



# EVE OF THE EPIPHANY

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA

5:30 PM | 5 JANUARY 2025



# **St. John's**

## **Episcopal Church**

### **Welcome**

Thank you for joining us! This special service is designed especially with children in mind but is open to all. Learn more about our children's programs at [www.saint-john.org/children](http://www.saint-john.org/children).

### **About Communion**

Please know that although this service follows the rites and customs of the Episcopal Church, it is open to all who feel drawn to the love of God. All baptized Christians, regardless of age or denominational affiliation, are welcome to receive Communion at St. John's.

### **Hearing System**

To access our hearing loop system, set your hearing aid to tele-coil or "t" telephone mode. If your hearing aid does not have this capability, wireless headsets are available at the north tower entrance or from an usher.

### **Cell Phones**

Thank you for silencing your cell phone prior to the service.

# THE LIGHT OF GOD

## Tower Bells

**Voluntary** ..... **Carillon de Westminster**  
Louis Vierne

*The church is dark, or partially so, when the service is to begin.*

*All stand as they are able, and the Celebrant greets the people with these words*

Light and peace, in Jesus Christ our Lord.  
People Thanks be to God.

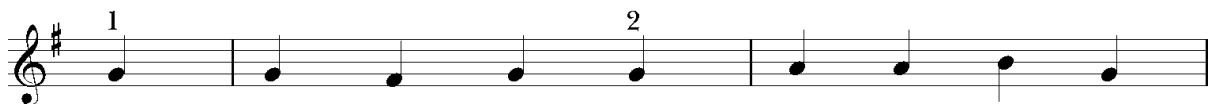
*The Celebrant continues*

It is not ourselves that we proclaim; we proclaim Christ Jesus as Lord, and ourselves as your servants, for Jesus' sake. For the same God who said, "Out of darkness let light shine," has caused his light to shine within us, to give the light of revelation—the revelation of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. [2 Corinthians 4:5-6]

Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate Word: Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

*The following is then sung as the candles at the Altar are lighted, as are other candles and lamps as may be convenient.*



1 O gra - cious Light, Lord Je - sus Christ, in  
2 Now sun - set comes, but light shines forth, the  
3 Wor - thy are you of end - less praise, O



you the Fa - ther's glo - ry shone. Im - mor - tal, ho - ly,  
lamps are lit to pierce the night. Praise Fa - ther, Son, and  
Son of God, Life - giv - ing Lord; where - fore you are through



blest is he, and blest are you, his ho - ly Son.  
Spi - rit: God who dwells in the e - ter - nal light.  
all the earth and in the high - est heaven a - dored.

# THE WORD OF GOD

## The Collect of the Day

*The Celebrant says to the people*

The Lord be with you.

*People* And also with you.

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

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.*

## Sequence Hymn *All stand as they are able.*



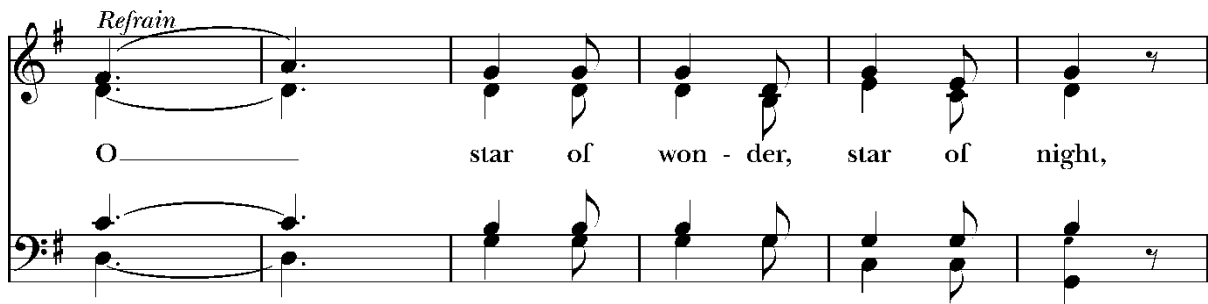
1 We three kings of O - ri - ent are, bear - ing  
2 Born a King on Beth - le - hem's plain, gold I  
3 Frank - in - cense to of - fer have I: in - cense  
4 Myrrh is mine; its bit - ter per - fume breathes a  
5 Glo - rious now be - hold him a - rise, King and



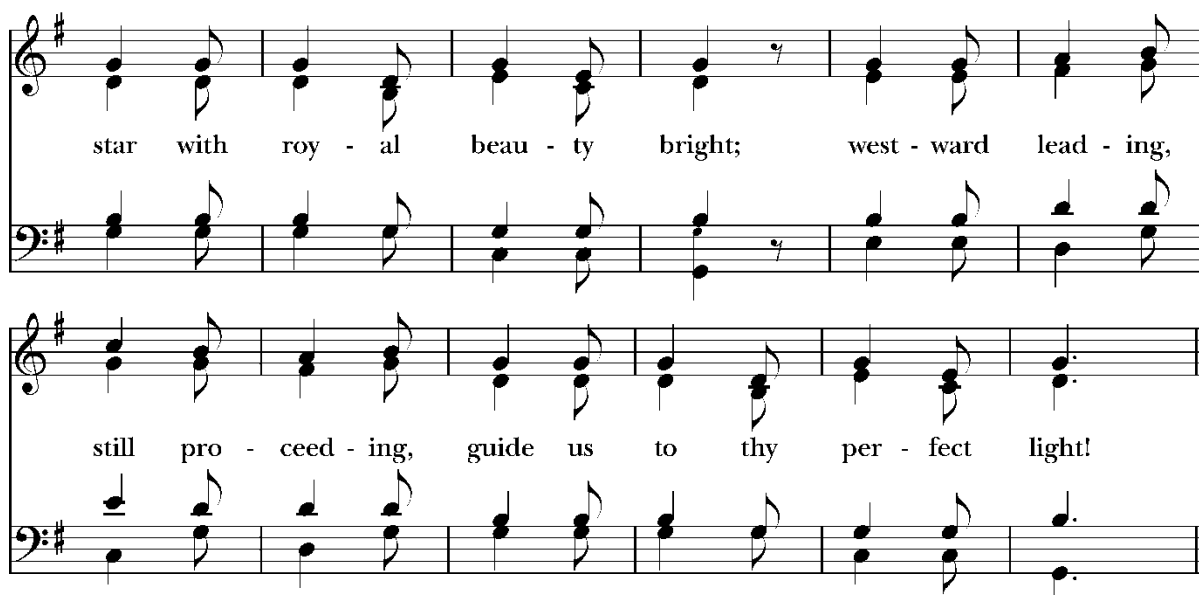
1 gifts we tra - verse a - far, field and foun - tain,  
2 bring to crown him a - gain, King for ev - er,  
3 owns a De - i - ty nigh; prayer and prais - ing,  
4 life of gath - er - ing gloom; sor - rowing, sigh - ing,  
5 God and Sac - ri - fice; heaven sings al - le -



1 moor and moun - tain, fol - low - ing yon - der star.  
2 ccas - ing nev - er o - ver us all to reign.  
3 glad - ly rais - ing, wor - ship him, God Most High.  
4 bleed - ing, dy - ing, sealed in the stone - cold tomb.  
5 lu - ia: al - le - lu - ia the earth re - plies.



O ————— star of won - der, star of night,



Words: John Henry Hopkins, Jr. (1820-1891), alt. Music: *Three Kings of Orient*, John Henry Hopkins, Jr. (1820-1891).

## The Holy Gospel

*All standing, the Deacon reads the Gospel, first saying*

*People*            The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.  
Glory to you, Lord Christ.

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.

*[Matthew 2:1-12]*

*Deacon*            The Gospel of the Lord.  
*People*            Praise to you, Lord Christ.

**The Peace**

*Celebrant*    The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
*People*        And also with you.

**The Announcements**

## **THE PROCLAMATION OF THE DATE OF EASTER**

*Leader 1*

Dear brothers and sisters, in the days before the widespread use of printed calendars, it was the custom of the Church on this night to make known the date of Easter for the year, and all other moveable celebrations which depend upon it.

*Leader 2*

Tonight the glory of the Lord has shone upon us, and shall ever be manifest among us, until the day of his return. Through the rhythms of seasons and time, we celebrate the mysteries of salvation. Let us then recall and anticipate the year's culmination, known as the Easter Triduum of our Lord:

*Leader 1*

His last supper, to be celebrated on Maundy Thursday, the second of April;  
His crucifixion, to be commemorated on Good Friday, the third of April;  
His burial, to be honored on Holy Saturday, the fourth of April;

*People*

**The mercy of the Lord is everlasting; come let us adore him.**

*Leader 2*

And his glorious resurrection—the queen of seasons, the feast of feasts, the highest of holy days, and the crown of all our earthly worship—to be celebrated at the Great Vigil of Easter and on Easter Sunday, the fourth and fifth of April.

*People*

**Alleluia. The Lord is risen indeed; come let us adore him.**

*Leader 1*

Every Easter—as on each Sunday—the Holy Church makes present the great and saving deed by which Christ has forever conquered sin and death. From Easter are reckoned all the days we keep holy.

*People*

**Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness; come let us adore him.**

*Leader 2*

Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent, will occur on the eighteenth of February.

*People*

**The Lord is full of compassion and mercy; come let us adore him.**

*Leader 1*

The Ascension of our Lord will be commemorated on Thursday, the fourteenth of May.

*People*

**Christ the Lord has ascended into heaven; come let us adore him.**

*Leader 2*

Pentecost, the joyful conclusion of the Great Fifty Days of Easter, will be celebrated on Sunday, the twenty-fourth of May.

*People*

**The Spirit of the Lord renews the face of the earth: come let us adore him.**

*Leader 1*

And in the coming year, the First Sunday of Advent will be on the twenty-ninth of November.

*People*

**Our King and Savior now draws near; come let us adore him.**

*Leader 2*

Likewise the pilgrim Church proclaims the Passover of Christ in the feasts of the Apostles and Saints, and in the commemoration of the faithful departed.

*People*

**To Jesus Christ, who was, who is, and who is to come,  
be endless praise for ever and ever. Amen.**



### **The Offertory**

*Your gift in support of St. John's makes all the difference, especially at this time of year. Give tonight via the offering plate; or text STJOHNS to 73256; or scan this code with your phone to give online. You can also mail your gift to St. John's Episcopal Church, Attn: Finance Office, 211 N. Monroe St., Tallahassee, FL 32301. Every gift, large or small, sustains the church you love.*

**Offertory Anthem.....There shall a star**  
 Felix Mendelssohn

There shall a star from Jacob come forth,  
 and a sceptre from Israel rise up,  
 and dash in pieces princes and nations.  
 As bright the star of morning gleams,  
 so Jesus sheddeth glorious beams  
 of light and consolation!  
 Thy Word, O Lord,  
 radiance darting,  
 truth imparting,  
 gives salvation;  
 Thine be praise and adoration!

*Words: Numbers 24:17, Isaiah 60:3*

**Presentation of the Gifts** *All stand as able.*

*Unison or harmony*

5 To God the Fa - ther, heaven - ly Light, to Christ, re -

5 'caled in earth - ly night, to God the Ho - ly

5 Ghost we raise our e - qual and un - ceas - ing praise.



# THE HOLY COMMUNION

## The Great Thanksgiving – Eucharistic Prayer B

*All remain standing. The Celebrant says to the people*

The Lord be with you.  
*People* And also with you.  
*Celebrant* Lift up your hearts.  
*People* We lift them to the Lord.  
*Celebrant* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
*People* It is right to give him thanks and praise.

*Then facing the Table, the Celebrant proceeds*

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Because in the mystery of the Word made flesh, you have caused a new light to shine in our hearts, to give the knowledge of your glory in the face of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:



Ho - ly, ho - ly,  
ho - ly Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho-san-na in the  
high - est. Bless - ed is he who  
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high-est.

*The People kneel as they are able. Then the Celebrant continues*

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

*Celebrant and People*

We remember his death,  
We proclaim his resurrection,  
We await his coming in glory;

*The Celebrant continues*

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your

Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with St. John and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. *AMEN.*

## **The Lord's Prayer**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

*People and Celebrant*

Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy Name,  
thy kingdom come,

thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.

## The Breaking of the Bread

*The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.*



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le -

lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Christ our Pass - o - ver is

sac - ri - ficed for us; There-fore let us keep the feast.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

*The Celebrant says*

The gifts of God for the people of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

## The Communion of the People

*All baptized Christians are welcome to receive Communion at St. John's. Approach the altar in a double line in the center aisle. Stand or kneel at the rail and receive the Bread in your hand. You may sip the Wine directly from the common cup, or you may allow the Eucharistic Minister to dip the Bread in the cup and return it to you.*

*If you do not wish to receive the Bread or Wine for any reason, fold your arms across your chest, and the priest will give you a blessing instead.*

*If you would like to receive Communion but are unable to walk to the rail, tell a greeter, and a minister will be happy to bring Communion to you at your pew.*

## Communion Hymns

1 I want to walk as a child of the light.  
 2 I want to see the bright - ness of God.  
 3 I'm look - ing for the com - ing of Christ.

I want to fol - low Je - sus.  
 I want to look at Je - sus.  
 I want to be with Je - sus.

God set the stars to give light to the world. The  
 Clear sun of right - eous - ness, shine on my path, and  
 When we have run with pa - tience the race, we

star of my life — is Je - sus.  
 show me the way to the Fa - ther.  
 shall know the joy of Je - sus.

*Refrain*

In him there is no dark - ness at all. The

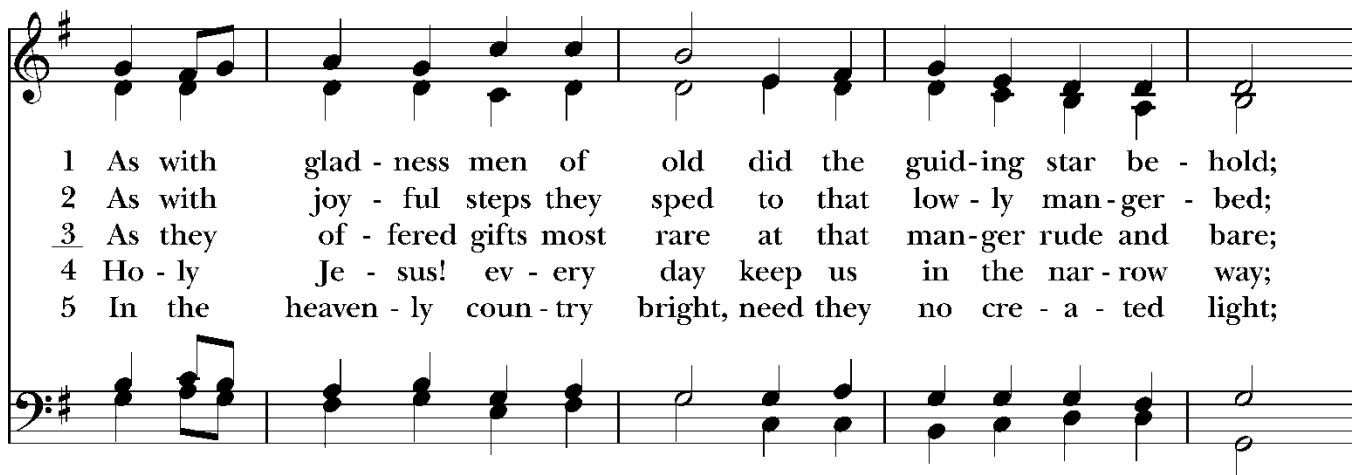
night and the day are both a - like. The

Lamb is the light of the ci - ty of God. *rit.*

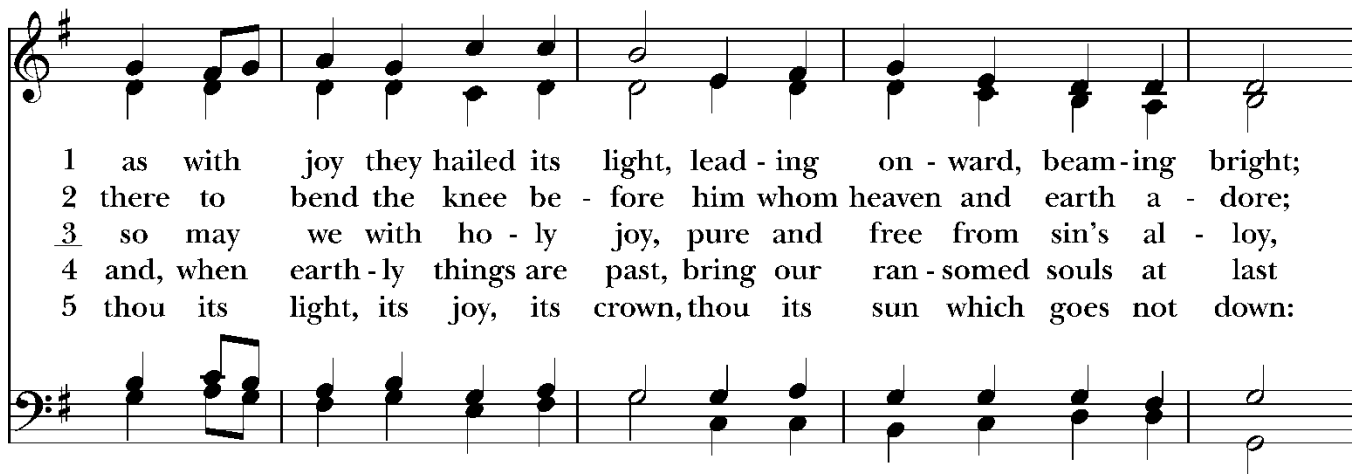
*a tempo*

Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

Words: Kathleen Thomerson (b. 1934). Copyright © 1970, 1975, Celebration, Aliquippa, PA 15001. All Rights Reserved. Used by permission. Music: Houston, Kathleen Thomerson (b. 1934).



1 As with glad - ness men of old did the guid-ing star be - hold;  
 2 As with joy - ful steps they sped to that low - ly man-ger - bed;  
 3 As they of - fered gifts most rare at that man-ger rude and bare;  
 4 Ho - ly Je - sus! ev - ery day keep us in the nar - row way;  
 5 In the heaven - ly coun - try bright, need they no cre - a - ted light;



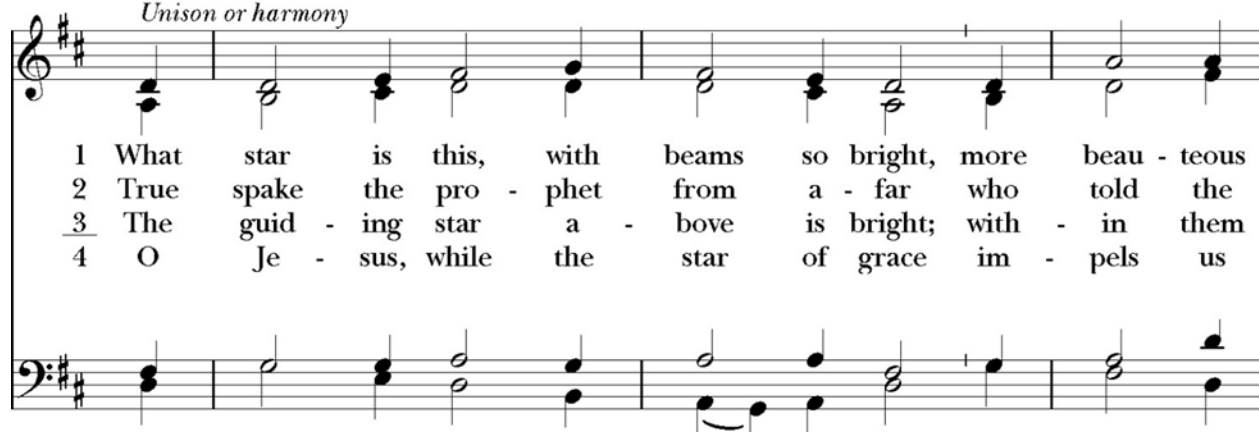
1 as with joy they hailed its light, lead - ing on - ward, beam-ing bright;  
 2 there to bend the knee be - fore him whom heaven and earth a - dore;  
 3 so may we with ho - ly joy, pure and free from sin's al - loy,  
 4 and, when earth - ly things are past, bring our ran - somed souls at last  
 5 thou its light, its joy, its crown, thou its sun which goes not down:



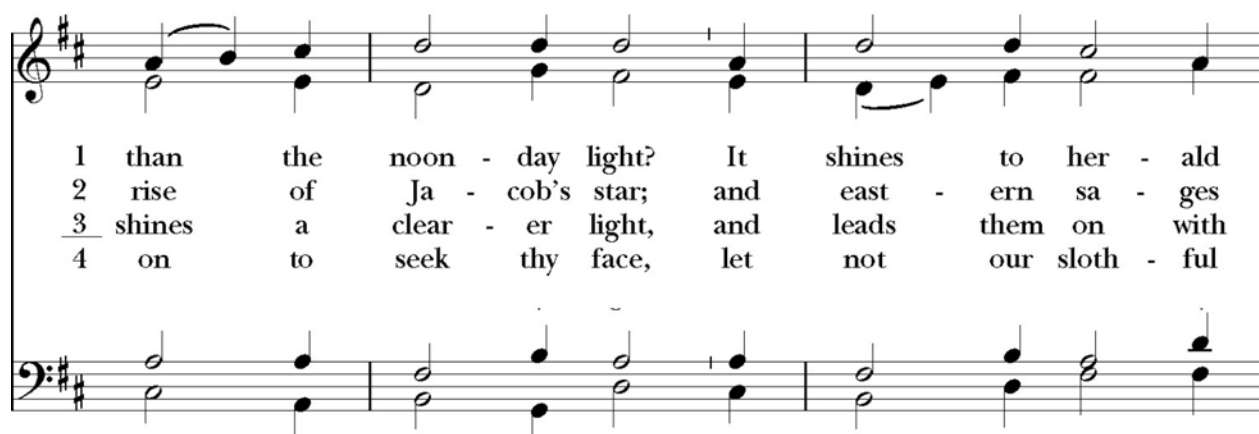
1 so, most gra - cious Lord, may we ev - er - more be led to thee.  
 2 so may we with will - ing feet ev - er seek the mer - cy - seat.  
 3 all our cost - liest trea - sures bring, Christ! to thee, our heaven - ly King.  
 4 where they need no star to guide, where no clouds thy glo - ry hide.  
 5 there for ev - er may we sing al - le - lu - ias to our King.

Words: William Chatterton Dix (1837-1898). Music: Dix, melody Conrad Kocher (1786-1872); arr. William Henry Monk (1823-1889); harm. *The English Hymnal*, 1906.

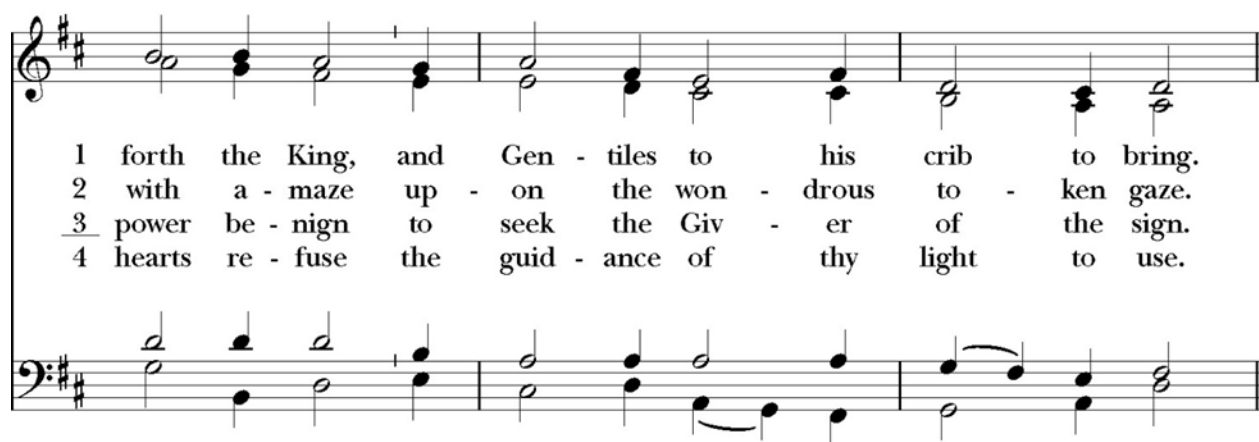
*Unison or harmony*



1 What star is this, with beams so bright, more beau - teous  
2 True spake the pro - phet from a - far who told the  
3 The guid - ing star a - bove is bright; with - in them  
4 O Je - sus, while the star of grace im - pels us



1 than the noon - day light? It shines to her - ald  
2 rise of Ja - cob's star; and east - ern sa - ges  
3 shines a clear - er light, and leads them on with  
4 on to seek thy face, let not our sloth - ful



1 forth the King, and Gen - tiles to his crib to bring.  
2 with a - maze up - on the won - drous to - ken gaze.  
3 power be - nign to seek the Giv - er of the sign.  
4 hearts re - fuse the guid - ance of thy light to use.

## Postcommunion Prayer

*After Communion, the Celebrant says*

Let us pray.

*Celebrant and People*

Eternal God, heavenly Father,  
you have graciously accepted us as living members  
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,  
and you have fed us with spiritual food  
in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.  
Send us now into the world in peace,  
and grant us strength and courage  
to love and serve you  
with gladness and singleness of heart;  
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

## THE BLESSING OF CHALK FOR EPIPHANY

*Celebrant*     The Lord be with you.

*People*        And also with you.

*Celebrant*     Let us pray.

Almighty God, you sent your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ, the Light from Light, the true God from true God, to live among us as the savior and redeemer of all creation. In him you provided a safe dwelling place for the eternal Word, and in him we find all security and peace: Bless this chalk and bless the homes of your faithful people, that we may abide daily in the assurance of Christ's presence, offering lives that are holy, pleasing, and acceptable unto you; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*

*The chalk will be made available at the church doors at the conclusion of the service for those who wish to use it in the blessing of their homes.*

*A brief liturgy for the marking of doors and blessing of homes is printed on the back cover page. Individuals and families may perform this rite without the aid of a priest.*

## The Blessing of the People

*The Priest blesses the people, saying*

May Almighty God,  
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 sent the Holy Spirit to rest upon the Only-begotten  
 at his baptism in the Jordan River,  
 pour out that Spirit on you  
 who have come to the waters of new birth. *Amen.*

May God,  
 by the power that turned water into wine  
 at the wedding feast at Cana,  
 transform your lives and make glad your hearts. *Amen.*

And the blessing of God Almighty,  
 the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
 be upon you and remain with you for ever. *Amen.*

**Processional Hymn** *All stand as they are able.*

1 Bright - est and best of the stars of the morn - ing,  
 2 Cold on his cra - dle the dew - drops are shin - ing,  
 3 Shall we then yield him, in cost - ly de - vo - tion,  
 4 Vain - ly we of - fer each am - ple o - bla - tion,  
 5 Bright - est and best of the stars of the morn - ing,

1 dawn on our dark - ness, and lend us thine aid;  
 2 low lies his head with the beasts of the stall;  
 3 o - dors of E - dom, and of - ferings di - vine,  
 4 vain - ly with gifts would his fa - vor se - cure,  
 5 dawn on our dark - ness, and lend us thine aid;

8

1 star of the east, the hor - i - zon a - dorn - ing,  
 2 an - gels a - dore him in slum - ber re - clin - ing,  
 3 gems of the moun - tain, and pearls of the o - cean,  
 4 rich - er by far is the heart's a - dor - a - tion,  
 5 star of the east, the hor - i - zon a - dorn - ing,

1 guide where our in - fant Re - deem - er is laid.  
 2 Ma - ker and Mon - arch and Sa - vior of all.  
 3 myrrh from the for - est, and gold from the mine?  
 4 dear - er to God are the prayers of the poor.  
 5 guide where our in - fant Re - deem - er is laid.

Words: Reginald Heber (1783-1826), alt. Music: *Morning Star*, James Proctor Harding (1850-1911).

*The Deacon dismisses the people with these words*

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
 People Thanks be to God.

**Voluntary .....Fantasy on Two Well-Known Christmas Carols**  
 John E. West

***Following the service, please join us  
 in Alfried Hall for a spaghetti dinner.***

# A RITE FOR THE BLESSING OF A HOME IN THE SEASON AFTER EPIPHANY

*In this rite, a member of the household uses chalk blessed during the Epiphany Mass to mark the main doorway of the home with the following inscription:*

**20 + C + M + B + 26**

*The numbers in the inscription represent the new year. The initials dividing the year represent the legendary names of the Magi—Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar—and also stand for the Latin motto: Christus mansionem benedicat, “May Christ bless this house.” The crosses represent the protection of Christ.*

*It is traditional to write the inscription on the lintel, above the door, but it may be written anywhere near the entrance.*

*The Leader begins with these words*

**The Lord be with you.**  
*People*      **And also with you.**  
*Leader*     **Let us pray.**

Lord God of heaven and earth, you revealed your only-begotten Son to every nation by the guidance of a star: May your blessing be upon this house and all who inhabit it, that those who visit our home in this new year may rejoice to find Christ living among us; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

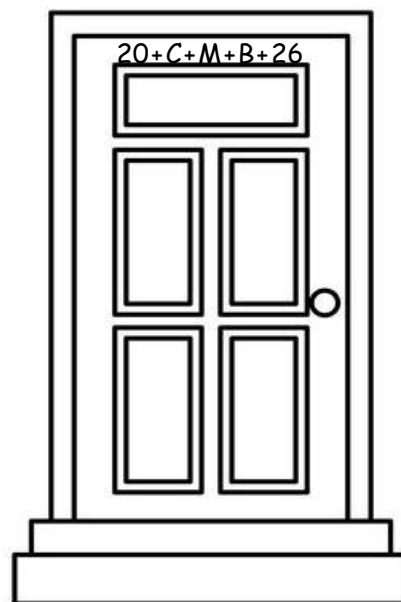
*The following is said as the entrance is marked:*

          The three Wise Men,  
*C*      Caspar,  
*M*      Melchior,  
*B*      and Balthasar  
          followed the star of God’s Son who became human  
*20*    two thousand  
*26*    and twenty-six years ago.  
*++*    May Christ bless our home  
*++*    and remain with us throughout the new year. Amen.

*The Leader concludes, saying*

From this day forward, may we be ever mindful that Christ is incarnate in our daily lives: in the love we manifest to one another, and in the care we render to guests and strangers alike.

*People*      Amen. Thanks be to God.



Email a pic of your chalked door to [claire@saint-john.org](mailto:claire@saint-john.org),  
and we'll share it on St. John's social media!

## **New Services Times Beginning January 11**

A new Sunday rhythm begins January 11 as we continue to welcome new members, enjoy expanded worship options, and open wider the generous welcome and life God is growing among us.

<b>7:45 AM</b>	<b>Holy Eucharist, Rite I</b> Quiet, traditional service with organ music
<b>9 AM</b>	<b>Holy Eucharist, Rite II</b> Lively, family-friendly service with choir, choristers, and children's chapel
<b>10:15 AM</b>	<b>Sunday School, All Ages</b>
<b>11:15 AM</b>	<b>Holy Eucharist, Rite II</b> A joyful service with incense, chanted Eucharistic prayers, and beautiful choral music

# **St. John's Episcopal Church**

211 North Monroe Street Tallahassee, FL 32301  
(850) 222-2636 | [www.saint-john.org](http://www.saint-john.org)

**Deep Roots. True Belonging. Abundant Grace.**