



Order of Service

*St. Matthew's Church, Wych Lane, Bridgemy PO13 0JN
in partnership with Bridgemy Community Sports College*

www.StMatthewsBridgemy.org.uk



working towards being an Inclusive Church

Introduction to the Season

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.

The Liturgy for Epiphany

When the bell rings please stand

A hymn may be announced or music may be played as the procession enter

Priest In the name of the + Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
All Amen.

**All The Lord be with you.
 and also with you.**

**All 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.**

One of these introductions is used:

Epiphany to the Eve of the Presentation

The grace of God has dawned upon the world
through our Saviour Jesus Christ,
who sacrificed himself for us to purify a people as his own.
Let us confess our sins. *cf Titus 2.11-14*

Baptism of Christ

Because God was merciful,
he saved us through the water of rebirth
and the renewing power of the Holy Spirit.
But through sin we have fallen away from our baptism.
Let us return to the Lord and renew our faith in his promises
by confessing our sins in penitence. *Titus 3.5*

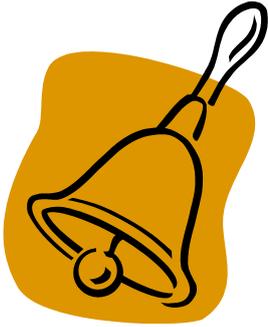
silence is kept for reflection and personal confession

All **Lord God,**
we have sinned against you;
we have done evil in your sight.
We are sorry and repent.
Have mercy on us according to your love.
Wash away our wrong doing and cleanse us from our sin.
Renew a right spirit within us
and restore us to the joy of your salvation,
through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Priest Almighty God,
who forgives all who truly repent,
have mercy upon you
pardon + and deliver you from all your sins,
Confirm and strengthen you
in all goodness and bring you to life eternal,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **AMEN**





from the **Mass of Light**
by David Haas

Glory to God in the highest, sing glory to God
Glory to God in the highest and peace to His people on earth
Glory to God in the highest, sing glory to God
Glory to God in the highest and peace to His people on earth
Lord God, heavenly King,
Almighty God and Father
We worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory
Glory to God in the highest sing glory to God
Glory to God in the highest and peace to His people on earth
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
Glory to God in the highest, sing glory to God
Glory to God in the highest and peace to His people on earth
For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
the most high Jesus Christ
With the Holy Spirit in the Glory of God the Father
Glory to God in the highest, sing glory to God
Glory to God in the highest and peace to His people on earth
Glory to God in the highest sing glory to God
Glory to God in the highest and peace to His people on earth

The Collect

Priest Let us pray

The priest says/sings the collect for the day

All AMEN

Sit for the first readings

Each reading ends with the words

Reader This is the word of the Lord.
All **Thanks be to God.**

A hymn or song may be announced

Epiphany to the Eve of the Presentation

Minister Alleluia, alleluia.

Christ was revealed in flesh, proclaimed among the nations
and believed in throughout the world. *cf 1 Timothy 3.16*

Alleluia.

Baptism of Christ

Minister Alleluia, alleluia.

This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.

Alleluia.

Matthew 3.17

Presentation of Christ in the Temple

Minister Alleluia, alleluia.

This child is the light to enlighten the nations,
and the glory of your people Israel.

Alleluia

cf Luke 2.32



The Gospel

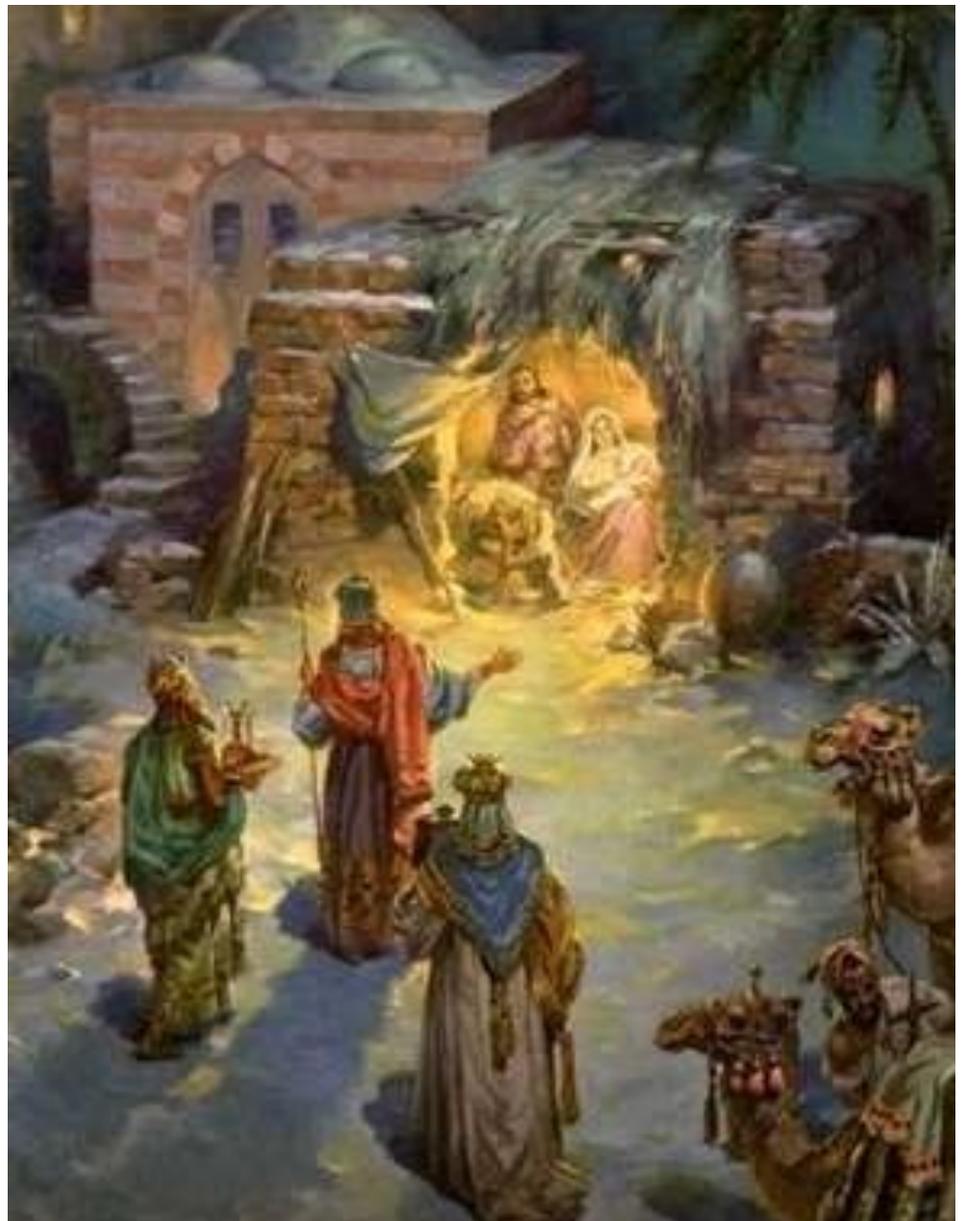
Minister The Lord be with you
All **And also with you.**

Minister Hear the + Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to *N.*
All **Glory to you, O Lord.**

We listen attentively to the Gospel reading

Minister This is the Gospel of the Lord.
All **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sit



Sermon

The Nicene Creed

On Sundays and Principal Holy Days an authorized translation of the Nicene Creed is used

**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 from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and was made man.
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.**

Prayers of Intercession *sit, kneel or stand before God*

This form or another form may be used

At Epiphany

Minister 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 of glory,
hear our prayer.

The infant Christ received gifts of gold, incense and myrrh:
Father, accept the offering of our hearts and minds
[at the beginning of this year]...
Lord of glory,
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 of glory,
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 of glory,
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 of glory,
hear our prayer.

Priest 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.

Stand

The Peace



Epiphany to the Eve of the Presentation

Priest Our Saviour Christ is the Prince of Peace.
Of the increase of his government and of peace
there shall be no end.

Baptism of Christ

We are the body of Christ.
In the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body.
Let us then pursue all that makes for peace
and builds up our common life.

Presentation of Christ in the Temple

In the tender mercy of our God
the dayspring from on high has broken upon us,
to give light to those who dwell in darkness
and in the shadow of death
and to guide our feet into the way of peace. *cf Luke 1.78,79*

All The peace of the Lord be always with you
and also with you.

Minister Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

All may exchange a sign of peace,

Preparation of the Table

During the preparation we sing the hymn

Priest Yours, Lord, is the greatness, the power,
the glory, the splendour, and the majesty;
for everything in heaven and on earth is yours.

All **All things come from you,
and of your own do we give you.**



Epiphany to the Eve of the Presentation

Gracious God, accept the offering of your Church,
the hearts of your people joined in praise and thanksgiving,
in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord. **Amen.**

or 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.**

Baptism of Christ

Open the heavens, Holy Spirit,
for us to see Jesus interceding for us;
may we be willing to share his baptism,
ready to share his cup and strengthened to serve him for ever.
Amen.

Presentation of Christ in the Temple

Father, in Christ there has sprung up a light for the righteous;
accept the offering of your Church
and grant that Christ may shine in us
to the praise and glory of your name.
Amen.



The Eucharistic Prayer

Priest The Lord be with you
All **and also with you**

All Lift up your hearts
All **We lift them to the Lord**

All Let us give thanks to the Lord our God
All **It is right to give thanks and praise**

Epiphany to the Eve of the Presentation

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
and sing our joyful hymn of praise:

Baptism of Christ

It is truly right and just,
our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
holy Father, almighty and eternal God.
You celebrated your new gift of baptism
in signs and wonders at the Jordan.
Your voice was heard from heaven
to awaken faith in the presence among us
of your Word made flesh.
Your Spirit was seen as a dove,

revealing Jesus as your servant,
and anointing him with the oil of gladness
to preach the good news to the poor.
Therefore, as we celebrate the union of earth and heaven,
we rejoice to echo the song of the angels in heaven
for ever praising you and saying:

Presentation of Christ in the Temple

It is indeed right and good,
always and everywhere to give you thanks and praise
through Jesus Christ, who is one with you from all eternity.
For on this day he appeared in the Temple
in substance of our flesh
to come near to us in judgement.
He searches the hearts of all your people
and brings to light the image of your splendour.
Your servant Simeon acclaimed him
as the light to lighten the nations,
while Anna spoke of him to all who looked
for your redemption.
Destined for the falling and rising of many,
he was lifted high upon the cross
and a sword of sorrow pierced his mother's heart
when by his sacrifice he made our peace with you.
And now we rejoice and glorify your name
that we, too, have seen your salvation
and join with angels and archangels
in their unending hymn of praise:

**All say Holy holy holy Lord
 God of power and might
 Heaven and earth are full of your glory
 Hosanna in the highest**

**All say Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord
 Hosannas in the highest**



Priest Lord, you are holy indeed,
the source of all holiness;
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit,
and according to your holy will,
these gifts of bread and wine
may be to us the + body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;

who, in the same night that he was betrayed,
took bread and gave you thanks;
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper
he took the cup and gave you thanks;
he gave it to them, saying:

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.

Do this, as often as you drink it,
in remembrance of me.

Minister Great is the mystery of faith:

**All say Christ has died:
Christ is risen:
Christ will come again.**

Priest And so, Father,
calling to mind his death on the cross,
his perfect sacrifice made once for the sins
of the whole world;
rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension,
and looking for his coming in glory,
we celebrate this memorial of our redemption.
As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving,
we bring before you this bread and this cup
and we thank you for counting us worthy
to stand in your presence and serve you.

Send the Holy Spirit on your people
and gather into one in your kingdom
all who share this one bread and
one cup, so that we, in the company
of the Blessed Virgin Mary,
St Matthew and all the saints,
may praise and glorify you for ever,
through Jesus Christ our Lord;

by whom, and with whom, and in whom,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory be yours,
almighty Father,
for ever and ever.

All AMEN



Sit or kneel for a moment of silent adoration

The Lord's Prayer

Priest As our Saviour taught us so we pray

**All 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.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever.
Amen.**

Breaking of the Bread

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

**All Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.**

As the bread is broken the we sing "Lamb of God".

Lamb of God you take away the sin of the world have mercy on us
Saving God you take away the sin of the world have mercy on us
Bread of life you take away the sin of the world have mercy on us
Lamb of God you take away the sin of the world Grant us your peace

Priest Jesus is the Lamb of God
who takes away the sin of the world.
Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

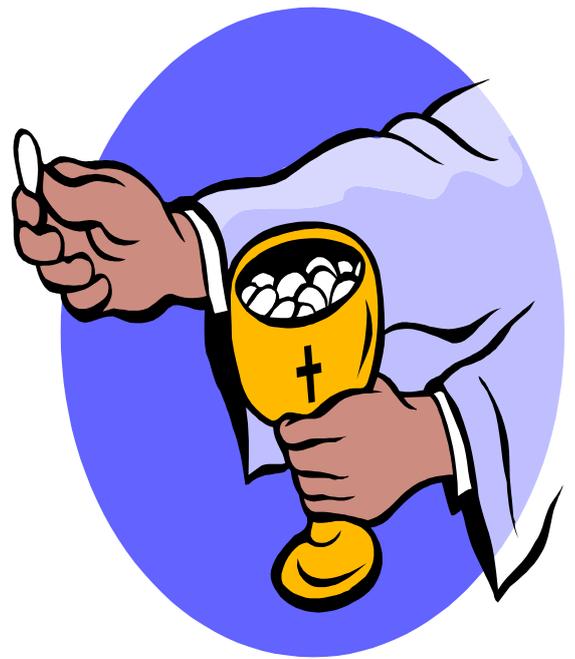
All **Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,
but only say the word, and I shall be healed.**

Communion Antiphon is said

If you normally receive Holy Communion in your Church you are welcome to do so here at St Matthew's.

Please come to the communion rail. Please hold your hands out clearly in front of you.

If you do not want to receive Holy Communion please come forward and keep your head bowed to receive a blessing.



Music is used as an aid to prayer during communion and the clearing of the altar

silence is held

Prayer after Communion

Priest Let us pray

the post communion prayer is said

**All Father of all, we give you thanks and praise,
that when we were still far off you met us
in your Son and brought us home.
Dying and living, he declared your love, gave us grace,
and opened the gate of glory.
May we who share Christ's body live his risen life;
we who drink his cup bring life to others;
we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world.
Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us,
so we and all your children shall be free,
and the whole earth live to praise your name;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Hymn & any notices are given out

The Blessing and Dismissal

Priest The Lord be with you
All **and also with you**

Epiphany to the Eve of the Presentation

Christ the Son of God perfect in you the image of his glory
and gladden your hearts with the good news of his kingdom;
and the blessing ...

or Christ our Lord,
to whom kings bowed down in worship and offered gifts,
reveal to you his glory
and pour upon you the riches of his grace;
and the blessing ...

or 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 the Son,
who turned water into wine at the wedding feast at Cana,
transform your lives and make glad your hearts. **Amen.**

May God the Holy Spirit,
who came upon the beloved Son
at his baptism in the river Jordan,
pour out his gifts on you
who have come to the waters of new birth. **Amen.**

And the blessing ...

Baptism of Christ

May God, who in Christ gives us a spring of water
welling up to eternal life,
perfect in you the image of his glory;
and the blessing ...

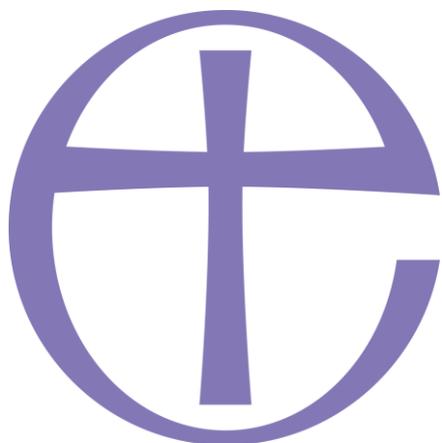
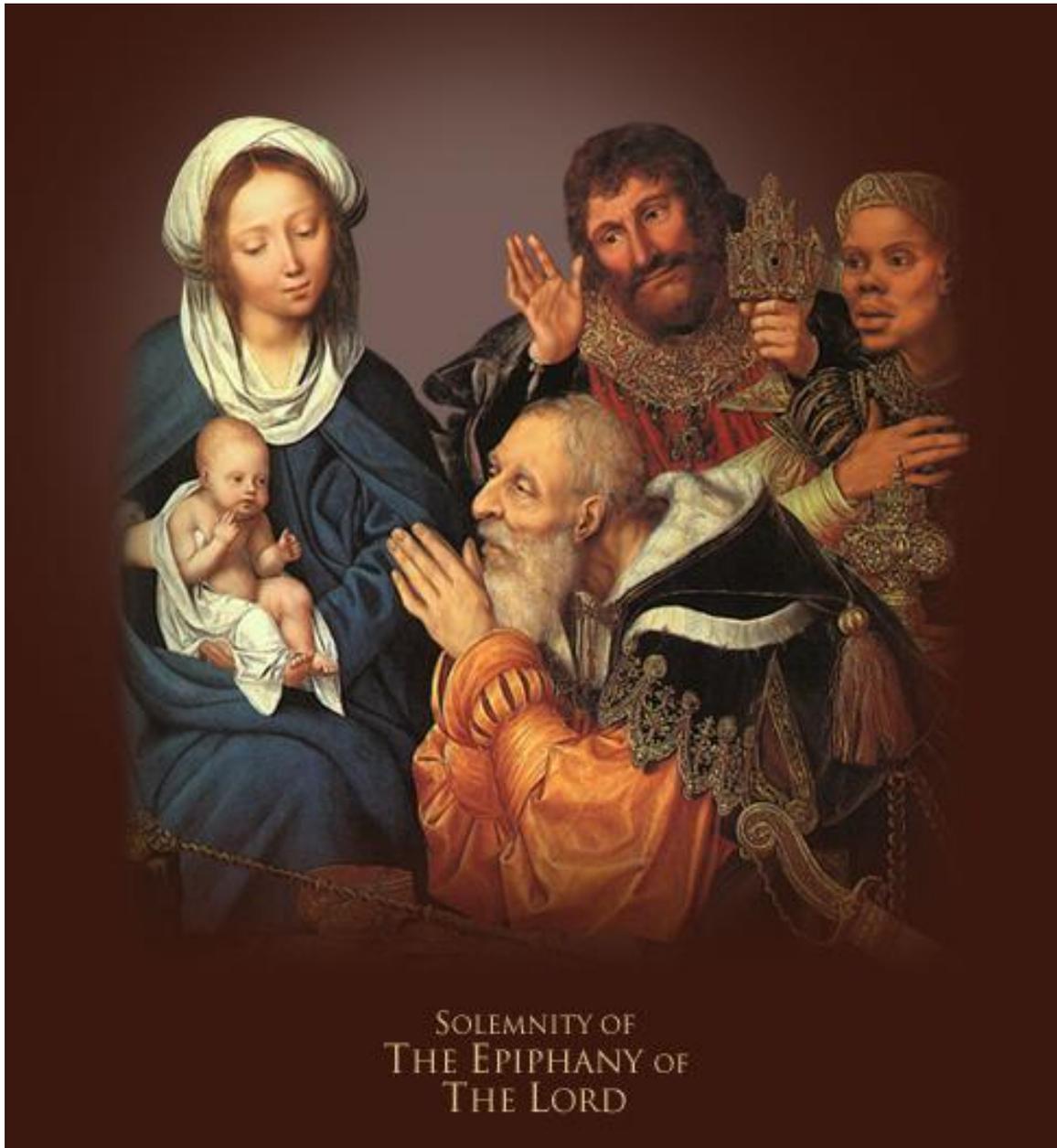
Presentation of Christ in the Temple

Keep your eyes fixed on Jesus,
who was wounded for our sins,
that you may bear in your life the love and joy and peace
which are the marks of Jesus in his disciples;
and the blessing ...

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All In the name of Christ. Amen.





THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

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