

EPIPHANY 2010



On the Feast of the Epiphany (January 6th) we remember the magi who came from the East (Matthew 2:1-12) bearing gifts for Jesus, born king of the Jews. Reading this scripture with fresh eyes, we might wonder as did twelfth century French abbot, Bernard of Clairvaux, "How have wise men become such fools as to adore a child, whose age and whose

relations' poverty alike deserve contempt?" A baby born to an unwed mother, lying in a manger among animals, and adored as a king? We join these kings as fools—as people who follow Jesus who was a man and yet God and who calls us to serve the meek and lowly.

In the Sundays of Epiphany we hear how God is revealed in this world. The first and last

readings we hear the words "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased." (Luke 3:15-20) and "This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!" (Luke 9:28-36). Listen to the stories in the gospel of Mark. Through them we come to know Jesus, God's son, who loves us intimately. Jesus heals our pain and restores us to new life so that we can follow him.

In this season, look for the light of Christ. Take bold steps, as did the wise men more than two thousand years ago, to follow the star to our Lord and Savior, Jesus. Become a fool so that you may become wise.

This sheet contains the collects and gospel readings for Epiphany. Following each is a question to talk about together as a family.

A BLESSING ON EPIPHANY

Epiphany is a traditional day to bless your home, inviting Jesus to be revealed in our daily lives. The prayers ask God's blessing on your home and all who live and visit there. As part of the prayers, we mark the doorways with the initials of the legendary names of the Magi: Caspar, Melchior and Balthazar. They are marked in chalk and framed by the numbers of the new year, 2010, as shown below. Because the names of the Wise Men are legendary, it has also been said that "CMB" stands for Christus, Mansionem Benedicat meaning "may Christ bless this dwelling."

The prayers ask God's blessing on your home and all who live and visit there.

Leader: Peace be with this house and with all who live here.

All: Blessed be God forever.

The following is said as each character is marked on the door.: 20 + CMB + 10

"The three Wise Men..." C "Caspar..." M "Melchior..." B "and Balthasar followed the star of God's Son who became man..." 20 "two thousand..." 10 "and ten years ago."

"May Christ bless our home and remain with us throughout the new year."

Sprinkle holy water on the threshold and the inside entrance of the home.

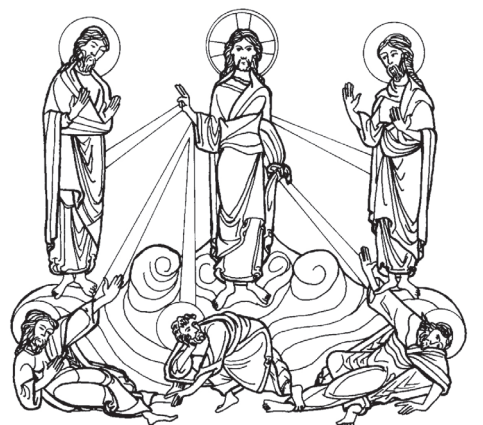
Leader: Gracious God, you sent your son, Jesus, to become like us, so that we might become like him. Let us now pray that Jesus will enter our home and bless it with his presence. May he always be here among us; may he nurture our love for each other, share in our joys, and comfort us in our sorrows. Inspired by his teachings and example, let us make our home a dwelling place of love, which spreads far and wide the goodness of Christ. It is in his name that we pray. Amen.

This family liturgy was adapted by St. Margaret's in Bellevue, WA from the book *To Dance with God: Family Ritual and Community Celebration* by Gertrud Mueller Nelson (Paulist Press, 1986).

Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Reading: Luke 9: 28-36
The Transfiguration

Question: Each Sunday we gather on the mountaintop to praise God. Take a moment to say "thank-you" to God for the many ways that God is revealed in your life.

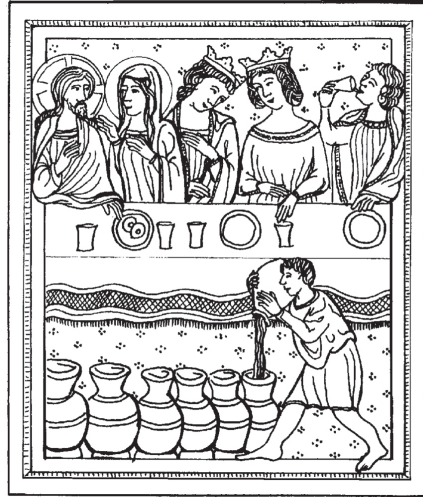


January 6 ~ Epiphany

Collect: 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.

Reading: Matthew 2:1-12
The Visit of the Wise Men

Question: As followers of Jesus we bear God's gifts to the world. What gifts do you give to the world?



January 31 ~ Epiphany 4

Collect: Almighty and everlasting God, you govern all things both in heaven and on earth: Mercifully hear the supplications of your people, and in our time grant us your peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Reading: Luke 4:21-30
Jesus Is Driven Out of Town

Question: Jesus tells those gathered that he has been sent particularly to those outside the community--to foreigners such as the widow at Zarephath and Naaman. With this, he is driven out of town. What challenges have you faced when doing God's work of feeding poor and helping those in need? Know that Jesus is with you.



January 17 ~ Epiphany 2

Collect: Almighty God, whose Son our Savior Jesus Christ is the light of the world: Grant that your people, illumined by your Word and Sacraments, may shine with the radiance of Christ's glory, that he may be known, worshipped, and obeyed to the ends of the earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Reading: John 2:1-11 Wedding at Cana

Question: The wedding in Cana gospel, according to Luke of Jesus' glory. What signs have you seen that reveal that God is present with you today?

January 24 ~ Epiphany 3

Collect: Give us grace, O Lord, to answer readily the call of our Savior Jesus Christ and proclaim to all people the Good News of his salvation, that we and the whole world may perceive the glory of his marvelous works; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Reading: Luke 4:14-21
Jesus Teaches in the Synagogue

Question: Jesus reads from Isaiah 61, proclaiming that he has come to fulfill the scripture and proclaim the year of the Lord's favor. What does the year of the Lord's favor look like? What are you doing to proclaim with Jesus that this year has come?

Collects are from The Book of Common Prayer, 1979. Artwork by the Rev. C.E. Visminas (Visminas Designs, Morehouse, 2001). Poster design by Jenifer Gamber © 2010. Permission granted to reproduce for church use.

February 7 ~ Epiphany 5

Collect: Set us free, O God, from the bondage of our sins, and give us the liberty of that abundant life which you have made known to us in your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Reading: Luke 5: 1-11
The Great Catch

Question: James and John, the sons of Zebedee leave everything to follow Jesus. What might you choose to give up to follow Jesus?

February 14 ~ The Transfiguration

Collect: O God, who before the passion of your only-begotten Son revealed his glory upon the holy mountain: Grant to us that we, beholding by faith the light of his countenance, may be strengthened to bear our cross, and be changed into his likeness from glory to glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the

January 10 ~ Epiphany 1

Collect: Father in heaven, who at the baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit: Grant that all who are baptized into his Name may keep the covenant they have made, and boldly confess him as Lord and Savior; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. Amen.

Reading: Luke 3: 15-20
Jesus is Baptized

Question: Are you baptized? What do you or your sponsors remember about that day? Remember, you are God's beloved.

Fun Facts: Epiphany comes from Greek and means manifestation. Epiphany was been celebrated as early as the 4th century.

According to Matthew, how many magi visited the infant Jesus? (see answer below)

Answer: Matthew 2:1-12 says that three magi visited the infant Jesus.