

**The Anglican Parish  
of Greater Hastings –  
encompassing St Matthew’s, Hastings  
& St Peter’s, Riverslea**



*The Epiphany of our Lord Jesus Christ  
–5<sup>th</sup> January 2025*

**The Gathering of the People**

*Opening Hymn*

O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness,  
bow down before him, his glory proclaim;  
with gold of obedience and incense of lowliness,  
kneel and adore him - the Lord is his name.

Low at his feet lay your burden of carefulness,  
high on his heart he will bear it for you,  
comfort your sorrows and answer your prayerfulness,  
guiding your steps in the way that is true.

Fear not to enter his courts in the slenderness  
of the poor wealth you would count as your own;  
truth in its beauty and love in its tenderness  
these are the offerings to bring to his throne.

These, though we bring them in trembling and fearfulness,  
he will accept for the name that is dear;  
mornings of joy give for evenings of tearfulness,  
trust for our trembling and hope for our fear.

O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness,  
bow down before him, his glory proclaim;  
with gold of obedience and incense of lowliness,  
kneel and adore him the Lord is his name.

This is the day which the Lord has made.

**Let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

Arise, shine; for your light has come,  
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. (*Isaiah 60: 1*)

**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.**

*We sit or kneel*

Lord Jesus, you are mighty God and Prince of Peace:

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you are Son of God and Son of Mary:

Christ, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you are Word made flesh and splendour of God:

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

In silence before God, we confess our sins.

*Silence*

God forgives you.  
Be at peace.

The peace of Christ rule in our hearts.  
**The word of Christ dwell in us richly.**

Jesus, light of the world,  
let your bright star stand over the place  
where the poor have to live;  
**lead our sages to wisdom  
and our rulers to reverence.**  
**Hear this prayer for your love's sake. Amen.**

## **The Proclamation**

### **The Readings**

A reading from the prophet Isaiah (60:1-6)

*After the reading:*

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Psalm 72:*

Give the king your justice O God:  
**and your righteousness to a king's son,**

that he may judge your people rightly:  
**and uphold the poor with justice.**

Let the mountains bring forth peace for the people:  
**and the hills prosperity with justice.**

May the king defend the cause of the poor among the people:  
**save the children of the needy and crush the oppressor.**

May he live as long as the sun endures:  
**as long as the moon from age to age.**

May he come down like rain upon the grass:  
**like showers that water the earth.**

In his days may righteousness flourish:  
**and abundance of peace till the moon is no more.**

May his rule extend from sea to sea:  
**and from the River to the ends of the earth.**

May the tribes of the desert bow down before him:  
**and his enemies lick the dust.**

May the kings of Tarshish and of the isles pay tribute:  
**the kings of Sheba and Seba bring their gifts.**

May all kings fall prostrate before him:  
**and all nations render him service.**

He shall deliver the needy when they cry:  
**and the poor who have no helper.**

He shall have pity on the weak and the needy:  
**and save the lives of the poor.**

He shall rescue them from oppression and violence:  
**and their blood shall be precious in his sight.**

Long may the king live, and receive gifts of gold from Sheba:  
**may prayer be made for him continually,  
and may people bless him every day.**

Let there be abundance of wheat in the land,  
growing thick up to the hill-tops:  
**may its crops flourish like those of Lebanon,  
and the sheaves be numberless as blades of grass.**

May the king live for ever:  
**and his name endure as long as the sun.**

May all nations pray to be blessed as he is:  
**and all peoples call him blessed.**

Blessed are you O Lord our God:  
**for you alone do marvellous things.**

Blessed be your glorious name for ever:  
**let the whole earth be filled with your glory. Amen. Amen.**

A reading from the Letter to the Ephesians (3:1-12)

*After the reading:*

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Gospel Hymn*

**We three kings of Orient are;  
bearing gifts we traverse afar,  
field and fountain, moor and mountain,  
following yonder star.**

*Refrain:*

**O star of wonder, star of light,  
star with royal beauty bright,  
westward leading, still proceeding,  
guide us to thy perfect light.**

**Born a King on Bethlehem's plain,  
gold I bring to crown him again,  
King forever, ceasing never,  
over us all to reign. *Refrain***

**Frankincense to offer have I;  
incense owns a Deity nigh;  
prayer and praising, voices raising,  
worshiping God on high. *Refrain***

**Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume  
breathes a life of gathering gloom;  
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,  
sealed in the stone-cold tomb. *Refrain***

**Glorious now behold him arise;  
King and God and sacrifice:  
Alleluia, Alleluia,  
sounds through the earth and skies. *Refrain***

*We remain standing*

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew (2:1-12)  
**Praise and glory to God.**

*After the reading:*

This is the Gospel of Christ  
**Praise to Christ, the Word.**

## **The Sermon**

### **The Affirmation of Faith**

*We stand*

**You, O God, are supreme and holy.  
You create our world and give us life.  
Your purpose overarches everything we do.  
You have always been with us.  
You are God.**

**You, O God, are infinitely generous,  
good beyond all measure.  
You came to us before we came to you.  
You have revealed and proved  
your love for us in Jesus Christ,  
who lived and died and rose again.  
You are with us now.  
You are God.**

**You, O God, are Holy Spirit.  
You empower us to be your gospel in the world.  
You reconcile and heal; you overcome death.  
You are our God. We worship you.**

### **The Prayers of the People**

Let us pray for the Church and for the world,  
giving thanks for God's goodness.

*We sit or kneel*

God of signs and wonders,  
**hear our prayer.**

## **The Peace**

*We stand*

Blessed be Christ the Prince of Peace  
**who breaks down the walls that divide.**

The peace of God be always with you.  
**Praise to Christ who unites us in peace.**

## **The Preparation of the Gifts**

*Offertory 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 gracious Lord, may we  
evermore your splendour see.

As with joyful steps they sped  
Saviour, to your lowly bed,  
there to bend the knee before  
you, whom heaven and earth adore:  
so with ever-quickenning pace  
may we seek your throne of grace.

As they offered gifts most rare  
at your cradle plain and bare,  
so may we with holy joy  
pure and free from sin's alloy,  
all our costliest treasures bring,  
Christ, to you, 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 your glory hide.

**In the heavenly city bright  
none shall need created light  
you, its light, its joy, its crown,  
you its sun which goes not down;  
there for ever may we sing  
alleluias to our king.**

To you, Lord, belongs the greatness, and the power,  
and the glory, and the victory and the majesty.  
**All that is in the heavens and the earth is yours,  
and of your own we give you.**

## **The Great Thanksgiving**

*We remain standing though feel free to sit if needs be.*

The Lord is here.  
**God's Spirit is with us.**

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

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

It is right indeed, it is our joy and our salvation, holy Lord,  
almighty Father, everlasting God,  
at all times and in all places  
to give you thanks and praise through Christ your only Son.

You are the source of all life and goodness;  
through your eternal Word  
you have created all things from the beginning  
and formed us in your own image.

When we sinned and turned away  
you called us back to yourself  
and gave your Son to share our human nature.  
In him we see you, the eternal God,  
revealing your glory in our flesh,  
for he is the light of the nations  
who illuminates our darkness.



You raised him to life triumphant over death;  
you exalted him in glory.  
In him you have made us a holy people  
by sending upon us your holy and lifegiving Spirit.

Therefore with the faithful who rest in him,  
with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven,  
we proclaim your great and glorious name,  
for ever praising you and saying:

**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.**

All glory and thanksgiving to you, holy Father;  
on the night before he died  
your Son, Jesus Christ, took bread;  
when he had given you thanks,  
he broke it, gave it to his disciples, and said:  
Take, eat, this is my body which is given for you;  
do this to remember me.

After supper he took the cup;  
when he had given you thanks,  
he gave it to them and said:  
Drink this, all of you,  
for 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,  
to remember me.

**Christ has died,  
Christ is risen,  
Christ will come in glory.**

Therefore loving God,  
recalling your great goodness to us in Christ,  
his suffering and death,  
his resurrection and ascension,  
and looking for his coming in glory,  
we celebrate our redemption with this bread of life  
and this cup of salvation.  
Accept our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving  
which we offer through Christ our great high priest.

Send your Holy Spirit  
that these gifts of bread and wine which we receive  
may be to us the body and blood of Christ,  
and that we, filled with the Spirit's grace and power,  
may be renewed for the service of your kingdom.

United in Christ with all who stand before you  
in earth and heaven,  
we worship you, O God,  
in songs of everlasting praise.

**Blessing, honour and glory be yours,  
here and everywhere, now and for ever. Amen.**

## **The Communion**

As Christ teaches us 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 priest breaks the bread in silence*

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

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

### **The Invitation**

Come God's people,  
come to receive Christ's heavenly food.

*Communion is offered in both kinds (bread and wine) though feel free to receive only the bread. We do not, for health reasons, dip the bread in the wine. This is safer for you and others.*

### **Prayer After Communion**

God of glory,  
you nourish us with bread from heaven.

**Fill us with your Holy Spirit,  
that through us your light may shine in all the world.  
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

May Christ's star in heaven bring you to humility and worship, bring you to look upon God at work, and the blessing of God almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be with you and remain with you for ever.  
**Amen.**

**Hail to the Lord's anointed,  
great David's greater Son!  
Hail, in the time appointed,  
his reign on earth begun!  
He comes to break oppression,  
to set the captive free,  
to take away transgression,  
and rule in equity.**

**He shall come down like showers  
upon the fruitful earth;  
and love, joy, hope, like flowers,  
spring in his path to birth:  
before him on the mountains  
shall peace, the herald, go;  
and righteousness, in fountains  
from hill to valley flow.**

**Kings shall fall down before him,  
and gold and incense bring;  
all nations shall adore him,  
his praise all people sing;  
to him shall prayer unceasing  
and daily vows ascend;  
his kingdom still increasing,  
a kingdom without end.**

**In all the world victorious,  
he on his throne shall rest,  
from age to age more glorious,  
all-blessing and all-blessed:  
the tide of time shall never  
his covenant remove;  
his name shall stand forever,  
his changeless Name of Love.**

Go now to love and serve the Lord. Go in peace.  
**Amen. We go in the name of Christ.**



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