
EPIPHANY HOME BLESSING

2021



CREATED BY LISA WORK

EPIPHANY HOME BLESSING

WHERE IS THE
NEWBORN
KING OF THE
JEWS? WE
SAW HIS STAR
AT ITS RISING
AND HAVE
COME TO DO
HIM HOMAGE."

MATTHEW 2:2

Epiphany (also known as Twelfth Night, Theophany, or Three Kings Day) marks the occasion of a time-honored Christian tradition "chalking the doors." After Jesus' birth in Bethlehem, the Holy Family was visited by three Magi from the east. They came to worship Christ and bring him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. The Feast of Epiphany is celebrated on the 12th Day of Christmas, January 6th, but in the United States is moved to the Sunday between January 2nd-8th.

The chalking of the doors is a centuries-old practice throughout the world, though it appears to be somewhat less well-known in the United States. It is, however, an easy tradition to adopt, and a great practice whereby we dedicate our year to God from its very outset, asking His blessing on our homes and on all who live, work, or visit them there. "Chalking the door" is a way to celebrate and physically mark the occasion of the Epiphany and God's blessing of our lives and home. With time the chalk will fade. As it does we let the meaning of the written symbols sink into the depths of our hearts and be manifest in our words and actions.

On Epiphany, it is traditional for families to bless their homes, remembering the hospitality of the Holy Family to the Wise Men and asking for protection and blessing on the home and all who enter.

Pray Together

Make the Sign of the Cross

Read Isaiah 60:1-6 (found on the next page)

V. God shall watch over your going out and your coming in.

R. From this time forth for evermore.

Let us pray.

O God of and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Light of the nations and the Glory of your people, bless all who dwell in this house.

May it be for them a place of peace and health, that we may rejoice in the gifts and graces you have bestowed upon us.

Fill us with the light of Christ, that our concern for others may reflect your love. Amen

Chalk the door or door frame with 20 + C + M + B + 21

Pray this prayer:

Loving God, bless this chalk which you have created, that it may be helpful to your people; and grant that through the invocation of your most Holy Name that we who use it in faith to write upon the door of our home the names of your holy ones Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar, may receive health of body and protection of soul for all who dwell in or visit our home; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Sing (or listen to) one of the Epiphany songs (found on the next page).

Make the Sign of the Cross

The home blessing is done by writing on the door or door frame with chalk the symbols 20+C+M+B+21. The 20 and 21 represent the current year. The + reminds us of the cross on which our Savior died. The C, M, and B stand for the traditional names of the Wise Men, Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar, as well as an abbreviation for the Latin phrase. "Christus mansionem benedicat" which means "Christ bless this house." Writing on the door also brings to mind the Passover of the Jews during the final plague in Exodus, when the blood of the lamb protected the inhabitants within.

Isaiah 60:1-6

60 Arise, shine; for your light has come,
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

2 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.

3 Nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

4 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.

5 Then you shall see and be radiant;
your heart shall thrill and rejoice,^[a]
because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you,
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.

6 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.

Songs for Epiphany

Come All Ye Faithful

1 O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem.
Come and behold him, born the king of angels.

Refrain:

O come let us adore him, O come let us adore him, O come let us
adore him, Christ the Lord.

2 True God of true God, Light of light eternal,
our lowly nature he hath not abhorred;
born of a woman, here in flesh appearing.
[Refrain]

3 Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above:
"Glory to God, all glory in the highest!" [Refrain]

4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning,
Jesus, to thee be all glory giv'n;
Word of the Father, begotten, not created.
[Refrain]

God Rest Ye, Merry Gentlemen

1 God rest you merry, gentlemen,
let nothing you dismay,
remember Christ our Savior was born on Christmas day,
to save us all from Satan's pow'r
when we were gone astray;

Refrain:

O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,
O tidings of comfort and joy.

2 From God our heav'nly Father,
a blessed angel came;
and unto certain shepherds brought tidings of the same:
how that in Bethlehem was born the son of God by name, [Refrain]

3 "Fear not, then," said the angel, "let nothing you affright;
this day is born a Savior of a pure virgin bright,
to free all those who trust in him from Satan's pow'r and might." [Refrain]

4 The shepherds at those tidings rejoiced much in mind, and left their flocks a-
feeding,
in tempest, storm, and wind, and went to Bethlehem straightway, the Son of God to
find.
[Refrain]