

ST. MARY OF THE HILLS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

BLOWING ROCK, NORTH CAROLINA

AN ORDER OF SERVICE FOR NOONDAY

January 6, 2021 at 12:00 PM

Join the service via Zoom here –
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84186589760>

Join the service via YouTube here –
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCSIE6UDGf9FyTvPRGs8_1A

A prayerful silence precedes the service.

THE OPENING SENTENCE

BCP 103

Officiant O God, make speed to save us.

People **O Lord, make haste to help us.**

Officiant and People

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Except in Lent, add **Alleluia.**

THE PSALTER

Psalm 72: 1-7

The Officiant and People read responsively by whole verse, pausing at the asterisks.

- 1 Give the King your justice, O God, *
and your righteousness to the King's Son;

- 2 **That he may rule your people righteously *
and the poor with justice;**
- 3 That the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, *
and the little hills bring righteousness.
- 4 **He shall defend the needy among the people; *
he shall rescue the poor and crush the oppressor.**
- 5 He shall live as long as the sun and moon endure, *
from one generation to another.
- 6 **He shall come down like rain upon the mown field, *
like showers that water the earth.**
- 7 In his time shall the righteous flourish; *
there shall be abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.

At the end of the Psalms is sung or said

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

THE FIRST LESSON

Matthew 2: 1-12

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.

Lector The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

THE HOMILY

The Reverend Andrew J. Hege

A few moments of silence for reflection follow the homily.

THE PRAYERS

BCP 106

Officiant Lord, have mercy.
People **Lord, have mercy.**
Officiant Christ, have mercy.
People **Christ, have mercy.**
Officiant Lord, have mercy.
People **Lord, have mercy.**

**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.**

Officiant Lord, hear our prayer.
People **And let our cry come to you.**
Officiant 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.**

O God, who wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored, the dignity of human nature: Grant that we may share the divine life of him who humbled himself to share our humanity, your Son Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Heavenly Father, send your Holy Spirit into our hearts, to direct and rule us according to your will, to comfort us in all our afflictions, to defend us from all error, and to lead us into all truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*Free intercessions may be offered.
The people add their own petitions and thanksgiving.
These may be shared with one another in the chat box on Zoom or YouTube.*

The Officiant concludes the prayers with this collect,

Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. **Amen.**

THE DISMISSAL

Officiant Let us bless the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

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