

St John the Baptist Wittersham and St Mary the Virgin Ebony Recorded Eucharist for the 3rd Sunday after Epiphany

(Excerpt from *Times and Seasons*), The Epiphany ('manifestation') is 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. In this perspective, Epiphany-tide 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.

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).

Welcome to our service of Eucharist recorded at
Wittersham Church.

You may like to have a piece of bread and a sip of wine to join in with the communion that Christ invites us to. But first let us keep a moment of silence as we remember God's presence with us now.

Arise, shine for your light has come, and the glory of the
Lord has risen upon you.

Grace. Mercy and peace from God our Father and the Lord
Jesus Christ be with you

We pray together

**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**

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.

Lord Jesus, illuminate the darkness in our hearts:

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, open our eyes to your saving love:

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, unstop our ears to hear your living word:

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

The President prays

*May the God of all healing and forgiveness draw you to
himself and cleanse you from all your sins, that you may
behold the glory of his Son, the Word made flesh, Jesus
Christ our Lord. Amen.*

The Gloria

*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.*

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 (the prayer of the people)

God of all mercy your Son proclaimed good news to the poor, release to the captives and freedom to the oppressed: anoint us with your Holy Spirit and set all your people free to praise you in Christ our Lord Amen

Collect (for the conversion of St Paul)

Almighty God, who caused the light of the gospel to shine throughout the world through the preaching of your servant St Paul grant that we who celebrate his wonderful conversion may follow him in bearing witness to your truth, through Jesus Christ your Son. Amen

Reading of the Conversion of St Paul
Acts 9: 1 - 22

Gradual Song

The Gospel Reading

GOSPEL READING John 2: 1 - 11

On the third day a wedding took place at Cana in Galilee. Jesus' mother was there, and Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine was gone, Jesus' mother said to him, "They have no more wine." "Woman, why do you involve me?" Jesus replied. "My hour has not yet come."

His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you."

Nearby stood six stone water jars, the kind used by the Jews for ceremonial washing, each holding from twenty to thirty gallons. Jesus said to the servants, "Fill the jars with water"; so they filled them to the brim. Then he told them, "Now draw some out and take it to the master of the banquet." They did so, and the master of the banquet tasted the water that had been turned into wine. He did not realize where it had come from, though the servants who had drawn the water knew. Then he called the bridegroom aside and said, "Everyone brings out the choice wine first and then the cheaper wine after the guests have had too much to drink; but you have saved the best till now." What Jesus did here in Cana of Galilee was the first of the signs through which he revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

All 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

Almighty God, today finds us in the midst of the Week of Prayer for Christian unity; help us to listen to your voice still calling us to unity in our diversity. We pray for church leaders everywhere that they may work together and promote unity among Christians. We remember today and ask your blessing on the new President of the United States of America.

Lord, you made us to be one body and of one spirit, and so we pray that we might establish friendly relationships among Jews, Christians and Muslims, and tear down the walls of indifference and hatred making our unity visible and bringing healing to the world

Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

Creator God, we pray for all who work for justice and solidarity, and for all world leaders that they will continue to seek for an end to the suffering caused by war and violence, injustice and inequality, disease and prejudice, poverty and hopelessness and bring healing to the world. We pray especially for the Holy Land and Peace for the Holy city of Jerusalem.

Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

Generous God, as we remember the presence of your son Jesus Christ at the Wedding at Cana we pray for all we know who are preparing for marriage and those who are beginning their married life together and at this time for those who have had to put their marriage plans on hold because of the pandemic. May they experience the love of God, the support of family and friends. We also pray for any we know amongst our families and friends who are experiencing marital problems that they may find a way forward through their present difficulties.

Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

Merciful God, we raise before you this day those who are sick, sad or lonely and those who are brave and patient when things are going wrong. We pray that they may be aware of your comforting presence and know that in your hands they are safe and loved. We especially pray for those from our Churches here in Wittersham and Ebony

Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

Father God, we pray for those who have departed this life and ask you, through your loving kindness, to have mercy on their souls. Be with the bereaved in their loneliness and give them the faith to look beyond their present troubles to your Son Jesus Christ who died and rose again and who lives forevermore.

Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

Faithful God, as we prepare for the weeks ahead help us to remember that we are sisters and brothers in Christ. Help us overcome our conflicts, our divisions and our self-seeking, and to be united to one another by the power the Holy Spirit.

Merciful Father: **accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen**

THE PEACE

We are the body of Christ. In the one body we were all baptised into one body. Let us then pursue all that makes for peace and builds up our common life. The peace of the Lord be always with you, Please share a sign of peace with those who are with you at home.

Anthem Ave Maria

PRAYER AT THE PREPARATION OF THE TABLE

Let us pray. Open the heavens, Lord our God, and send your transforming Spirit on us and on these gifts. May we be ready to share Christ's cup of suffering and strengthened to serve him for ever Amen.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER (A)

The Lord be with you

Lift up your hearts.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. 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 say

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts, heaven and earth are full of thy glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he that 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.

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.

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.

Great is the mystery of faith: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

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. 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: Blessing and honour and glory and power be yours for ever and ever. Amen.

Believing the promises of God, let us pray with confidence as our Saviour taught us:

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, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

We break the bread of life, and that life is the light of the world. God here among us, light in the midst of us, bring us to light and life.

THE GIVING OF COMMUNION God's holy gifts for God's holy people. Jesus Christ is holy, Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

If you are worshipping with us online, I invite you to make your spiritual ` communion, praying that by God's grace, united with all the baptised and with Christ who gave his life for us, you may be filled with his indwelling presence. As you take your bread and wine please say: O loving God, in union with Christian people throughout the world and across the centuries gathered to make Eucharist, hearing your holy Word and receiving the Precious Body and Blood of your dear Son, we offer you praise and thanksgiving. Come Lord Jesus, dwell in us and send your Holy Spirit that we may be filled with your presence. Amen.

AGNUS DEI

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world: have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world: have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world: grant us thy peace.

Hymn Praise My Soul Words by Henry Lyte

1. Praise, my soul, the King of Heaven;
To His feet thy tribute bring.

Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,
Evermore His praises sing:
Praise Him, praise Him, alleluia!

Praise the everlasting King.

2. Praise Him for His grace and favour
To our fathers in distress;
Praise Him still the same as ever,
Slow to chide, and swift to bless.
Praise Him, praise Him, alleluia!
Glorious in His faithfulness.
3. Fatherlike He tends and spares us,
Well our feeble frame He knows;
In His hands He gently bears us,
Rescues us from all our foes.
Praise Him, praise Him, alleluia!
Widely yet His mercy flows.
4. Angels, help us to adore Him,
Ye behold Him face to face;
Sun and moon, bow down before Him;
Dwellers all in time and space,
Praise Him, praise Him, alleluia!
Praise with us the God of grace.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER Let us pray.

God of Glory, you nourish us with your Word who is the bread of life: fill us with your Holy Spirit that through us the light of your glory may shine in all the world.

We thank you Lord, that you have fed us in this sacrament, united us with Christ, and given us a foretaste of the heavenly banquet prepared for all peoples. Amen.

THE BLESSING: 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 of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you and those you love now and always. Amen.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. In the name of Christ Amen