

# Follow the Star with Elizabeth Ann Seton January

**Call to Prayer: Leader:** "... alas where is my star?"

*Collected Writings: Volume 1 Elizabeth Ann Seton 3.31 Journal to Amabilia Filicchi January 1805, pages 372-73*

**ALL: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

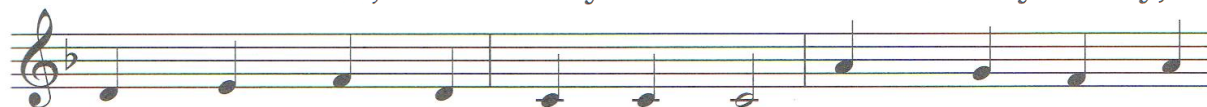
**HYMN: As with Gladness Men of Old**



1. As with glad - ness men of old Did the guid - ing  
2. As with joy - ful steps they sped To that low - ly  
3. As they of - fered gifts most rare At that man - ger



star be - hold; As with joy they hailed its light,  
man - ger bed; There to bend the knee be - fore  
crude and bare; So may we this ho - ly day,



Lead - ing on - ward, beam - ing bright; So most gra - cious  
Christ whom heav'n and earth a - dore; So may we with  
Drawn to You with - out de - lay, All our cost - liest



Lord, may we Ev - er - more Your splen - dor see.  
hur - ried pace Run to seek Your throne of grace.  
treas - ures bring, Christ, to You, our heav'n - ly King.

Text: 77 77 77; William C. Dix, 1837-1898, alt.

Music: Conrad Kocher, 1786-1872, adapt. William H. Monk, 1823-1889 Used with permission, license #5393

**Antiphon: All: That star, like a flame of fire, pointed the way to God;  
the Magi saw the star and brought their gifts in homage.**

**All: Praise our Savior, all you nations.**

I. Christ manifested in the flesh; Christ justified by the Spirit.

**All: Praise our Savior, all you nations.**

II. Christ seen by the angels; Christ proclaimed by unbelievers.

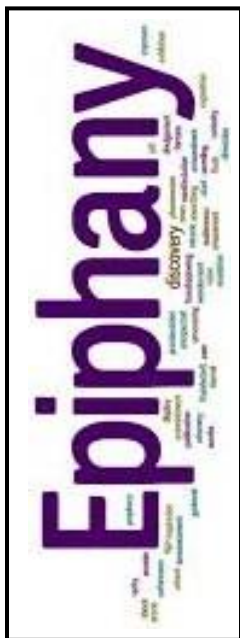
**All: Praise our Savior, all you nations.**

**Christ believed in by the world; Christ taken up in glory.**

(I Timothy 3: 16, Revised Standard version of Bible)

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was  
in the beginning, is now and ever shall be world without end. Amen.**

**Antiphon: All: That star, like a flame of fire, pointed the way to God;  
the Magi saw the star and brought their gifts in homage.**



**Reading: Leader:** On the Epiphany, 1815, remembering her experience *before* making her profession of faith as a Catholic on March 14, 1805, Elizabeth Ann wrote:

**Reader:** “this day of manifestation -- how many melting remembrances, when in 1805, alone with God, in so singular manner, as to take the desperate resolution to remain ‘til the moment of death of no religion at all since I could not find out the right one -- with what ardor and firmness, I would stretch out arms to him and cry: I will hold to you in life and in death and hope and trust to the last breath --“

**Leader:** Now, back in the present, she continues:

**Reader:** “then on this very Epiphany day, ... I open the festival and on the words ‘O you who have lost the Star of Faith’ -- then the torrents of distress and anguish overwhelming again ...”

**Leader:** Later, after receiving Communion, in humility, she prays:

**Reader:** “Now my God, O God, immense God, will your atom<sup>3</sup> ever forget this Epiphany 1815 -- the gratitude of a thousand years ... would be little after it --

“My Jesus, Our Jesus, My God -- Your lifted chalice alone can thank ... -- there the point of points.”

<sup>3</sup> In 1803 John Dalton (1766-1844) first proposed the atomic theory. Elizabeth may have used this term, “atom,” to indicate her smallness or sense of humility.

(Collected Writings: Volume 2 Elizabeth Ann Seton\_ 6.181 To Rev. Simon Brute, S.S., [January 6, 1815]. pages 295-96  
Some punctuation and current spelling added.)

**Response: All: May the star of Bethlehem, the star of faith, shine brightly on all of us.**

**Reflection and Sharing:**

Who or what has been a “star of faith” in my life?

How does Jesus’ gift of Self in His birth, life and death impact me as a Lady of Charity?



**Closing Prayer:**

**All: O God, who revealed Your Only Begotten Son to the nations  
by the guidance of a star, grant in your mercy  
that we, who know You already by faith,  
may be brought to behold the beauty of Your sublime glory.  
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son,  
who lives and reigns with You  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.**

(sdapted from Roman Missal 2011, The Epiphany of the Lord, page 50)

**Leader:** May God, who has called you out of darkness into his wonderful light,  
pour out in kindness His blessing upon you  
and make you firm in faith, hope and charity.

**All: Amen.**

(sdapted from Roman Missal 2011, The Epiphany of the Lord, page 528)

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**Prayer Texts**

**Matthew 2: 2** “Where is the newborn King ...? We observed his star ...”  
**Chronicles 29: 11-13** “In Your hand are power and might ...”