

EPIPHANY

# KING *of* KINGS



WORSHIP KIT

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# KING *of* KINGS

## EPIPHANY

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# KING *of* KINGS

EPIPHANY

## Notes and Ordering Information

In “King of Kings,” a worship service for Epiphany, we gather to praise Jesus our Lord, a king unlike any other king. Hymns, Scripture readings, a children’s message and a sermon help us to bow before the King of kings. Hymns include “As With Gladness Men of Old,” “Crown Him with Many Crowns” and “Brightest and Best.”

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### Complete Script For Worship Leaders

- If desired, an **Environmental Projection** is shown on a screen or on the walls of your worship space to set the tone for the service before the service begins or throughout the service at various points:

<https://www.shutterstock.com/image-vector/epiphany-christian-festival-772093291?src=9QyZ86B--xV5GFgo7uaS3Q-1-14>

- The **Theme Verse** is spoken aloud by the pastor to begin the service or is read silently by the congregation before the start of the service:

*“Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.” Matthew 2:2*

- The **Opening Hymn** is sung by the congregation to the tune Dix 77 77 77, or a selection from the contemporary music song suggestions list at the end of the music guide for this service can be sung instead:

As with gladness men of old  
Did the guiding star behold;  
As with joy they hailed its light,  
Leading onward, beaming bright;  
So, most gracious Lord, may we  
Evermore be led by thee.

As they offered gifts most rare  
At thy cradle, rude and bare,  
So may we with holy joy,  
Pure and free from sin's alloy,  
All our costliest treasures bring,  
Christ, to thee, our heav'nly King.

Holy Jesus, ev'ry day  
Keep us in the narrow way;  
And when earthly things are past,  
Bring our ransomed souls at last  
Where they need no star to guide,  
Where no clouds thy glory hide.

In the heav'nly country bright  
Need they no created light,  
Thou its light, its joy, its crown,  
Thou its sun which goes not down,  
There forever may we sing  
Alleluias to our King.

- The **Invocation and Responsive Reading** is spoken responsively by the pastor and the congregation:

**P** In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

**P** A star shall come out of Jacob,

**C** **And a scepter shall rise out of Israel.** (*Numbers 24:17*)

**P** The LORD will arise upon you,

**C** **And his glory will be seen upon you.**

**P** And nations shall come to your light,

**C** **And kings to the brightness of your rising.**

**P** They shall bring gold and frankincense,

**C** **And shall bring good news, the praises of the LORD.** (*Isaiah 60:2-3*)

☐ Where is he who has been born king of the Jews?

☑ **For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.** *(Matthew 1:2)*

- The **Confession and Absolution** is spoken responsively by the pastor and the congregation:

☐ As we come before our King, let us confess our sins and ask his forgiveness.

☑ **Almighty God, we worship you as our King, but we do not always live in obedience to you or acknowledge your reign in our lives. We have sinned against you in our thoughts, words and actions. We listen to the tempting voices of the world around us and follow our own sinful desires instead of following you, our King. Have mercy on us and forgive us.**

☐ God has had mercy on us. He sent his Son to be our Savior. Jesus took our sins onto himself and carried them to the cross. There he suffered the penalty of death in our place, and rose up from death to win the victory over sin, death and the devil. I announce to you that your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

☑ **To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.**

- The **Prayer of the Day** is spoken by the pastor:

☐ Lord Jesus, our King, as the wise men once offered gifts to you, so we offer to you the gifts you have given to us, our time, talents and treasure. Use our gifts and our witness in your service to advance your kingdom so that through the proclamation of the Gospel others will come to know and worship you, as the wise men did and as we do now, as King of kings and Lord of lords. Amen.

- The **Hymn** is sung by the congregation to the tune Morning Star 11 10 11 10, or a selection from the contemporary music song suggestions list at the end of the music guide for this service can be sung instead:

Brightest and best of the stars of the morning,  
Dawn on our darkness and lend us thine aid;  
Star of the east, the horizon adorning,  
Guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.

- The **Children’s Message** is delivered by the pastor or other worship leader:

*Needed: a picture of a palace or castle*

- Ⓟ Where would you go to find a king? Where do kings live? (*Show the picture of the palace.*)  
This is a palace, a very fancy kind of house. Kings usually live in castles or palaces, with many rooms and many servants and soldiers.

When Jesus was born, wise men who studied the stars traveled a long distance to find him. They knew that Jesus was the new king of Israel and they wanted to give gifts to him. Since they were looking for a king, the wise men first went to a palace. They went to the city of Jerusalem, to the king’s palace. They asked, “Where is the new king of the Jews?” The wise men found out that Jesus was not in the palace, and he wasn’t even in Jerusalem. Scholars looked in the Bible, in the Old Testament, and found the verse that said the new king would be born in Bethlehem. So the wise men traveled on to Bethlehem. The star they followed led them to Jesus. They went into a house, and there was Jesus with his mother Mary. The wise men worshiped Jesus the King and gave him expensive gifts.

Baby Jesus didn’t live in a palace. He was born in a stable and slept in a manger. Jesus was a humble king. He didn’t have an army of soldiers or servants to wait on him. Jesus came to serve and help people, because that is the kind of king he is. Jesus didn’t wear a golden crown. He wore a crown of thorns when he died on the cross for us so our sins could be forgiven. He rose from the dead and rules over us as our King, as the King of kings. The wise men found the King in Bethlehem. Where do we find Jesus our King today? We don’t have to look in Bethlehem or Jerusalem or in a palace or a castle. Jesus our King promised, “I am with you always.” Jesus is with us here today, right now. Wherever you are, that is where you will find Jesus your King. Let’s pray.

Jesus, you are the King of kings. You are our King. Watch over us and take care of us always. Amen.

- The **Hymn** is sung by the congregation to the tune Morning Star 11 10 11 10, or a selection from the contemporary music song suggestions list at the end of the music guide for this service can be sung instead:

Shall we not yield him, in costly devotion,  
Fragrance of Edom and off’rings divine,  
Gems of the mountains and pearls of the ocean,  
Myrrh from the forest and gold from the mine?

Brightest and best of the stars of the morning,  
Dawn on our darkness and lend us thine aid;  
Star of the east, the horizon adorning,  
Guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.

- The **Old Testament Lesson**, Isaiah 60:1-6, is spoken by the pastor or other worship leader:

Ⓟ Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you. And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising. Lift up your eyes all around, and see; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from afar, and your daughters shall be carried on the hip. Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and exult, because the abundance of the sea shall be turned 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 bring good news, the praises of the Lord.

- The **Epistle Lesson**, Revelation 1:4-8, is spoken by the pastor or other worship leader:

Ⓟ John to the seven churches that are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, and from Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth. To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood and made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. Behold, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him, and all tribes of the earth will wail on account of him. Even so. Amen. "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty."

- The **Gospel Lesson**, Matthew 2:1-12, is spoken by the pastor or other worship leader:

Ⓟ Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him." When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet: "'And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.'" Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him." After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly



with great joy. And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

- The **Sermon Hymn** is sung by the congregation to the tune *Wo Gott Zum Haus* LM, or a selection from the contemporary music song suggestions list at the end of the music guide for this service can be sung instead:

The star proclaims the King is here;  
But, Herod, why this senseless fear?  
For he who offers heav'nly birth  
Seeks not the kingdoms of this earth.

The eastern sages saw from far  
And followed on his guiding star;  
And, led by light, to light they trod  
And by their gifts confessed their God.

- The **Sermon: “King of Kings”** is delivered by the pastor:

¶ Bahrain, Jordan, Sweden, Norway, the Netherlands, Saudi Arabia, Morocco—what do these modern nations have in common? They may or may not have been in recent news, but all of these countries have monarchs. Kings rule in these nations, kings most likely descended from a line of kings. Some of these modern kings are honored and respected by their people and their government, but they do not have absolute power. They are constitutional monarchs and much of their power is symbolic; in their countries elected officials run the government and make the laws. Other kings do have ruling power and absolute authority over their subjects. Their word is law. Some powerful monarchs have been tyrants who crush not only their enemies but their subjects as well. Such tyrants may try to seize control in other nations, starting wars as they seek to dominate the world and causing other countries to rise up against them. Other monarchs use their authority for the good of their subjects, caring for their people and protecting them.

We know that Jesus is our King, but we may not really have any experience living under a monarch's rule. Based on our day-to-day experience with an earthly government and elected officials, we don't know what it is like to have a king. But perhaps that is not such a bad thing, because our king is not like any earthly king. In stories and fairy tales, a king sometimes lays aside his royal robes and dresses in rags to visit his people, to walk among them and see how they live. Jesus our King came to live and walk among us, but it was not a one-day visit with his subjects.