

# 151 We Three Kings of Orient Are

1 We three kings of O - ri - ent are; bear - ing gifts we tra - verse a - far,  
 2 Born a King on Beth - le - hem's plain, gold I bring to crown him a - gain,  
 3 Frank - in - cense to of - fer have I; in - cense owns a de - i - ty night;  
 4 Myrrh is mine; its bit - ter per - fume breathes a life of gath - er - ing gloom;  
 5 Glo - rious now be - hold him a - rise, King and God and Sac - ri - fice:

field and foun - tain, moor and moun - tain, fol - low - ing yon - der star.  
 King for - ev - er, ceas - ing nev - er o - ver us all to reign.  
 prayer and prais - ing glad - ly rais - ing, wor - ship - ing God Most High.  
 sor - rowing, sigh - ing, bleed - ing, dy - ing, sealed in the stone - cold tomb.  
 Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! sounds through the earth and skies.

*Refrain*

O star of won - der, star of night, star with roy - al beau - ty bright,

west - ward lead - ing, still pro - ceed - ing, guide us to thy per - fect light!

Although Christians had begun by the 2nd century to speak of these visitors from eastern countries (Matthew 2:1–12) as “kings,” perhaps because of passages like Psalm 72:10 and Isaiah 60:3, it is more accurate to think of them as magi or astrologers, the scholars of their day.

## Sing of God Made Manifest 156

1 Sing of God made man - i - fest in a child ro - bust and blest,  
 2 Sing of God made man - i - fest when at Jor - dan John con - fessed,  
 3 Sing of God made man - i - fest when Christ came as wed - ding guest  
 4 Sing of God made man - i - fest on the cloud - capped moun - tain's crest,

to whose home in Beth - le - hem where a star had guid - ed them,  
 "I should be bap - tized by you, but your bid - ding I will do."  
 and at Ca - na gave a sign, turn - ing wa - ter in - to wine;  
 where the law and proph - ets waned so that Christ a - lone re - mained:

ma - gi came and gifts un - bound, signs mys - te - rious and pro - found:  
 Then from heaven a dou - ble sign—dove - like Spir - it, voice di - vine—  
 fur - ther still was love re - vealed as he taught, for - gave, and healed,  
 glimpse of glo - ry, pledge of grace, given as Je - sus set his face

myrrh and frank - in - cense and gold grave and God and king fore - told.  
 hailed the true A - noint - ed One: "This is my be - lov - ed Son."  
 bring - ing light and life to all who would lis - ten to God's call.  
 towards the wait - ing cross and grave, sign of hope that God would save.

"Epiphany" means "manifestation" or "showing forth," and this text cites key disclosures of Jesus as Messiah: the coming of the Magi, his baptism by John the Baptist, the wedding at Cana. All are summed up in the Transfiguration, recalled on the Last Sunday after the Epiphany.