

# Epiphany



Sunday, January 3, 2020

## Morning Prayer for Epiphany

*Awake, Arise: O Sing a New Song CP 311*

*Awake, arise: O sing a new song of joy and celebration.  
A new day has come; bring praise to the Son of God, of God.*

Blessed are you, David's heir, born to rule,  
**you received gifts from the magi.**

Blessed are you, Son of Man, baptized by John,  
**you saved us from ourselves.**

Blessed are you, Servant Lord, teaching and preaching, healing and comforting,  
**you proclaimed God's gracious reign.**

With all the voices of heaven and earth, we celebrate your epiphany.  
**Let heaven and earth shout their praise.**

Blessed be God: Source of all being, eternal Word and Holy Spirit.  
**Blessed be God for ever.**

*Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14*

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CANON May the Ho - ly One guard and guide all ru - lers. lers.

Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to the king's son;  
**that he may rule your people righteously and the poor with justice;**  
that the mountains may bring prosperity to the people,  
**and the little hills bring righteousness.**

He shall defend the needy among the people, rescuing the poor and crushing the oppressor.

**He shall live as long as the sun and moon endure, from one generation to another. R**

He shall come down like rain upon the mown field, like showers that water the earth.

**In his time shall the righteous flourish; there shall be abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.**

The rulers of Tarshish and of the isles shall pay tribute, and the rulers of Arabia and Saba offer gifts.

**All rulers shall bow down before him, and all the nations do him service.**

For he shall deliver the poor who cries out in distress and the oppressed who has no helper.

**He shall have pity on the lowly and poor and shall preserve the lives of the needy.**

He shall redeem their lives from oppression and violence,

**and dear shall their blood be in his sight. RR**

***Isaiah 60:1-6***

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.

Holy Word, Holy Wisdom. **Thanks be to God.**

O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness;

**let the whole earth tremble before God.**

Tell it out among the nations that the Lord is sovereign.

**O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.**

Tell out the salvation of God from day to day.

**Let the whole earth tremble before God.**

Declare the glory of the Holy One among the nations  
and the wonders of God among the peoples.

**O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness; let the whole earth tremble before God.**

### ***Ephesians 3:1-12***

This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles— for surely you have already heard of the commission of God’s grace that was given to me for you, and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: that is, the Gentiles have become fellow-heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God’s grace that was given to me by the working of his power. Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

Holy Word, Holy Wisdom. **Thanks be to God.**

### ***We Three Kings***

***We three kings of Orient are bearing gifts we traverse afar.  
Field and fountain, moor and mountain following yonder star.  
Oh, star of wonder, star of night star with royal beauty bright  
westward leading, still proceeding guide us to thy perfect light.***

***Born a king on Bethlehem's plain gold I bring to crown Him again.  
King forever, ceasing never over us all to reign  
Oh, star of wonder, star of night star with royal beauty bright  
westward leading, still proceeding guide us to thy perfect light.***

***Frankincense to offer have I, incense owns a Deity nigh.  
Prayer and praising, all men raising, worship Him, God most high.  
Oh, star of wonder, star of night star with royal beauty bright  
westward leading, still proceeding guide us to thy perfect light***

***Myrrh is mine, it's bitter perfume breaths a life of gathering gloom.  
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding dying sealed in the stone-cold tomb.  
Oh, star of wonder, star of night star with royal beauty bright  
westward leading, still proceeding guide us to thy perfect light***

*Glorious now behold Him arise, King and God and sacrifice,  
Alleluia, alleluia, Earth to heav'n replies.  
Oh, star of wonder, star of night star with royal beauty bright  
westward leading, still proceeding guide us to thy perfect light*

**Matthew 2:1-12**

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.

Holy Word, Holy Wisdom. **Thanks be to God.**

*sermon*

Arise, shine out, for your light has come, \*

**the glory of the Lord is rising upon you.**

Though night still covers the earth, \*

**and darkness the peoples;**

above you the Holy One arises, \*

**and above you God's glory appears.**

The nations will come to your light, \*

**and rulers to your dawning brightness.**

Your gates will lie open continually, \*

**shut neither by day nor by night.**

The sound of violence shall be heard no longer in your land, \*

**or ruin and devastation within your borders.**

You will call your walls, Salvation, \*

**and your gates, Praise.**

Nor will the sun give you daylight, \*  
**nor moonlight shine upon you;**  
but the Lord will be your everlasting light, \*  
**your God will be your splendour.**

For you shall be called the city of God, \*  
**the dwelling of the Holy One of Israel.**

Glory to God, Source of all being, eternal Word and Holy Spirit:  
**as it was in the beginning, is now and will be for ever. Amen.**

Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one.

**Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind,  
and with all your strength.**

This is the first and the great commandment. The second is like it:

**Love your neighbour as yourself.**

There is no commandment greater than these.

Let us pray.

Everlasting Light of creation, may your people in all the world worship in spirit and in truth.

**Holy One, shine upon us and hear us.**

May the church discover that unity which is your will.

**Holy One, shine upon us and hear us.**

May the nations of the earth seek after the ways that make for peace.

**Holy One, shine upon us and hear us.**

May the whole creation be set free to enjoy the glorious liberty of your children.

**Holy One, shine upon us and hear us.**

May all who with Christ have entered the shadow of death rest in peace and rise in glory.

**Holy One, shine upon us and hear us**

*Additional intercessions, petitions and thanksgivings may be offered in silence or aloud. Among these concerns it is appropriate to remember*

- *the unity of the church;*
- *the peace of the world;*
- *the healing of the sick;*
- *the revelation of Christ to those from whom his glory is hidden and*
- *all who travel.*

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, so 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. Amen.**

***Will You Come and See the Light VU 96***

***Will you come and see the light from the stable door?  
It is shining newly bright, though it shone before.  
It will be your guiding star, it will show you who you are;  
will you hide, or decide to meet the light?***

***Will you step into the light that can free the slave?  
It will stand for what is right, it will heal and save.  
by the pyramids of greed there's a longing to be freed;  
will you hide, or decide to meet the light?***

***Will you tell about the light in the prison cell?  
Though it's shackled out of sight, it is shining well.  
When the truth is cut and bruised, and the innocent abused,  
will you hide, or decide to meet the light?***

***Will you join the hope, alight in the young girl's eyes,  
of the mighty put to flight by a baby's cries?  
When the lowest and the least are the foremost at the feast,  
will you hide, or decide to meet the light?***

***Will you travel by the light of the babe new born?  
In the candle lit at night there's a gleam of dawn,  
and the darkness all about is too dim to put it out:  
will you hide, or decide to meet the light?***

**Let us pray: Creator of the heavens, who led the Magi by a star to worship the Christ-child:  
guide and sustain us, so that we may find our journey's end in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**Believing in the promises of God and gathering our prayers and praises into one,  
let us pray as our Saviour taught us,**

**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.**

**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.**

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God. May Christ, who sends us to the nations, give us the power of the Spirit.  
Amen.

*I Am the Light of the World VU 87*

*"I am the light of the world! You people come and follow me!"  
If you follow and love you'll learn the mystery of what you were meant to do and be.*

*When the song of the angels is stilled, when the star in the sky is gone,  
when the kings and the shepherds have found their way home,  
the work of Christmas is begun;*

*"I am the light of the world! You people come and follow me!"  
If you follow and love you'll learn the mystery of what you were meant to do and be.*

*To find the lost and lonely one, to heal the broken soul with love,  
to feed the hungry children with warmth and good food,  
to fee the earth below, the sky above!*

*"I am the light of the world! You people come and follow me!"  
If you follow and love you'll learn the mystery of what you were meant to do and be.*

*To fee the prisoner from all chains, to make the powerful care,  
to rebuild the nations with strength of good will,  
to see God's children everywhere!*

*"I am the light of the world! You people come and follow me!"  
If you follow and love you'll learn the mystery of what you were meant to do and be.*

*To bring hope to every task you do, to dance at a baby's new birth,  
to make music in an old person's heart, and sing to the colours of the earth!*

*"I am the light of the world! You people come and follow me!"  
If you follow and love you'll learn the mystery of what you were meant to do and be.*

[Readings for next Sunday – January 10, 2021](#)

**Baptism of the Lord**

Genesis 1:1-5

Psalm 29

Acts 19:1-7

Mark 1:4-11