

Epiphany/Extraction of St. Francis's Spirit

Opening Song: "The First Nowell"

1. The first Nowell, the angel did say,
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep,
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Refrain: Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
Born is the king of Israel.

2. They looked up and saw a star,
Shining in the east beyond them far;
And to the earth it gave great light,
And so it continued both day and night. **Refrain.**

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. **Refrain.**

4. This star drew night to the northwest,
O'er Bethlehem it took its rest,
And there it did both stop and stay,
Right over the place where Jesus lay. **Refrain.**

5. Then entered in those wise men three,
Full rev'rently upon the knee,
And offered there, in his presence,
Their gold and myrrh and frankincense. **Refrain.**

6. Then let us all with one accord
Sing praises to our heav'nly Lord;
Who with the Father we adore
And Spirit blest forevermore. **Refrain.**



Leader: Let us pray:

Father of light, unchanging God,
Today you reveal to people of faith
The resplendent fact of the Word made flesh.
Your light is strong,
Your love is near.
Draw us beyond the limits that this world imposes,
To the life where our Spirit makes all life complete.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah (61:1-3):

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me,
because the Lord has anointed me;
He has sent me to bring glad tidings to the lowly,
to heal the brokenhearted.

To proclaim liberty to the captives
and release to the prisoners.

To announce a year of favor from the Lord
and a day of vindication by our God,
to comfort all who mourn;

To place on those who mourn in Zion
a diadem instead of ashes,
To give them oil of gladness in place of mourning,
a glorious mantle instead of a listless spirit.

They will be called oaks of justice,
planted by the Lord to show his glory.

Silent reflection on the painting, followed by discussion of the questions.

A Salutation of the Virtues

(We take turns reading the virtues)

Hail, Queen Wisdom, May the Lord protect You
with Your Sister, holy pure Simplicity!

Lady holy Poverty, may the Lord protect You,
With Your Sister, holy Humility!

Lady, holy Charity, may the Lord protect You
with Your Sister, holy Obedience.

Most holy Virtues, may the Lord protect all of You
from Whom You come and proceed.

There is surely no one in the entire world
who can possess any one of You without dying first.

Whoever possesses one and does not offend the others
possesses all.

Whoever offends one does not possess any
and offends all.

And each one confounds vice and sin.

Holy Wisdom confounds
Satan and all his cunning.

Pure holy Simplicity confounds all the wisdom of this world
and the wisdom of the body.

Holy Poverty confounds the desire of riches, greed,
and the cares of this world.

Holy Humility confounds pride,
all people who are in the world and all that is in the world.

Holy Charity confounds every diabolical and carnal temptation
and every carnal fear.

Holy Obedience confounds every corporal and carnal wish,
binds its mortified body to obedience of the Spirit
and obedience to one's brother,

so that it is subject and submissive
to everyone in the world, not only to people
but to every beast and wild animal as well
that they may do what they want with it —
insofar as it has been given to them from above by the Lord.

Leader: Let us pray:

Almighty and everlasting God,
We celebrate the day when your Word was made flesh
For all the world to see.
In becoming one with our human family
He sanctified human activity and made us holy
Through his life-giving Word.

Through the ages, his message has continued to
Touch the hearts of men and women of every place,
Taking flesh in our lives through their Christian service.

Be with us today, Lord our God, as we choose one of these saints
as our patron for this new year.
With the help of your Holy Spirit, may the saint given us today
Inspire us to exercise Christian virtue
And to follow your Son more closely as we pray for each other
In our Franciscan family. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 100):

Leader: Shout joyfully to the Lord, all you lands;
worship the Lord with cries of gladness;
Come before him with joyful song.

Response (All): Let all the earth cry out to God with joy.

Leader: Know that the Lord is God,
our maker to whom we belong,
whose people we are, God's well-tended flock.

Response (All): Let all the earth cry out to God with joy.

Leader: Enter the temple gates with praise,
its courts with thanksgiving.
Give thanks to God, bless his name.

Response (All): Let all the earth cry out to God with joy.

Leader: Good indeed is the Lord,
Whose love endures forever,
whose faithfulness lasts through every age.

Response (All): Let all the earth cry out to God with joy.

Leader: Let us pray:

All: Almighty, eternal God
You were pleased to make your Church illustrious
through the varied splendor of the saints of the Seraphic Order.
As we venerate their memory,
may we also follow such shining examples of virtue on earth
and be faithful followers of Francis.
We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, forever and ever. Amen.

Closing Hymn: “We Three Kings”

1. We three kings of Orient are;
Bearing gifts we traverse afar
Field and found, 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 the 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. **Refrain**

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

3. Frankincense to offer have I;
Incense owns a Deity night;
Pray'r and praising, Gladly raising,
Worship him God on high. **Refrain**
4. Myrrh is mine, it's bitter perfume
Breathes a life of gathering gloom;
Sorrowing, sighing, Bleeding, dying,
Sealed in the stone-cold tomb. **Refrain**

5. Glorious now, behold him arise,
King and God and Sacrifice;
"Alleluia, Alleluia!"
Sounds through the earth and skies. **Refrain**

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

Extraction of St. Francis's Spirit

In this service, we maintain prayerful silence as each member draws the following:

- ❖ a card with a fraternity member's name, the name of a Franciscan saint or blessed, name of deceased fraternity member;
- ❖ a virtue,
- ❖ a scripture passage,
- ❖ words of St. Francis

Trust is placed in the Holy Spirit for appropriate selections; if not immediately clear what the selections mean to you, they will become clear at some point.

During this year, internalize the virtue, Scripture passage, and Francis's words, and seek the intercession of the chosen saint or blessed.

