

## EPIPHANY HOME BLESSING CEREMONY

*The manger is regally decorated, containing the enthroned Christ Child. All gather around the manger while the visiting priest leads the prayers. If there is no priest present, the father of the family leads:*

**P:** Peace be with this house and with all who live here.

**All:** **And with your spirit.**

### A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke 19:1-9:

**P:** Jesus came to Jericho and intended to pass through the town. Now a man there named Zacchaeus, who was a chief tax collector and also a wealthy man, was seeking to see who Jesus was; but he could not see him because of the crowd, for he was short in stature. So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree in order to see Jesus, who was about to pass that way. When he reached the place, Jesus looked up and said to him, “Zacchaeus, come down quickly, for today I must stay at your house.” And he came down quickly and received him with joy. When they all saw this, they began to grumble, saying, “He has gone to stay at the house of a sinner.” But Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord, “Behold, half of my possessions, Lord, I shall give to the poor, and if I have extorted anything from anyone I shall repay it four times over.” And Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house because this man too is a descendant of Abraham.”

### BLESSING OF CHALK (Optional)

**P:** Bless, ✠ O Lord God, this creature, chalk, and let it be a help to mankind. Grant that those who will use it with faith in your most holy name, and with it inscribe on the doors of their homes the names of your saints, Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar, may through their merits and intercession enjoy health in body and protection of soul; through Christ our Lord.

**All:** **Amen.**

## HOUSE BLESSING

**P:** Let us pray. O Lord, Almighty God, bless this house ✠ that it may become a shelter of health, chastity, self-conquest, humility, goodness, mildness, obedience to the commandments, and thanksgiving to God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Upon this house and those who dwell herein may Your blessing remain forever, through Christ our Lord.

**All:** **Amen.**

### OR

**P:** Let us pray. Lord God of heaven and earth, you revealed your only-begotten Son to every nation by the guidance of a star. Bless this house ✠ and all who inhabit it. Fill them with the light of Christ, that their concern for others may reflect your love. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**All:** **Amen.**

## INSCRIPTION

*The father of the family and the three “kings” take blessed chalk (one piece each) and proceed to the front door, accompanied by the priest. While all look on, the father reads the corresponding words as the kings inscribe their initials onto the lintel. (The initials **CMB** also stand for *Christus mansionem benedicat: May Christ bless this house.*)*

**Final inscription on lintel should read: 2 0 + C + M + B + 2 3**

“The three wise men,

Caspar, [Caspar inscribes ‘C’ on lintel] C

Melchior, [Melchior inscribes ‘M’] M

and Balthasar [Balthasar inscribes ‘B’] B

followed the star of God’s Son who became man

two thousand [The father inscribes the ‘2 0’ on left] 2 0

twenty-three years ago. [The father inscribes ‘2 3’ on right] 2 3

“May Christ bless our dwelling, [The father places + after ‘2 0’] +

and remain with us throughout the new year, [+ after ‘C’] +

and grant that our comings and goings [+ after ‘M’] +

will be in search of truth [+ after ‘B’] +

## SPRINKLING OF HOLY WATER

*The father and the "Three Kings" now accompany the priest as he blesses the house with holy water. During the sprinkling the minister may say, "Let this water call to mind our baptism in Christ, who by his death and resurrection has redeemed us."*

### **SONG: We Three Kings of Orient Are:**

We three Kings of Orient are; bearing gifts we traverse afar  
Field and fountain, moor and mountain following yonder star.

*Refrain: O star of wonder, star of night,  
Star with royal beauty bright  
Westward leading still proceeding,  
Guide us to thy perfect light.*

Born a babe on Bethlehem's plain, Gold I bring to crown Him again  
King forever, ceasing never Over us all to reign. **Refrain.**

Frankincense to offer have I; Incense owns a Deity nigh  
Pray'r and praising, all men raising, Worship him God most high. **Refrain**

Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume Breathes a life of gathering gloom;  
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying, Sealed in the stone-cold tomb. **Refrain**

Glorious now, behold Him arise, King and God sacrifice!  
Alleluia, Alleluia Earth to Heav'n replies. **Refrain.**

## FINAL BLESSING

**P:** May Christ Jesus dwell with you, keep you from all harm, and make you one in mind and heart, now and for ever.

**All: Amen.**

**P:** And may almighty God bless you all, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

**All: Amen.**

**OR**

**Father:** May Christ dwell with us, keep us from all harm, and make us one in mind and heart, now and for ever.

**All: Amen.**



*Epiphany 2023  
Home Blessing Ceremony*