



The Church of the Epiphany

The Episcopal Church in Agoura, Oak Park, and Westlake Village

Christmas Day

December 25, 2021 – 10:00 a.m.

Welcome to the Church of the Epiphany! We are delighted you have come to worship with us today. We are part of the Episcopal Church, so if you are unfamiliar with our rituals and customs, simply relax with this ancient liturgy and let the rest of the congregation carry you in worship. Thanks for joining us today!

If you are interested in learning more about our church, please fill out the information card and place it in the collection plate; we are excited to meet you, and would love to get to know you. Start by joining us for coffee after the service!

In case you need one, Assisted Listening Devices are available from the ushers in the back of the Church.

During Communion, all are welcome – even encouraged! – to come forward to receive the holy food of new and everlasting life in Jesus Christ. Simply come up to the altar rail when the ushers indicate, put your hands out (one on top of the other), and the bread will be placed in your hand. (If needed, gluten-free wafers are available.) You may then consume the wafer and take a sip of wine, or leave the wafer on your palm and the chalice bearer will dip it for you into the wine and place it on your tongue. If you aren't sure, or if you'd rather not receive the actual Sacrament, come up and cross your arms across your chest to receive a blessing. You may also cross your arms over your chest if you wish not to receive wine. Finally, if you'd like to receive Communion but mobility is an issue, alert an usher and Communion will be brought to you.

THE CELEBRATION OF THE HOLY EUCHARIST

THE WORD OF GOD

At the sound of the bell, all stand.

OPENING SENTENCES

Priest From you shall come forth a ruler.

People **Who is the Shepherd of my people Israel.**

Priest Happy are the people who put their faith in the Lord.

People **For they will praise God now and for ever.**

The priest offers

THE COLLECT FOR CHRISTMAS DAY

O God, you make us glad by the yearly festival of the birth of your only Son Jesus Christ: Grant that we, who joyfully receive him as our Redeemer, may with sure confidence behold him when he comes to be our Judge; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Priest The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Priest Let us pray.

Silence is kept. The Collect is said, after which the people respond: Amen.

All sit.

FIRST READING

Isaiah 9:2-7

Bible, p. 672

Response after the reading: Thanks be to God.

The people remain seated for the reading of
PSALM 96

- 1 Sing to the LORD a new song; *
sing to the LORD, all the whole earth.
- 2 Sing to the LORD and bless his Name; *
proclaim the good news of his salvation from day to day.
- 3 Declare his glory among the nations *
and his wonders among all peoples.
- 4 For great is the LORD and greatly to be praised; *
he is more to be feared than all gods.
- 5 As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols; *
but it is the LORD who made the heavens.
- 6 Oh, the majesty and magnificence of his presence! *
Oh, the power and the splendor of his sanctuary!
- 7 Ascribe to the LORD, you families of the peoples; *
ascribe to the LORD honor and power.
- 8 Ascribe to the LORD the honor due his Name; *
bring offerings and come into his courts.
- 9 Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness; *
let the whole earth tremble before him.
- 10 Tell it out among the nations: "The LORD is King! *
he has made the world so firm that it cannot be moved;
he will judge the peoples with equity."
- 11 Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad;
let the sea thunder and all that is in it; *
let the field be joyful and all that is therein.
- 12 Then shall all the trees of the field shout for joy
before the LORD when he comes, *
when he comes to judge the earth.
- 13 He will judge the world with righteousness *
and the peoples with his truth.

SECOND READING **Titus 2:11-14**
Response after the reading: Thanks be to God.

Bible, p. 1357

All stand. The people face the reader for

✠ THE HOLY GOSPEL **Luke 2:1-20**

Bible, p. 1203

Response before the reading: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Response after the reading: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The people sit for

THE HOMILY

The Rev. Susan Klein

We observe a time of silence after the homily.

All stand and say together

THE NICENE CREED

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: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from 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. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sin. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

We observe a time of silence between each petition, offering our own intercessions, until the leader says, "We pray to you, O Lord."

People: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

The leader adds a concluding sentence, after which all respond: Amen.

THE PEACE

Priest The peace of Christ be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

All may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

PRAYER FOR BIRTHDAYS

All **Watch over your children, O Lord, as their days increase; bless and guide them wherever they may be. Strengthen them when they stand; comfort them when discouraged or sorrowful; raise them up if they fall; and in their hearts may your peace which passes understanding abide all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

THE HOLY COMMUNION

The people's offerings are collected.

All stand, as able, for

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Priest The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Priest Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Priest Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

The priest continues with the prayer.

SANCTUS

All **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.**

The people remain standing or may kneel quietly.

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

Priest Therefore, according to his command, O Father,
People **We remember his death.
We proclaim his resurrection.
We await his coming in glory.**

The priest continues with the prayer, at the end of which all respond: AMEN.

All say together

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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 FRACTION

Priest God of promise, you have prepared a banquet for us.
People **Happy are those who are called to the Supper of the Lamb.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Priest This is Christ's Banquet. It is made ready for those who love God, and for those who want to love God more. So, come, you who have much faith and you who have little, you who have been here often, and you who have not been here long. You who have tried to follow Jesus, and you who have failed. Come, because it is Christ who invites you.

THE COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

Communion is distributed to the assembled community; please ask the ushers if you have any questions or if you need anything.

All stand for the

POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER

Priest Let us pray.
All **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 AND DISMISSAL

Priest Let us go forth in the name of Christ.
People **Thanks be to God.**