

**Anglican Church of Freiburg
The First Sunday of Epiphany - The Baptism of Christ
Communion Service with Revd. Vinod Victor
January 9, 2022 11:30 am**

Silent Preparation

Please take time to remember where you are,
and why you are here.
Give thanks and become still
in the presence of God

The Prelude

The Gathering

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

The Greeting

Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the universe.
All From the rising of the sun to its setting
your name is proclaimed in all the world.

The Lord of glory be with you.
All The Lord bless you.

Opening Hymn: ACF 43 God has spoken to his people

*God has spoken to His people,
hallelujah!
And His words are words of wisdom,
hallelujah!*

1. Open your ears, O Christian people,
open your ears and hear good news.
Open your hearts, O royal priesthood,
God has come to you,
God has come to you.

*God has spoken to His people,
hallelujah!
And His words are words of wisdom,
hallelujah!*

2. They who have ears to hear His message,
they who have ears, now let them hear;
they who would learn the way of wisdom,
let them hear God's Word,
let them hear God's Word.

*God has spoken to His people,
hallelujah!
And His words are words of wisdom,
hallelujah!*

3. Israel comes to greet the Saviour,
Judah is glad to see His day;
from east to west the peoples travel:
He will show the way,
He will show the way,

*God has spoken to His people,
hallelujah!
And His words are words of wisdom,
hallelujah!*

Prayers of Penitence

Invitation to Confession

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.

Silence is kept.

God be gracious to us and bless us,
and make your face shine upon us:
Lord, have mercy.

All Lord, have mercy.

May your ways be known on the earth,
your saving power among the nations:
Christ, have mercy.

All Christ, have mercy.

You, Lord, have made known your salvation,
and reveal your justice in the sight of the nations:
Lord, have mercy.

All Lord, have mercy.

The Absolution

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 keep you in life eternal;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

Gloria in Excelsis (sung)

**All 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.

The Collect for the feast of The Epiphany

Grateful for the glory revealed today through God made flesh, let us pray.

Silence is kept.

O God,
who by the leading of a star
manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth:
mercifully grant that we,
who know you now by faith,
may at last behold your glory face to face;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
All Amen.

The Liturgy of the Word

The first reading is taken from Isaiah 43:1-7

Let us prepare ourselves for the word of God
Our hearts and our minds are open

But now thus says the Lord,
 he who created you, O Jacob,
 he who formed you, O Israel:
 Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;
 I have called you by name, you are mine.
 When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;
 and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;
 when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,
 and the flame shall not consume you.
 For I am the Lord your God,
 the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.
 I give Egypt as your ransom,
 Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you.
 Because you are precious in my sight,
 and honored, and I love you,
 I give people in return for you,
 nations in exchange for your life.
 Do not fear, for I am with you;
 I will bring your offspring from the east,
 and from the west I will gather you;
 I will say to the north, "Give them up,"
 and to the south, "Do not withhold;
 bring my sons from far away
 and my daughters from the end of the earth—
 everyone who is called by my name,
 whom I created for my glory,
 whom I formed and made."

This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Let us pray with words from Psalm 29

Refrain: *The Lord shall give his people the blessing of peace.*

1 Ascribe to the Lord, you powers of heaven, ♦
ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.

**2 Ascribe to the Lord the honour due to his name; ♦
worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.**

3 The voice of the Lord is upon the waters;
the God of glory thunders; ♦
the Lord is upon the mighty waters.

**4 The voice of the Lord is mighty in operation; ♦
the voice of the Lord is a glorious voice.**

5 The voice of the Lord breaks the cedar trees; ♦
the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon;

**6 He makes Lebanon skip like a calf ♦
and Sirion like a young wild ox.**

7 The voice of the Lord splits the flash of lightning;
the voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness; ♦
the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.

**8 The voice of the Lord makes the oak trees writhe
and strips the forests bare; ♦
in his temple all cry, 'Glory!'**

9 The Lord sits enthroned above the water flood; ♦
the Lord sits enthroned as king for evermore.

**10 The Lord shall give strength to his people; ♦
the Lord shall give his people the blessing of peace.**

Refrain: *The Lord shall give his people the blessing of peace.*

*Open our ears, glorious Lord Christ,
to hear the music of your voice
above the chaos of this world;
open our eyes to see the vision of your glory,
for you are our King, now and for ever.*

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit,

**As it was in the beginning,
is now and shall be for ever.**

Gradual Hymn: 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.

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

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The Gospel Reading is taken from Matthew 2:1-12

Alleluia, alleluia.
Christ was revealed in flesh,
proclaimed among the nations
and believed in throughout the world.

(cf 1 Timothy 3.16)

All Alleluia.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to
Matthew

Glory to you, O Lord

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel.'

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

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

Acclamations at the Presentation of the Gifts

The children and the young at heart who have come to church dressed up as kings, queens and wise people are invited to bring their gifts to baby Jesus.

At the offering of gold

Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the universe:
to you be praise and glory for ever.

As gold in the furnace is tried
and purified seven times in the fire,
so purify our hearts and minds
that we may be a royal priesthood
acceptable in the service of your kingdom.

All Blessed be God for ever.

At the offering of incense

Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the universe:
to you be praise and glory for ever.

As our prayer rises up before you as incense,
so may we be presented before you
with penitent hearts and uplifted hands
to offer ourselves in your priestly service.

All Blessed be God for ever.

At the offering of myrrh

Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the universe:
to you be praise and glory for ever.

As you give medicine to heal our sickness
and the leaves of the tree of life
for the healing of the nations,
so anoint us with your healing power
that we may be the first-fruits of your new creation.

All Blessed be God for ever.

HOMILY

The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
**All 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,
**All God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,**
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.

All 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.

**All 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;

**All 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,
All the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.

**All With the Father and the Son he is worshipped and
glorified.**

He has spoken through the prophets.

**All We believe in one holy, catholic and apostolic
Church.**

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

**All We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession

Today the wise men knelt before our Saviour.
Let us also kneel to worship him with great joy,
and to make our prayer to his heavenly Father.
Father, the wise men came from the east to worship your
Son:

grant to Christians everywhere a true spirit of adoration.
Lord, in your mercy

All hear our prayer.

Father, your Son is the King of kings and Lord of lords:
grant an abundance of peace to your world.

Lord, in your mercy

All hear our prayer.

Father, the Holy Family shared the life of the people of
Nazareth:

protect in your mercy our neighbours and families,
together with the whole community of which we are part.

Lord, in your mercy

All hear our prayer.

Father, your Son was rich, yet for our sakes he became
poor:

show your love for the poor and powerless,
and strengthen all those who suffer.

Lord, in your mercy

All hear our prayer.

Father, the wise men presented to your Son gold, incense
and myrrh:

accept the gifts we bring,
and the offering of our hearts at the beginning of this new
year.

Lord, in your mercy

All hear our prayer.

Father, you are the King of heaven, the hope of all who
trust in you:

give to all the faithful departed
the wonders of your salvation.

Lord, in your mercy

All hear our prayer.

Rejoicing in the fellowship of wise men, shepherds and angels,
and of the Blessed Virgin Mary and Saint Joseph,
we commend ourselves and all Christian people
to your unfailing love.

Merciful Father,

**All Accept these prayers
for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

The Peace

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts,
since as members of one body you are called to peace.
cf Colossians 3.15

The peace of the Lord be always with you

All and also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

All may exchange a sign of peace within what is permissible.

Preparation of the Table

Hymn: SoF 31 As With Gladness Men Of Old

1. 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 God, may we
evermore be led by Thee.

3. As their precious gifts they laid
at Thy manger roughly made,

so may we with holy joy,
 pure and free from sin's alloy,
 all our costliest treasures bring,
 Christ, to Thee, our heav'nly King.

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Lord, accept your people's gifts,
 not just gold, frankincense or myrrh,
 but hearts and voices raised in praise of Jesus Christ,
 our light and our salvation.

All Amen.

Eucharistic Prayer

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:

**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.**

Accept our praises, heavenly Father,
through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ,
and as we follow his example and obey his command,
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit
these gifts of bread and wine
may be to us his body and his blood;
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.

All To you be glory and praise for ever.

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.

All To you be glory and praise for ever.

Therefore, heavenly Father,
we remember his offering of himself
made once for all upon the cross;
we proclaim his mighty resurrection and glorious
ascension;
we look for the coming of your kingdom,
and with this bread and this cup
we make the memorial of Christ your Son our Lord.
Jesus Christ is Lord:

**All Lord, by your cross and resurrection
you have set us free.
You are the Saviour of the world.**

Accept through him, our great high priest,
this our sacrifice of thanks and praise,
and as we eat and drink these holy gifts

in the presence of your divine majesty,
renew us by your Spirit,
inspire us with your love
and unite us in the body of your Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord.

All To you be glory and praise for ever.

Through him, and with him, and in him,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
with all who stand before you in earth and heaven,
we worship you, Father almighty,
in songs of everlasting praise:

**All Blessing and honour and glory and power
be yours for ever and ever.**

Amen.

We break the bread of life,
and that life is the light of the world.

**All God here among us,
light in the midst of us,
bring us to light and life.**

The Prayer of Humble Access

**We do not presume
to come to this your table, merciful Lord,
trusting in our own righteousness,
but in your manifold and great mercies.
We are not worthy
so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table.
But you are the same Lord
whose nature is always to have mercy.
Grant us therefore, gracious Lord,
so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ
and to drink his blood,
that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body,
and our souls washed through his most precious
blood,
and that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us.**

All Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Believing the promises of God,
as our Saviour taught us, so we pray

Our Father ...

The Agnus Dei (sung)

**Jesus, Lamb of God,
have mercy upon us.
Jesus, bearer of our sins,
have mercy upon us.
Jesus, redeemer of the world,
grant us your peace.**

God's holy gifts
for God's holy people.
**All Jesus Christ is holy,
Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.**

Song during communion: Kings of Orient

3. Frankincense to offer have I,
incense owns a Deity nigh,
prayer and praising, gladly raising,
worship Him, God most high.

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

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

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

5. Glorious now behold Him arise,
King and God and sacrifice;
alleluia, alleluia,
Peals through the earth and skies.

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

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Prayer after Communion

Lord God,
the bright splendour whom the nations seek:
may we who with the wise men have been drawn by your
light
discern the glory of your presence in your Son,
the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord.
All Amen.

The Dismissal

Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the universe.
All To you be glory and praise for ever.
From the rising of the sun to its setting

your name is proclaimed in all the world.

All To you be glory and praise for ever.

When the time had fully come
you sent the Sun of Righteousness.

All In him the fullness of your glory dwells.

To you be glory and praise for ever.

Epiphany Blessing

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 in your pilgrimage to find the Lord.

All Amen.

May God, who has delivered us from the dominion of
darkness,

give us a place with the saints in light
in the kingdom of his beloved Son.

All Amen.

May the light of the glorious gospel of Christ
shine in your hearts and fill our lives
with his joy and peace.

All Amen.

And the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

All Amen.

Closing Hymn: SoF 529 The First Nowell

3. 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, nowell, nowell, nowell,
born is the King of Israel!*

5. Then entered in those wise men three
full reverently on bended knee,
and offered there in His presence
their gold and myrrh and frankincense.

*Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell,
born is the King of Israel!*

6. Then let us all with one accord
sing praises to our heavenly Lord,
that hath made heaven and earth of naught,
and with His blood mankind hath bought.

*Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell,
born is the King of Israel!*

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The Conclusion

We have seen his glory,
the glory revealed to all the nations.
Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
All In the name of Christ. Amen.

Postlude

This Litany is inspired by <https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/worship-texts-and-resources/common-worship/churchs-year/times-and-seasons-1>

Wed, January 12, 2022	<p>Evening Prayer on Wednesdays</p> <p>9pm (for 20-30min)</p> <p>(Please use the usual Sunday service link.)</p>
Thu, January 13, 2022	<p>Women's Prayer Group</p> <p>8:00 pm – 9:00 pm</p> <p>via zoom (Please get in touch to receive the link.)</p>
Sun, January 16, 2022	<p>Look forward to our next Morning Worship</p> <p>with Revd. Vinod Victor</p> <p>The Second Sunday of Epiphany 11:30 hrs, Zoom link see website and in person in the church 😊</p>



The Anglican Church in Freiburg is entirely dependent on voluntary donations to pay stipends, for all activities and the upkeep of its programmes.

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