

Prayers for Epiphany

The Gathering

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit,
be with you all.

And also with you.

Your light springs up for the righteous
and all the people have seen your glory.

Blessed are our, Sovereign God,
ruler of the nations,
to you be praise and glory for ever.
From the rising of the sun to its setting
your name is proclaimed in all the world.
As the Sun of Righteousness dawns in our hearts
anoint our lips with the seal of your Spirit
that we may witness to your gospel
and sing your praise in all the earth.
Blessed be God, Source, Word, and Spirit.
Blessed be God for ever.

Cry out with joy to the Lord, all the earth;
worship with gladness,
and enter the Lord's presence with songs of joy.

**Know that the Lord is God, •
our maker, whose people we are,
the flock which the Lord our God shepherds.**

Enter the gates of the temple with thanksgiving,
and go into its courts with praise; •
give thanks, and bless God's holy name.

**For the Lord is a gracious God, whose mercy is everlasting: •
and whose faithfulness endures from generation to generation.**

The night has passed, and the day lies open before us;
let us pray with one heart and mind.

As we rejoice in the gift of this new day,
so may the light of your presence, O God,
set our hearts on fire with love for you;
now and for ever.

Amen.

The Psalm

¹ Give the king your justice, O God, •
and your righteousness to a king's son,
² that he may judge your people rightly, •
and uphold the poor with justice.

³ **Let the mountains bring forth peace for the people, •
and the hills prosperity with justice.**

**⁴ May the king defend the cause of the poor among the people; •
save the children of the needy and crush the oppressor.**

**⁵ May he live as long as the sun endures, •
as long as the moon from age to age.**

**⁶ May he come down like rain upon the grass, •
like showers that water the earth.**

**⁷ In his days may righteousness flourish, •
and abundance of peace till the moon is no more.**

**¹⁰ May the kings of Tarshish and of the isles pay tribute, •
the kings of Sheba and Seba bring their gifts.**

**¹¹ May all kings fall prostrate before him, •
and all nations render him service.**

**¹² He shall deliver the needy when they cry, •
and those living in poverty who have no helper.**

**¹³ He shall have pity on the weak and the needy, •
and save the lives of those in poverty.**

**¹⁴ He shall rescue them from oppression and violence, •
and their blood shall be precious in his sight.**

Psalm 72.1—7, 10—14

**Glory to God: Source, Word, and Spirit,
As it was in the beginning, is now, and shall be for ever.
Amen.**

The First Reading

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

Arise, shine; for your light has come,
and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.
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.
Nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

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.
Then you shall see and be radiant;
your heart shall thrill and rejoice,
because the abundance of the sea shall be brought 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 proclaim the praise of the LORD.

Isaiah 60.1—6

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

The Responsory

O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness;
let the whole earth tremble before you, O Lord.

Tell it out among the nations that the Lord is King.
O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.

Tell out God's salvation from day to day.
let the whole earth tremble before you, O Lord.

Declare God's glory among the nations
and God's wonders among all peoples.
O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness;
let the whole earth tremble before you, O Lord.

The Gospel

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

The holy gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Saint Matthew.

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, ‘Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.’

When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, ‘In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

“And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel.””

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, ‘Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.’

When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house,

they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Matthew 2.1—12

The gospel of Christ.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

The Reflection

The Hymn of the Day

As with Gladness Men of Old

**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 with joyful steps they sped, Saviour, to thy lowly bed,
there to bend the knee before thee, whom heaven and earth adore;
so may we with willing feet ever seek thy mercy seat.**

**As they offered gifts most rare at that cradle, rude and bare,
so may we with joyful song, raising voices pure and strong,
all our costliest treasures bring, Christ, to thee, our heavenly King.**

**In the heavenly 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 Prayers

Joining our voices with the song of the angels,
let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

God of wanderers, you sent the magi from afar to witness the
mystery and majesty of your birth. Send us into the world with your
will in our hearts and on our lips.

Merciful God,

hear our prayer.

You created heaven and earth. Through your Spirit send your all-
encompassing love over the cosmos. Bless the stars that guide our
way and the night sky that invites the earth into slumber.

Merciful God,

hear our prayer.

You sent the magi to follow the star into an uncertain future. May all
leaders and peoples seek your face, especially when paths are not
clear, conflicts rage, tyrants oppress, and fear abounds.

Merciful God,

hear our prayer.

You sent your Spirit to dwell with Paul in prison. Send your Spirit to
those who are imprisoned and enslaved (especially). Give courage
and wisdom for building roads that lead to justice and freedom.

Merciful God,

hear our prayer.

You bring your healing power to all who seek love, support, and
restoration. Dispel fears and shadows. Restore broken relationships

and mend broken hearts. Bring relief to those who are sick or struggling.

(we pause as we remember and name to God all those who rise in our hearts)

Merciful God,
hear our prayer.

You sent the holy family to seek safety in a new land. Protect all who make similar journeys. Send your guiding Spirit to asylum seekers, refugees, and all who journey toward safety.

Merciful God,
hear our prayer.

Your glory is shown to the saints. We give thanks for those whose earthly journey has ended and now dwell with you forever. Give us signs of your continual presence until that day when we arise in you.

Merciful God,
hear our prayer.

Rejoicing in your Word made flesh among us, we commend these prayers to you, confident of your grace and love made known to us in Jesus Christ, our Saviour, who teaches us to pray:

**Our Father
in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily
bread.**

**Our Father,
who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,**

**Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin
against us.
Save us from the time of
trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever.
Amen.**

**as we forgive those who trespass
against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.**

The Collect

O God of light and peace,
whose glory, shining in the child of Bethlehem,
still draws the nations to yourself:
dispel the darkness that shrouds our path,
that we may come to kneel before Christ in true worship,
offer him our hearts and souls,
and return from his presence to live as he has taught;
through the same Jesus the Christ,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

The Blessing

May the wonder of the shepherds,
the generosity of the wise men,
and the compassion of Mary,
be in us and flow from us, this Christmas and always.
And the blessing...

The Dismissal

Let us bless the Lord.
Thanks be to God.