



# Episcopal Church of the Resurrection

Holy Eucharist, Rite II

Feast of the Epiphany

January 4, 2026 8:00 and 10:30 a.m.

917 Pond Road, Loudon, TN 37774  
865.986.2390

[www.episcopalloudon.com](http://www.episcopalloudon.com)



GLORIFYING GOD BY  
REFRESHING SOULS | BRIDGING COMMUNITIES | ENGAGING PEOPLE IN SERVICE

Good morning! We're so glad you chose to be here at Resurrection today. Whether you're here for the first time, or are a life-long member, Resurrection is a hopeful, healing, transformation-minded kind of place, a place where everyone is welcome and can grow their relationship with God and with one another.

If you are here for the *first time* (or if you just haven't gotten around to it yet), please fill out a pew card and put it in the offering plate to let us know you were here. To receive our weekly email bulletin, be sure to include your email address. And let us know if you would like to connect with our parish life and ministries; we're happy to help you find your spot!

Our services follow *The Book of Common Prayer*, the red book in your pew rack. If you'd like to use the book to follow the service, instead of this order of service booklet, we begin on page 355. Unless otherwise marked, our hymns are from the blue *Hymnal 1982*. A hymn noted "S-xxx" is part of the service music, found at the front of the hymnal, appearing before the regular congregational hymns begin. For example, S-280 (*The Gloria*) is found before hymn 1.

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To learn more about Resurrection, check out [www.episcopalloudon.com](http://www.episcopalloudon.com),  
email us at [office@episcopalloudon.com](mailto:office@episcopalloudon.com), or  
find us on Facebook or Instagram.

Fill out a visitor card or email [office@episcopalloudon.com](mailto:office@episcopalloudon.com) to subscribe to our weekly church email, the *Parish Tidings*, for all the latest information from Resurrection.

If you can't make it here in person, join us at 10:30, live on Facebook:  
[facebook.com/episcopalloudon](https://facebook.com/episcopalloudon).

# Holy Eucharist, Rite II

## The Word of God

### Prelude

**Entrance Hymn** *(10:30 only)*  
*Jesus shall reign where'er the sun*

*Please stand as able.*  
**Hymnal 544**

### Opening Acclamation

**BCP 355**

*Celebrant* Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.  
*People* **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever. Amen.**

### Collect for Purity

*All* 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 Gloria** *(Spoken at 8:00. Sung at 10:30.)*

**Hymnal S-280**

**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.**



## Collect of the Day

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Celebrant* 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 Lessons

### The First Lesson: Isaiah 60: 1-6

*Lector* A reading from the Book of Isaiah.

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.

*Lector* The Word of the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

*Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14* *Deus, judicium*

**BCP 685**

*Lector* We will read the Psalm responsively. (*Congregation reads the bold lines.*)

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.**  
10 The kings of Tarshish and of the isles shall pay tribute, \*  
**and the kings of Arabia and Saba offer gifts.**  
11 All kings shall bow down before him, \*  
**and all the nations do him service.**  
12 For he shall deliver the poor who cries out in distress, \*  
**and the oppressed who has no helper.**  
13 He shall have pity on the lowly and poor; \*  
**he shall preserve the lives of the needy.**  
14 He shall redeem their lives from oppression and violence, \*  
**and dear shall their blood be in his sight.**

*Lector and People*

**Glory 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. Amen.**

## **The Second Lesson: Ephesians 3: 1-12**

*Lector*     A reading from the Letter to the Ephesians.

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.

*Lector*        The Word of the Lord.

*People*        **Thanks be to God.**

### Sequence Hymn

*Please stand as able.*

*Brightest and best of the stars of the morning (verses 1,2, & 3)*

**Hymnal 117**

### The Gospel: Matthew 2: 1-12

*Celebrant*    The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

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.

*Celebrant*    The Gospel of the Lord.

*People*        **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

## Sequence Hymn

*Brightest and best of the stars of the morning (verses 4 & 5)*

Hymnal 117

## Sermon

The Rev. Dr. Rebecca Bridges

## The Nicene Creed

BCP 358

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

## The Prayers of the People

*Common Worship, Prayers for Epiphany*

*Please assume a posture of prayer, whether standing, kneeling, or sitting as able.*

*Intercessor* Let us worship the Savior with joy and make our prayer to our heavenly Father. The Magi came from the east to worship your Son: Holy God, grant to Christians everywhere the spirit of adoration. Lord of glory,

*People* **hear our prayer.**

*Intercessor* The infant Christ received gifts of gold, incense and myrrh: Holy God, accept the offering of our hearts and minds at the beginning of this new year. Lord of glory,

*People* **hear our prayer.**

*Intercessor* The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ: Holy God, grant an abundance of peace to your world. Bring comfort to all who suffer the effects of war, gun violence, oppression, and natural disasters. Lord of glory,

*People* **hear our prayer.**

*Intercessor* The Holy Family lived in exile and in the shadow of death: Holy God, look in mercy on all who are poor and powerless, and all who suffer, praying especially for Ruth & Frank, Lee R., the Bailey family, the Scott family, the McAfee family, Ginny, Diane & Cal, Jim, Tom, Marshall S., Brenda B., Jackie C., and David H., and all who are in pain or distress. Lord of glory,

*People* **hear our prayer.**

*Intercessor* Your Son shared the life of his home and family at Nazareth: Holy God, protect in your love our neighbors, our families and this Loudon County community of which we are a part. Lord of glory,

*People* **hear our prayer.**

*Celebrant* Holy God, we rejoice in our fellowship with the shepherds, the angels, the Magi, the Virgin Mary, Saint Joseph and all the faithful departed, especially Kathleen and Jane. In your unfailing love for us and for all people, hear and answer our prayers through your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ.

*All* **Amen.**



*Continuing in a posture of prayer, we will hold a moment of silence for individual, silent confessions before the priest leads us into the words of corporate confession.*

*Celebrant* The grace of God has dawned upon the world through our Savior Jesus Christ, who sacrificed himself for us to purify a people as his own.

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Celebrant and People*

**Most merciful God,  
we confess that we have sinned against you  
in thought, word, and deed,  
by what we have done,  
and by what we have left undone.  
We have not loved you with our whole heart;  
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.  
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.  
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,  
have mercy on us and forgive us;  
that we may delight in your will,  
and walk in your ways,  
to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

**Absolution of Sin**

*Celebrant* 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 Peace**

*Please stand as able.*

*Celebrant* May the peace of Christ be always with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Celebrant* Let us show one another a sign of God's peace.

**The Holy Communion**

*Celebrant* Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. *Ephesians 5:2a*

**Offertory Hymn**      *We three kings*

**Hymnal 128**

**Doxology** (*sung together*)

**Hymnal 380, v. 3**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
praise him all creatures here below;  
Praise him above, ye heavenly host;  
praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

*Celebrant*      For all things come from you, O Lord;  
*People*          **and of your own have we given you.**

## **The Great Thanksgiving**

**Eucharistic Prayer B**

**BCP 367**

**Sursum Corda (Lift Up Your Hearts)**

*Spoken at 8:30. Sung at 10:00.*

*Celebrant*      The Lord be with you,  
*People*          **And also with you.**  
*Celebrant*      Lift up your hearts.  
*People*          **We lift them to the Lord.**  
*Celebrant*      Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
*People*          **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

*Celebrant*      It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Because in the mystery of the Word made flesh, you have caused a new light to shine in our hearts, to give the knowledge of your glory in the face of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

**Sanctus**      (*Spoken at 8:00. Sung at 10:30.*)

**Hymnal S-124**

**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 stand or kneel.*

*Celebrant* We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, 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; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, 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.”

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

*Celebrant and People*

**We remember his death,**

**We proclaim his resurrection,**

**We await his coming in glory;**

*Celebrant* And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with the Magi and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever.

**AMEN.** (*Spoken at 8:00. Sung at 10:30.*)

**Hymnal S-146**

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

*All*      **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 Breaking of the Bread**

*The Celebrant breaks the consecrated bread and a period of silence is kept.*

*Celebrant*      **Alleluia, Christ, our Passover is sacrificed for us;  
People      Therefore, let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

**Fraction Hymn** *(spoken at 8:00, sung at 10:30)*

**Hymnal S-161**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: Have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: Have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: Grant us peace.**

*Celebrant*      **The Gifts of God for the People of God.**

## **Communion music**

*We encourage you to come forward to receive Holy Communion as you feel comfortable.*

*Remain seated, until the usher directs you forward to the communion rail. After receiving communion, return to your seat by the side aisle. so that traffic flows one way. If you would prefer communion be brought to you at your seat, please let an usher know and, as always, we will be happy to do so.*

*If you prefer not to receive communion, you may come forward to the altar rail along with those receiving communion. Please cross your arms over your chest to indicate that you prefer a blessing.*



## Post-Communion Prayer

*Common Worship*

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

*All* **Eternal God,  
giver of love and power,  
your Son Jesus Christ  
has sent us into all the world  
to preach the gospel of his kingdom:  
confirm us in this mission,  
and help us to live the good news we proclaim;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## The Blessing

*Common Worship*

*Celebrant* Christ our Lord,  
to whom kings bowed down  
in worship and offered gifts,  
reveal to you his glory  
and pour upon you the riches of his grace;  
and the blessing of God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit  
be with you and those you love, and those whom you pray for,  
now and for evermore. **Amen.**

## Recessional Hymn

*As with gladness*

**Hymnal 119**

## The Dismissal

*Celebrant* The Lord says, 'Go into all the world and make disciples of all the nations.' Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia, alleluia.

*People* Thanks be to God. **Alleluia, alleluia.**

## Postlude

# Parish Announcements, Prayers & Thanksgivings

## *Three Kings Epiphany Party*

This Tuesday, January 6 from 4-6 p.m.  
Bring an appetizer or charcuterie to share.

Please bring your nativity sets/creches to the  
Parish Hall today and tomorrow; we will have  
tables set up for them to be displayed.

## **Annual Parish Meeting Next Sunday, January 11**

*We will join together for one  
worship service at 9:30 a.m.*

The annual meeting will follow in the Parish  
Hall. Please bring a brunch dish to share.

## **Jane Scott Funeral Monday, January 12**

Visitation in the Parish Hall at 10 a.m.  
Funeral Service in the Church at 11 a.m.

*If you are able to help provide food  
for the visitation reception,  
please contact Diane V.  
or the church office.*

### *Our parish prayer list*

Pat, Linda, Ruth & Frank, Lee R.,  
the Bailey family, the Scott family,  
the McAfee family, Ginny, Diane & Cal,  
Jim, Tom, Marshall S., Brenda B.,  
Jackie C., David H.

### *Continuing prayers for*

Jim; Daphne; Rosemary O.; the Hentchel family;  
Pat; Claire; Sandy; Rob & Sherry; Cheri; Jane;  
Shannon; Jim; Mel; Wayne; Diana N.; Jack;  
Ashley; Raynella; Ed & Jean; Kim E.; Joe;  
Beverly; Grace; Virginia; Betty Anne; Janey;  
Johnny; and Karen H.

### *Pray for our vestry leaders*

Class of 2025: Lisa A., Donna B., Diane V.K.  
Class of 2026: Alice A., Dianna S., Jenny L.  
Class of 2027: Bev B., Karen B., Mark H.  
Officers: Jenny L., Diane V.K., Sally L.

### **Upcoming Birthdays**

Betsy DeGeorge January 1  
Wayne Tolbert January 3  
Patricia Smith January 4  
Paul Fiebke, Sr. January 6  
Steve Abercrombie January 15  
Diane Van Koughnett January 16  
John Doherty January 16  
Peggy Turner January 17  
Erlys Ploeger January 18  
Paul Fiebke, Jr. January 20  
Bush Hanna II January 20  
Michelle Butler January 24

### **Upcoming Anniversaries**

Tony & Oralee Adams January 6  
Andrew & Cath Wilkinson January 10  
Bryan & Danielle Ledyard January 28

# For Your Calendars

## THIS WEEK

<b>Jan. 4</b>	<b>8:00 a.m.</b>	<b>10:30 a.m.</b>		
Acolyte	Donna Bye	Drew Hawley	Altar Guild	Donna Bye
Euch. Minister	Andrew Wilkinson	Bonnie Smith		
Lector	Peggy Rogers	Jackie Buttinelli	Flower Guild	Rosemary Kitts
Ushers	Jerry Ploeger	Art Stewart & Keytha Graves	Accompanist	Jedediah Dahl
Coffee Hour	Erlys Ploeger	Monty Ross	Celebrant & Preacher	Rebecca Bridges
Video	n/a	Bill Schwindt	Offering Counters	Jean Cardwell
Chancellor	Peggy Rogers	Art Stewart		& Nelda Griffith

## NEXT WEEK

<b>Jan. 11</b>	<b>9:30 a.m.</b>			
Acolyte	Mark Smith		Altar Guild	Janey Coombes
Euch. Minister	Holly Pate			& Judy Egan
Lector	Mark Hennes & Jackie Curtis		Flower Guild	Dianna Stimpson
Ushers	Jerry Ploeger, Andy Hadjian, Garry Lucas		Accompanist	Kate Lee
Coffee Hour	Annual Meeting & Brunch		Celebrant & Preacher	Rebecca Bridges
Video	Bob Cantine			
Chancellor	Art Stewart	Offering Counters	Andy Hadjian & Monty Ross	

## This week at Resurrection

### Sunday, January 4

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, spoken  
10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist, choral

### Monday, January 5

12:00 p.m. Companions lunch

### Tuesday, January 6

10:00 a.m. Office reopens  
1:00 p.m. Education for Ministry group  
4-6 p.m. Three Kings Epiphany Party

### Sunday, January 11

9:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist, one service  
11:00 a.m. Annual meeting and brunch,  
Parish Hall

## Upcoming Parish Events

### Tuesday, January 6

4-6 p.m. Three Kings Epiphany Party

### Sunday, January 11

11 a.m., Annual Parish Meeting

### Monday, January 12

10 a.m., Jane Scott visitation, Parish Hall  
11 a.m., Jane Scott funeral service, Nave

### Saturday, January 17

9 a.m., Men's Group (*discuss ch. 5, David*)

To contact our priest, the Rev. Dr. Rebecca Bridges,  
email [rector@episcopalloudon.com](mailto:rector@episcopalloudon.com)  
or call the church at (865) 986-2390.

**Urgent pastoral needs after hours: (865) 242-9240.**



# Art Reflection

UNKNOWN BYZANTINE ARTIST, *The Magi offer gifts to the Madonna and Child*, 6th century, mosaic, Basilica di Sant'Apollinare Nuovo, Ravenna, Italy.



Matthew's Gospel was written for a Jewish public, and his account of Wise Men 'from the east' bringing gifts to honour the child whose 'star' they had seen rise realizes Isaiah's words to the Chosen People: 'The nations will come to your light and kings to your dawning brightness' (60:3 NJB).

A sixth-century mosaic in the church of Sant'Apollinare Nuovo at Ravenna suggests this inter-cultural message, showing the Magi clothed in garments that would have looked exotic to a Western audience, wearing 'Phrygian' (Anatolian) caps, and advancing with their gifts among palm trees. The mosaic, which gives the Wise Men's traditional names—Balthasar, Melchior, Gaspar—, is part of a larger programme, and visitors to Sant'Apollinare see the Magi approaching figures of Mary and the baby Jesus, in reference to Matthew's statement that, when the star they followed halted, they finally saw the Child and his mother (Matthew 2:10–11).



Behind the Magi in the Ravenna mosaic, we see a procession of female martyrs who also advance toward Christ. These evoke a further meaning attributed to this event by Christian theologians. One of the gifts brought by the Magi, myrrh, was an unguent used to embalm the dead, and Christ's manifestation to all nations was thus seen to include the mystery of his death: an interpretation legitimated by Matthew's insistence on King Herod's attempt to eliminate the baby Jesus, killing all infants of the same age (Matthew 2:13–16). The women martyrs following the Magi in the mosaic had shared Christ's death.

## Commentary source

Timothy Verdon. 2022. 'The Nations Will Come to Your Light', in *The Visual Commentary on Scripture* ed. by Ben Quash. (London: The Visual Commentary on Scripture Foundation). [Accessed 3.1.2026]  
<https://thevcs.org/adoration-magi#nations-will-come-your-light>