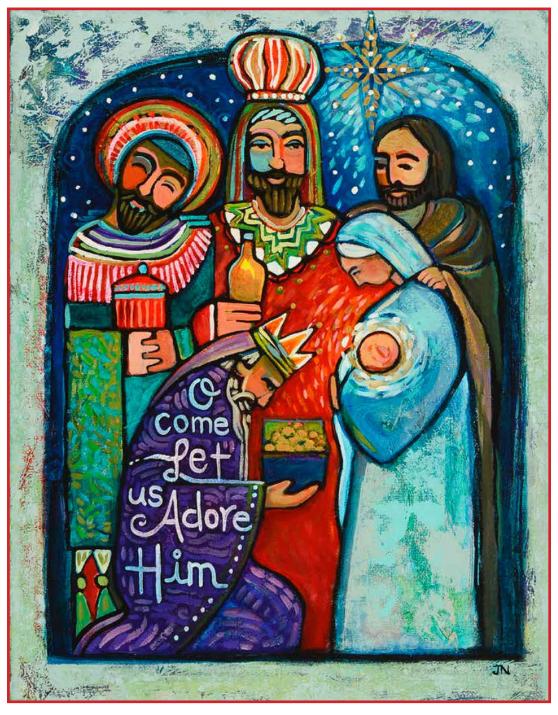


# ST. GREGORY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

radiates God's grace, equipping all people to change the world.





The Feast of the Epiphany January 7, 2024 | 9:30am www.StGsChurch.org

January 7, 2024

### Welcome to St. Gregory's

If this is your first Sunday here, we invite you to take a Welcome Card from the pew holder, fill it out and put it in the offering plate or give it to a greeter. All are truly welcome to participate in worship, and we believe our community is made stronger by your unique presence as we join in prayer and communion.

### **Our Worship**

In the Episcopal Church, we often say that praying shapes believing, so how we worship in word and action shapes how we believe and respond to God. We are physical creatures made in God's image, and the physical nature of our worship helps us to connect more fully to God.

Our sacred time of worship includes several different activities: singing, listening, praying, and feasting. This liturgy is enriched by the participation of everyone in the room. All are invited to speak the bolded text aloud. Some people choose to manifest prayers in physical ways to center their hearts and minds on God's presence in their lives and in the worship – we call these actions "manual acts," which are listed as follows throughout the bulletin:

(+) There are several points during the liturgy, where many people cross themselves by touching their head, chest, and each shoulder (left then right) to remind themselves that God is in their head, heart, and in all of their actions in the world.

(+++) At the declaration of the Gospel, many people make the sign of the cross with their thumb on their forehead, lips, and heart as the Gospel is announced. This action is a prayer asking God's word to be in our minds, our words, and in our hearts.

**Generally speaking, we stand to pray, kneel to confess, and sit to hear.** Regardless of what others are doing, how you physically worship is up to you and how you experience God. Your presence and participation is what matters.

Cover art: "O Come Let Us Adore Him" by Jen Norton

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#### Vestry:

Sarah Kettlewell, Jon Dutcher, Sudi Johnson, Jill Polzin, Butler Sharpe, Val Seilheimer

#### **Pastoral Care Visitors:**

Susie Dutcher, Fran Ingram, Sudi Johnson, Marjie Koons, Val Seilheimer, Cissy Singleton

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### LITURGY OF THE WORD

We begin our worship with the ringing of a bell. The people stand, as they are able.

### **PROCESSIONAL**

ST. GREGORY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH



We begin our worship by acknowledging our participation together in the Body of Christ. The Collect for Purity allows us to acknowledge that the ability to celebrate the liturgy depends on God's grace.

#### **OPENING ACCLAMATION & THE COLLECT FOR PURITY**

Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.

Glory to God for ever and ever. Amen.

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: 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.

### THE SONG OF ZECHARIAH

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; you have come to your people and set them free. You have raised up for us a mighty savior, born of the house of your servant David.

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radiates God's grace, equipping all people to change the world.

The canticles (based on the Latin canticulum, or "little song") are nonmetrical praise songs that are intended to be either sung or spoken. This season's canticle comes from Luke, and was the song of thanksgiving uttered by Zechariah about his son,

John the Baptist.

Through your holy prophets you promised of old, that you would save us from our enemies, from the hands of all who hate us. To show mercy to our forebears and to remember your holy covenant. This was the oath you swore to our father Abraham, to set us free from the hands of our enemies, Free to worship you without fear, holy and righteous before you, all the days of our life. And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, for you will go before the Lord to prepare the way, To give God's people knowledge of salvation by the forgiveness of their sins. In the tender compassion of our God the dawn from on high shall break upon us, To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

#### THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

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.

The people sit.

We follow a three-year cycle of readings called a Lectionary. These are lessons being heard in congregations from many denominations throughout the world on this day. The first reading is from the Hebrew Scriptures, which tell us the story of God's love and faithfulness to God's people from the beginning of time to just before Christ.

#### FIRST READING **ISAIAH 60:1-6**

Arise, shine; for your light has come,

and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples;

but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you.

Nations shall come to your light,

and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

Lift up your eyes and look around;

they all gather together, they come to you;

your sons shall come from far away,

and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms.

Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice,

because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you,

the wealth of the nations shall come to you.

A multitude of camels shall cover you,

the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come.

They shall bring gold and frankincense,

and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



The Psalm is a hymn or poem. The psalms cover the whole range of the relationship between God and God's people. The Book of Psalms, while a "book" of the Bible, consists of 150 hymns intended to be sung.

### PSALM 72

- Give the Ruler your justice, O God, and your righteousness to the Ruler's heir;
- 2 That they may rule your people righteously and the poor with justice;
- That the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, and the little hills bring righteousness.
- 4 They shall defend the needy among the people; they shall rescue the poor and crush the oppressor.
- They shall live as long as the sun and moon endure, from one generation to another.
- 6 They shall come down like rain upon the mown field, like showers that water the earth.
- In their time shall the righteous flourish; there shall be abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.
- 10 The rulers of Tarshish and of the isles shall pay tribute, and the rulers of Arabia and Saba offer gifts.
- 11 All rulers shall bow down before them, and all the nations do them service.
- 12 For they shall deliver the poor who cries out in distress, and the oppressed who has no helper.
- 13 They shall have pity on the lowly and poor; they shall preserve the lives of the needy.
- 14 They shall redeem their lives from oppression and violence, and dear shall their blood be in their sight.

The second reading is usually from one of the New Testament Epistles (or letters), though occasionally from the Acts of the Apostles or the Book of Revelation. They teach us about the formation of the church and instruct us on how to live into our role as followers of Christ.

#### THE EPISTLE **EPHESIANS 3:1-12**

This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles-- for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you, and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of his power. Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



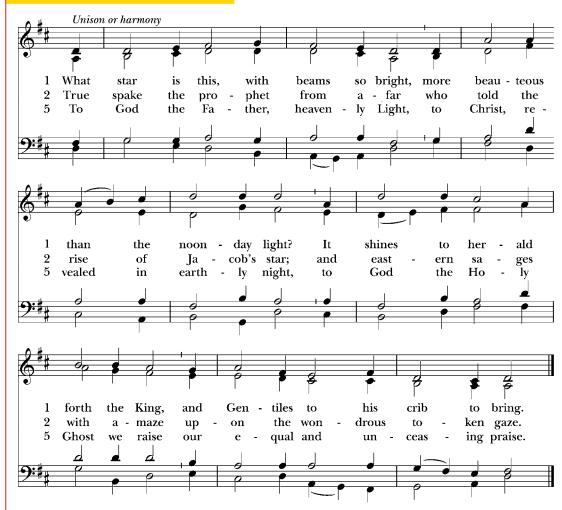
### January 7, 2024

#### THE EPIPHANY PAGEANT

### Presented by the children & youth of the Better Together partnership

In place of the gospel and sermon this Sunday, we will watch the Epiphany pageant. (The blooper reel will be played after the service!)

### **CONGREGATIONAL HYMN**



In the Nicene Creed, we respond to the proclamation of God's Word by affirming the historic faith of the Church. We "believe" (from the Latin credere, literally "to put one's heart into") because we offer our trust in the story of God's creating, redeeming, and remaining with the world. "We" believe because the church as a whole, the Body of Christ, carries and strengthens the faith of 5 each individual.

#### **NICENE CREED**

The people stand, as they are able.

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 of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human.

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.

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When it is not capitalized, the word "catholic" is defined as universal or inclusive.

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 worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,

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.

The Prayers of the People are always responsive, because everyone gives voice to the supplications. We include prayers for others throughout the world, in our diocese, and those connected to our congregation. This is the part of the liturgy where it is most evident that we would be noticeably less without the contributions of each person present. We voice prayers from our parish prayer list, as well as requests from the onsite and online worshippers.

### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

O God, who set the stars in the sky and the planets in their courses: make us wise to see the wonderful signs of your love in the heavens and upon this earth. We offer prayers of joy and gratitude. God of wonder,

### Let our prayers come to you.

O God, by whose word evil is driven out and by whose compassion the sick are made whole: make us wise to seek healing for ourselves and to give healing to those who suffer. We offer prayers of intercession. God of wonder,

### Let our prayers come to you.

O God, whose true glory was revealed in the face of Jesus before he set his face to suffering and death: make us wise to face death with courage and hope, and give eternal peace to those who now rest. We offer prayers for the dead. God of wonder,

Let our prayers come to you.

### The Presider offers the concluding collect.

O God, we offer our prayers and thanksgivings with boldness, trusting that the wonders of your love are revealed with every step of our journey with you. Hear us and guide us all our days, that we may come ever closer to your light and radiate your light to all peoples; in the name of Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen.

### **CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION**

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

The people kneel as they are able. Silence will be kept.

God of all mercy, we confess that we have sinned against you, opposing your will in our lives.

We have denied your goodness in each other, in ourselves, and in the world you have created.

We repent of the evil that enslaves us,

the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf.

Forgive, restore, and strengthen us through our Savior Jesus Christ, that we may abide in your love and serve only your will. Amen.

In the confession we admit the ways we have not lived as we were created to live, both individually, and corporately, and ask for forgiveness. The priest declares to us the wonderful grace of God's promise of forgiveness, reconciliation, and the absolute remission of guilt.

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Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. Amen.

The people stand as they are able.

The Peace has been exchanged at the Eucharist since the time of the first Christians. It is a profound act to offer the miraculous peace of God to one another before we join in communion with God and each other.

### THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

The congregation greets each other in the peace of Christ.

The people sit.

### PRAYER FOR BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES, AND TRAVELS

The Offertory is when we bring our gifts of bread, wine, money, and our very selves to present to the Lord as our initial act of thanksgiving. This collection is a visible reminder that our whole lives are God's, and a part of what God has given us we give back in thanksgiving for all that we have and all that we are. You can use this QR code to give to StGs online.

### OFFERTORY ANTHEM

"The Wise Men and the Star" music by Oliver Tarney text by Lucia Quinault

Sovereign scholars, weary of waiting, startled by starlight that kindles the sky. Eager for answers, destiny drives them, watching with wonder, they follow the star. Passing by palaces, greedy and golden, threading the byways of winter and cold, come to a doorway, low-built and lamp-lit, eagerly enter under the star. Source of all starlight, simply they see him, laid in a manger and haloed with hav. Bright in his beauty, shrouded with shadows. Steady the star shines, follow the star.

### THE HOLY COMMUNION

The people stand, as they are able.



### **OFFERTORY HYMN**



January 7, 2024

The Eucharist, or Communion, is the act of offering, breaking bread, and sharing in Christ's life, death, and resurrection. It also reminds us that we are Christ's body in our world today. As Episcopalians, the Eucharist is the principal act of worship, in which we always have a full proclamation of the heart of the Gospel. Celebrating Eucharist is something we do together, so we all take part in the prayers.

#### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

ST. GREGORY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.

Glory to you for ever and ever.

At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.

By your will they were created and have their being.

From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the rulers of creation.

But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.

Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.

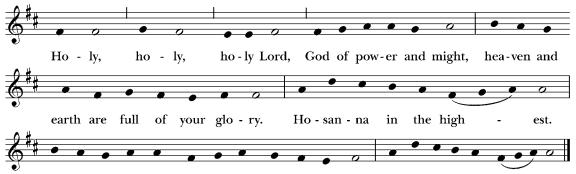
Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.

By his blood, he reconciled us. By his wounds, we are healed.

And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

The Sanctus (holy, holy, holy) recalls the words of the prophet Isaiah, overwhelmed by the presence of God in the sanctuary, and these words were sung by the people as Jesus entered Jerusalem on Palm Sunday. The Sanctus reminds us that this is an offering of the whole creation, which joins in singing these praises.

### **SANCTUS**



Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est.



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And so, Father, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper, he took the cup of wine, gave thanks, and said, "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. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving, We celebrate his death and resurrection, as we await the day of his coming.

Lord God of our Forebears: God of Abraham and Sarah; of Isaac and Rebekah, of Jacob, Leah, Rachel, Bilhah, and Zilpah; God of our Lord Jesus Christ:

Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal.

Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us + one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.

Accept these prayers and praises, O God, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation. AMEN.

The Great Amen is the only word in our Book of Common Prayer that is in all capital letters. It emphasizes that we all join together in asking Jesus to be present in the bread and wine, in boldly affirming our desire to receive God. It is appropriate to say this with enthusiasm!

The Lord's Prayer is the prayer that Jesus gave to his followers when they asked him to teach them to pray. It links our daily bread to the spiritual food we receive in the Eucharist.

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

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.

Give us this day our daily bread

And forgive us our trespasses,

as we forgive those who trespass against us.

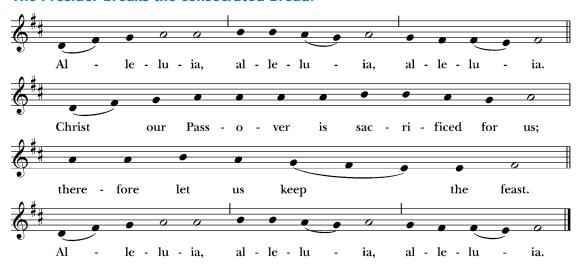
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Fraction recalls
Jesus breaking the
bread at the Last
Supper to share with
the disciples, and
reminds us that Jesus'
body was broken on
the cross for us to be
shared with the world.
Therefore we keep a
moment of silence
for prayers of awe and
gratitude.

### **BREAKING OF THE BREAD**

### The Presider breaks the consecrated Bread.



### **RECEIVING COMMUNION**

**General:** Please join the line to receive Communion. When you get to the front, hold out your hands to receive bread. Then step to either side to receive wine or juice in an individual cup.

Gluten-free option: Please ask for a gluten-free wafer from the priest when you come forward.

**Non-alcoholic option:** Please ask for juice from the minister holding the tray of cups. You also have the option to take only the bread to receive Communion.

**Not receiving:** If you will not be receiving Communion, you are invited to come forward for a blessing. Please join the line and cross your arms over your chest when you get to the front.

#### **COMMUNION ANTHEM**

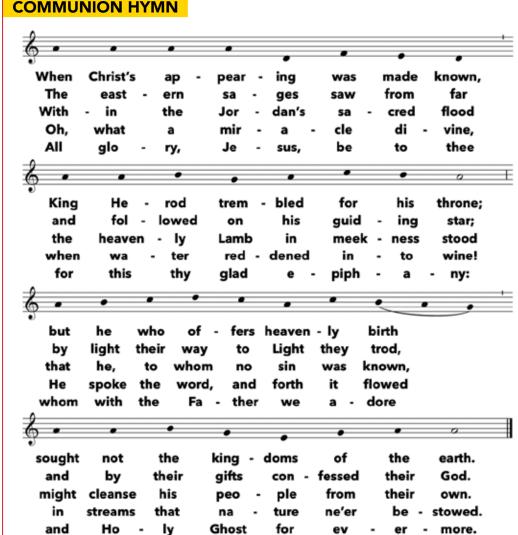
"Ab Oriente Venerunt" by Jacob Handl (1550-1591)

Ab Oriente venerunt Magi in Bethlehem adorare Dominum et apertis thesauris suis, pretiosa munera obtulerunt: Aurum sicut Regi magno, thus sicut Deo vero, myrrham sepulturae eius. Alleluia.

Out of the east came the wise men, unto Bethlehem to worship the Lord; and opening their treasury they offered precious gifts: Gold, as for a great king, Incense, as for the true God, Myrrh for his sepulchre. Alleluia.



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The Prayer for Spiritual Communion articulates a hunger for unity with Jesus Christ when you cannot physically receive the Body and Blood of Christ. This prayer connects the one(s) praying with the reception of Holy Communion. Those worshipping online are invited to say this prayer as those onsite receive Communion.

### **PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL COMMUNION** (for those worshipping remotely)

In union, gracious God, with your faithful people at every altar of your Church where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated, we offer to you praise and thanksgiving. We remember your death, O Christ; we proclaim your resurrection; we await your coming in glory. Since we cannot receive you today in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, we beseech you to come spiritually into our hearts. Cleanse and strengthen us with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let us never be separated from you. May we live in you, and you in us, in this life and in the life to come. Amen.

The people stand, as they are able.

### POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray.

#### God of abundance,

you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation; you have united us with Christ and one another; and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth.

After Communion, we give thanks for being part of the communion of God's life and for being fed so that we may go out to feed and serve others in our world.

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Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue for ever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

One of the roles of the priest is to declare the eternal truth of God's ever-present blessing to God's people.

### BLESSING

May Christ, the Son of God, be manifest in you, that your lives may be a light to the world; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. (+) Amen.

### **EXIT HYMN**



Having heard the Gospel and having been fed at communion, the final act of our common worship is the Dismissal. It is not an afterthought, but an integral part of the service. Jesus' final action on earth was to send his followers into the world to make disciples, baptizing and teaching them to obey all he had commanded. And so we are sent out into the world to proclaim the Good News and be Christ's hands and feet on earth.

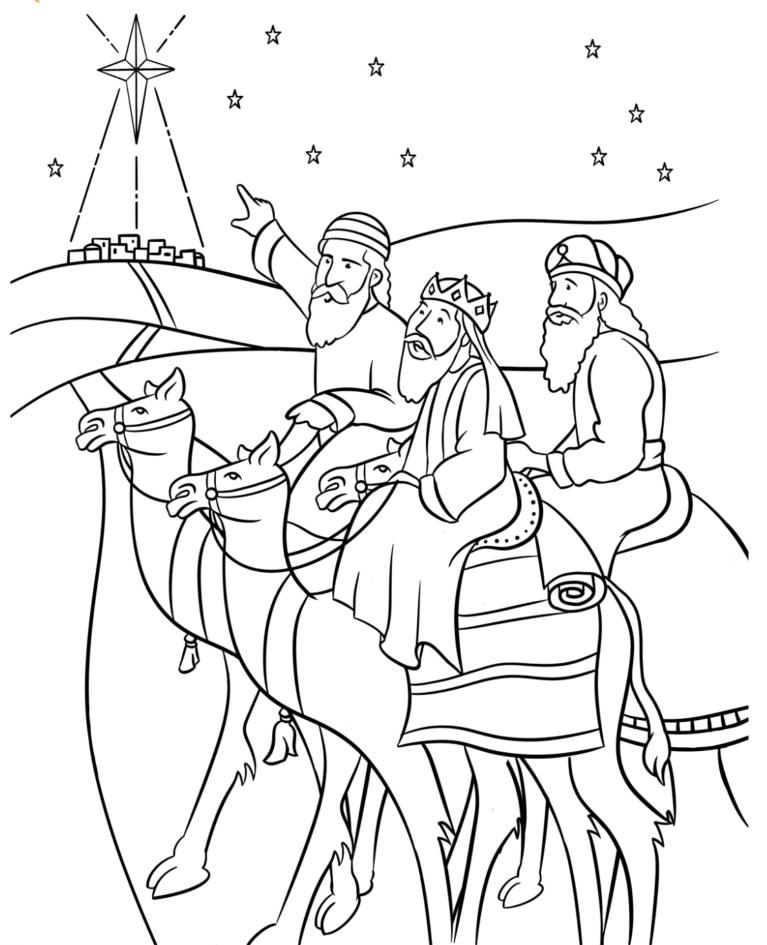
The Priest or Deacon dismisses the people, and the people respond,

Thanks be to God.

January 7, 2024



radiates God's grace, equipping all people to change the world.

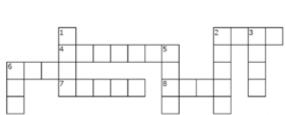


### ST. GREGORY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH



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### **ACROSS**

- The wise men who visited Jesus and Mary and Joseph shortly after Jesus was born
- 4. A substance that is burned to produce a sweet smell
- 6. To come into existence by birth
- 7. Presents which are given without cost to the one receiving them
- 8. A twinkling point of light in the night sky

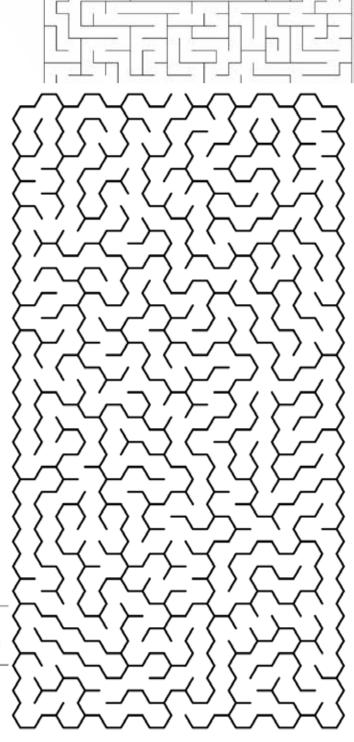
#### DOWN

- 1. A male ruler of a country
- 2. A sticky substance with a strong smell which is used in making
- 3. A valuable, shiny, yellow metal used to make coins and jewellery
- 5. The direction which is opposite to west
- 6. To kneel or bend the head or body forward as a show of respect

MAGI	BOW	STAR	GOLD	KING
GIFTS	EAST	BORN	MYRRH	INCENSE

YWAYLXPHCHHMQDH S S Ι MMBQDDLVMVTXLXY

PRIESTS	MYRRH	BETHLEHEM	KING	CHRIST
GOD	CHILD	HOUSE	INCENSE	MARY
STAR	MAGI	TEACHERS	WORSHIP	MOTHER
WORSHIPED	EAST	SEARCH	BORN	HEROD





## COMING UP...

## Town Hall TODAY immediately following the service!

Stick around after the service for quick updates on the pledge campaign, the budget, building & grounds work, and more. You'll also have a chance to ask your questions! Online participants, please make sure you're watching via Zoom and not Facebook. You'll be able to type your questions into the chat and they'll be asked onsite!



### MLK Prayer Breakfast at The Church of the Holy Spirit

The Church of the Holy Spirit is celebrating The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. with a prayer breakfast at 7:30am on Friday, January 12. It will feature keynote speaker The Rev. Deborah Stackhouse, founder of the Sign of the Dove Ministries. RSVP to chs-office@chslf.org

### **Annual Meeting, January 28**

The Annual Meeting will happen immediately following the 9:30am service! If you'd like to participate, make sure to join the service via Zoom and not Facebook (online attendees will be able to have their questions answered too). We'll enjoy a potluck lunch, so check the Sign-Up Center in the front office to sign-up to bring a dish or help with setup/cleanup!





### **Community Meals - sign up for future dates!**

Volunteers including Art and Lorilee Bielski; Catherine, Sarah, Anne and Matthew Regalado; Linda Illes (from St. Elisabeth); Jack Alix (from Trinity); Janet and Bill Foltz; and Matthew, Scott, and Barb Schaper. prepared a hot meal and non-perishable food items for our neighbors in Waukegan. Thank you to our cookie bakers, Linda Illes, Kim Baer, Donna Hicks, and Cissy Singleton.

Our next opportunity to serve is Sunday, January 28th. We need volunteers onsite as well as cookie bakers. Parb: bschaper7@aol.com or (847)948-8989

### **Tech Gremlins: Please Stand By!**



We identified and banished most of the tech gremlins just in time for Christmas (woohoo!), but a few final tweaks and long-term upgrades are still in progress. One temporary casualty is the StGsGuest wifi network, which we plan to have accessible once again early in January. Thank you for your patience and understanding! Rathryn: kathryn@stgregoryschurch.org

# **Check out the new Sign-Up Center!**

One of our additions to the front office is a Sign-Up Center where you can sign-up for various upcoming events and opportunities!

Today, check it out for ways to help with our upcoming Annual Meeting Potluck Lunch. :)

If you have an event you'd like to put up on the board, check in with Dan for approval!

