

WEDNESDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

January 6, 2021

Gathering Song: *We Three Kings*

1. 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.
2. Born a King on Bethlehem's plain, gold I bring to crown him again,
King forever, Ceasing never over us all to reign.
3. Frankincense to offer have I: incense owns a Deity nigh;
Prayer and praising Gladly raising, worship him, God on high.
4. Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume breathes a life of gathering gloom;
Sorrowing, sighing, Bleeding, dying, sealed in the stone-cold tomb.

Text: 88 44 6 with refrain; based on Matthew 2:1–11.

Text and music: Carols, Hymns and Songs, 1863; John H. Hopkins, Jr., 1820–1891, alt.

First Reading 1 John 4:11-18

A reading from the first Letter of Saint John

Beloved, if God so loved us,
we also must love one another.

No one has ever seen God.

Yet, if we love one another, God remains in us,
and his love is brought to perfection in us.

This is how we know that we remain in him and he in us,
that he has given us of his Spirit.

Moreover, we have seen and testify
that the Father sent his Son as savior of the world.

Whoever acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God,
God remains in him and he in God.

We have come to know and to believe in the love God has for us.

God is love, and whoever remains in love remains in God and God in him.

In this is love brought to perfection among us,
that we have confidence on the day of judgment
because as he is, so are we in this world.

There is no fear in love,
but perfect love drives out fear
because fear has to do with punishment,
and so one who fears is not yet perfect in love.

The word of the Lord. – Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm Psalm 72:1-2, 10, 12-13

Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

O God, with your judgment endow the king,
and with your justice, the king's son;
He shall govern your people with justice
and your afflicted ones with judgment.

The kings of Tarshish and the Isles shall offer gifts;
the kings of Arabia and Seba shall bring tribute.

For he shall rescue the poor when he cries out,
and the afflicted when he has no one to help him.

He shall have pity for the lowly and the poor;
the lives of the poor he shall save.

Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

Gospel Acclamation

R. Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia!

Glory to you, O Christ, proclaimed to the Gentiles.

Glory to you, O Christ, believed in throughout the world.

R. Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia!

Gospel Mark 6:45-52

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

After the five thousand had eaten and were satisfied,
Jesus made his disciples get into the boat
and precede him to the other side toward Bethsaida, while he dismissed the crowd.
And when he had taken leave of them, he went off to the mountain to pray.
When it was evening, the boat was far out on the sea and he was alone on shore.
Then he saw that they were tossed about while rowing,
for the wind was against them.

About the fourth watch of the night,
he came toward them walking on the sea.

He meant to pass by them.

But when they saw him walking on the sea,
they thought it was a ghost and cried out.

They had all seen him and were terrified.

But at once he spoke with them,

“Take courage, it is I, do not be afraid!”

He got into the boat with them and the wind died down.

They were completely astounded.

They had not understood the incident of the loaves.

On the contrary, their hearts were hardened.

The Gospel of the Lord. **All:** Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Spiritual Communion Prayer

Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.

I love You above all things,
and I desire to receive You into my soul.

Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally,
come at least spiritually into my heart.

I embrace You as if You were already there
and unite myself wholly to You.

Never permit me to be separated from You.

Amen.

Sending Forth Song:

The First Nowell

1. The first Nowell, the angel did say, was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep, on a cold winter's night that was so deep.
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born is the King of Israel.
2. And by the light of that same star three wise men came from country far;
To seek for a king was their intent, and to follow the star wherever it went. Nowell...
3. Then entered in those wise men three, full rev'rently upon the knee,
And offered there, in his presence, their gold and myrrh and frankincense. Nowell...

Text: Irregular with refrain; trad. English carol, 17th cent.; verse 6, alt. Music: Trad. English carol, 17th cent.

