herod then with fear was filled;  
'A prince', he said, 'in Jewry!'  
All the little boys he killed  
at Bethlem in his fury.

4 Now may Mary's son, who came  
so long ago to love us,  
lead us all with hearts aflame  
unto the joys above us.

5 Omega and Alpha he!  
Let the organ thunder,  
while the choir with peals of glee  
now rends the air asunder.

### **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION & READING**

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

The Word became flesh and dwelt among us,

and we have seen his glory  
**Alleluia!**

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

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew.

*Mt 5.13-16*

**Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

“You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.

You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead, they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.”

For the Gospel of the Lord,  
**praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

*Sermon*

## **THE CREED**

*The presiding priest introduces the Nicene Creed*

Let us together affirm the faith of the church.

*please stand*

**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 OF THE HOLY SPIRIT AND THE VIRGIN MARY  
AND BECAME TRULY HUMAN.  
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.**

## **THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

*please kneel or sit*

*The presiding priest introduces the prayers*

Let us pray for the world and for the Church.

Let us worship the Saviour with joy  
and make our prayer to our heavenly Father.

The magi came from the east to worship your Son:  
Father, grant to Christians everywhere  
the spirit of adoration ...

Lord in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

The infant Christ received gifts of gold, incense and myrrh:  
Father, accept the offering of our hearts and minds...  
Lord in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

The kingdoms of this world have become  
the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ:  
Father, grant an abundance of peace to your world ...  
Lord in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

The Holy Family lived in exile and in the shadow of death:  
Father, look in mercy on all who are poor and powerless,  
and all who suffer ...  
Lord in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Your Son shared the life of his home and family at Nazareth:  
Father, protect in your love our neighbours,  
our families and this community of which we are a part ...  
Lord in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Other prayers may be added...  
Lord in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Father, we rejoice in our fellowship  
with the shepherds, the angels, the magi,  
the Virgin Mary, Saint Joseph  
and all the faithful departed.  
In your unfailing love for us and for all people,  
hear and answer our prayers through your Son,  
our Saviour Jesus Christ.  
**Amen.**

## **THE GREETING OF PEACE**

*please stand*

*The presiding priest says*

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.**

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

*All may exchange a sign of peace.*

### **THE OFFERTORY HYMN**

God himself is present,  
let us now adore him,  
as with awe we come before him.  
God is in our midst, now  
in our hearts keep silence,  
worshipping in deepest reverence.  
Him we know,  
him we name,  
come and let us make him  
our renewed surrender.

O majestic Being,  
I would praise you duly  
and my service render to you  
in the selfsame spirit  
as the holy angels,  
ever standing in your presence.  
Grant me now  
so to strive  
evermore to please you,  
dearest God, in all things.

Let your glorious light, Lord,  
permeating all things,  
reach my face and eyes to touch them;  
as the tender flowers

open out their petals,  
to the sun their hearts unfolding,  
so may I,  
calm in joy,  
hold your rays from heaven,  
power within me working.

Lord, make me your dwelling,  
let my heart and spirit  
be for you an earthly temple:  
come, Immediate Being,  
my whole life illumine,  
so I'll always praise and love you,  
so where'er  
I may be  
there I may perceive you,  
ever bow before you.

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.**

## **THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

*The presiding priest begins the Eucharistic Prayer*

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 our 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  
...for ever praising you and singing:

**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.**

...Let us proclaim the mystery of faith.

**Christ has died.  
Christ is risen.  
Christ will come again.**

... in songs of never-ending praise:

**Blessing and honour and glory and power  
are yours for ever and ever. Amen.**

*The presiding priest says*

Rejoicing in the presence of God here among us,  
as our Saviour taught us, so we pray

**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.  
Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours  
now and for ever. Amen.**

## **THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD AND COMMUNION**

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

*The presiding priest breaks the bread*

We who are many are one body,  
**for we all share in the one bread.**

The Agnus Dei is sung.

The holy gifts of God for the holy people of God.

Come let us take this holy sacrament of the body and blood of Christ  
in remembrance that he died for us, and feed on him in our hearts by faith  
with thanksgiving.

*please kneel or sit or stand*

*All who are baptised, of all Christian denominations, are welcome to receive Holy Communion here at Saint Peter's. This includes children from the age of 6 at the discretion of their parents. Gluten-free wafers are available upon request. If you would prefer to receive a blessing, please indicate this to the presiding priest, by the crossing of the arms on the chest.*

## **THE SENDING OUT OF GOD'S PEOPLE**

### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**



*The presiding priest says*

*please stand*

Let us pray.

God of heaven, dwelling among us,  
we thank you for feeding us with this holy food.  
By your grace keep us ever faithful to your Word made flesh,  
that, as his body in the world,  
we may bring your presence to all people;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen**

God of Mission,  
Who alone brings growth to your Church,  
Send your Holy Spirit to give,  
Vision to our planning,  
Wisdom to our actions,  
Joy to our worship  
And power to our witness.  
Help our church to grow in numbers,  
In spiritual commitment to you,  
And in service to our local community,  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

**Announcements**

**DISMISSAL HYMN**

Thou, whose almighty Word

Chaos and darkness heard,  
And took their flight;  
Hear us, we humbly pray,  
And, where the Gospel's day  
Sheds not its glorious ray,  
Let there be light!

Thou, who didst come to bring  
On Thy redeeming wing  
Healing and sight,  
Health to the sick in mind,  
Sight to the inly blind,  
O now, to all mankind,  
Let there be light!

Spirit of truth and love,  
Life giving, holy Dove,  
Speed forth Thy flight;  
Move on the water's face  
Bearing the lamp of grace,  
And, in earth's darkest place,  
Let there be light!

Blessèd and holy Three,  
Glorious Trinity,  
Wisdom, love, might!  
Boundless as ocean's tide,  
Rolling in fullest pride,  
Through the world far and wide,  
Let there be light!

*The presiding priest pronounces the Blessing*

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 also 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 presiding priest says*

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**In the name of Christ. Amen.**