



**Morning Prayer**  
**Wednesday January 6, 2021**  
**The Feast of the Epiphany of Our Lord**

*Arise, shine; for your light has come,  
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. [Isaiah 60:1]*

**Opening Sentence**

It is the God who said, ‘Let light shine out of darkness,’ who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ. [Isaiah 60:3]

**The Confession**

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Renew in us this day the image of your love; renew in us in the likeness of your mercy, O God. May any refusal to forgive that lingers with us, any bitterness of soul that hardens our hearts, be softened by your graces. Renew us in the image of your love, O God, renew us in the likeness of your mercy. **Amen.**

**Absolution**

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

**Opening Prayer**

In the morning light, O God, may I glimpse again your image deep with me, the threads of eternal glory woven into the fabric of every man and woman. May I catch sight of the mystery of the human soul fashioned in your likeness deeper than knowing, more enduring than time. And in glimpsing these threads of light amidst the weakness and distortion of my life, let me be recalled to the strength and beauty deep in my soul. Let me be recalled to the strength and beauty of your image in every living soul. **Amen.**

**The Invitatory and Psalter**

The Lord has shown forth his glory: come let us adore him.

## **Invitatory Psalm 100      *Jubilate***

Be joyful in the Lord, all you lands; \*serve the Lord with gladness  
and come before his presence with a song.

Know this: The Lord himself is God; \* he himself has made us, and we are his;  
we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving; go into his courts with praise; \*  
give thanks to him and call upon his Name.

For the Lord is good; his mercy is everlasting; \*  
and his faithfulness endures from age to age.

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

1 Give the King your justice, O God, \* and your righteousness to the King's Son;

2 That he may rule your people righteously \* and the poor with justice;

3 That the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, \*  
and the little hills bring righteousness.

4 He shall defend the needy among the people; \*  
he shall rescue the poor and crush the oppressor.

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

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

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

10 The kings of Tarshish and of the isles shall pay tribute, \*  
and the kings of Arabia and Saba offer gifts.

11 All kings shall bow down before him, \* and all the nations do him service.

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

13 He shall have pity on the lowly and poor; \*he shall preserve the lives of the needy.

14 He shall redeem their lives from oppression and violence, \*  
and dear shall their blood be in his sight.

## **The First Lesson:      A Reading from the Prophet Isaiah [60:1-5,6b]**

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. . . .

They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God**

[Isaiah 43:1-3]

### **The Song of Zechariah**    *Benedictus Dominus Deus*    *Luke 1: 68-79*

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; \* he has come to his people and set them free.

He has raised up for us a mighty savior, \* born of the house of his servant David.

Through his holy prophets he promised of old, that he would save us from our enemies, \*  
from the hands of all who hate us.

He promised to show mercy to our fathers \* and to remember his holy covenant.

This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham, \*  
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,

Free to worship him without fear, \* holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life.

You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, \*  
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,

To give people knowledge of salvation \* by the forgiveness of their sins.

In the tender compassion of our God \* the dawn from on high shall break upon us,

To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, \*  
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: \*

as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

### **The Second Lesson: The Gospel of 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.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God**

### **The Song of Mary** *Magnificat* *Luke 1:46-55*

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; \*

for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.

From this day all generations will call me blessed: \*

the Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his Name.

He has mercy on those who fear him \* in every generation.

He has shown the strength of his arm, \* he has scattered the proud in their conceit.

He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, \* and has lifted up the lowly.

He has filled the hungry with good things, \* and the rich he has sent away empty.

He has come to the help of his servant Israel, \*for he has remembered his promise of mercy,

The promise he made to our fathers, \* to Abraham and his children forever.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: \*

as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

### **The Apostles' Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

### **The Prayers**

God be with you. **And also with you.**

Hear our cry, O God. **And listen to our prayer.**

Let us pray.

Help us, O God our Savior; **deliver us and forgive us our sins.**

Look upon your congregation; **give to your people the blessing of peace.**

Declare your glory among the nations; **and your wonders among all peoples.**

Do not let the oppressed be shamed and turned away; **never forget the lives of your poor.**

Continue your loving-kindness to those who know you;

**and your favor to those who are true of heart.**

Satisfy us by your loving-kindness in the morning;

**so shall we rejoice and be glad all the days of our life.**

## **The Lord's Prayer**

### **Collect of the Day**

O God, by the leading of a star you manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth: Lead us, who know you now by faith, to your presence, where we may see your glory face to face; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen**

### **The Prayers of the People**

In faith, hope and charity let us pray for Christ's Body, the one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church throughout the world, saying, *Lord, make us one.*

That all may be one, worshipping God in spirit and in truth, so that the world may believe. For the peace that comes from God alone, for the unity of all peoples, and for the salvation of souls.

Let us pray in the will of Christ: **Lord, make us one.**

That we may be freed from our sins against one another; from prejudice and hasty judgment; from ignorance or pride; from isolation and exclusivity; from apathy and complacency.

Let us pray in the forgiveness of Christ: **Lord, make us one.**

That the leaders of all churches would lead in a manner that serves the visible unity of the Church.

Let us pray in the spirit of Christ. **Lord, make us one.**

That the churches may discover again their unity in the one baptism which incorporates them into Christ.

Let us pray with the heart of Christ: **Lord, make us one.**

That the churches may recognise each other's ministries in the service of their one Lord.

Let us pray in the peace of Christ: **Lord, make us one.**

That all Christians may embrace together Christ's command to care for those in need; the sick, the poor, the hungry, the lonely, the outcast, especially those who are suffering from covid-19. Let us pray in the mercy of Christ: **Lord, make us one.**

That we may all commit ourselves to the non-violent way of Jesus and transform society through seeking justice and forgiveness, following the example of those who have gone before us, especially those we now name silently or aloud. *pause*

Let us pray in the peace of Christ: **Lord, make us one.**

Eternal God, giver of love and peace, you call your children to live together as one family; give us grace to learn your ways and to do your will, that we may bring justice and peace to all people, in the name of Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit one God now and forever. **Amen**

### **A Stewardship Prayer**

Blessed be God who calls us together           **Praise to God who makes us one people.**  
Blessed be God who has forgiven our sin.   **Praise to God who gives hope and freedom**  
Blessed be God whose Word is proclaimed. **Praise to God who is revealed as love.**  
Blessed be God who alone has called us.

**Therefore we offer all that we are and all that we shall become.**

Accept, O God, our sacrifice of praise.

**Accept our thanks for all you have done.**

**Our hands were empty, and you filled them. Amen.**

### **A Prayer in Time of Transition**

God of growth and discovery, yours is the inspiration that has changed our lives. Yours is the power that has brought us to take new risks and face new opportunities. You shape our dreams. May your Spirit guide us in our preparations to search for a new Rector: open our eyes to what is possible and what is unfinished; open our ears to words of wisdom that assure us and challenge us; open our hearts to possibilities we have not yet imagined and to what we have neglected, that we may be both bold and humble; through Jesus Christ, our Light, our Center, our Hope. **Amen.**

## **A Prayer for Facing the Coronavirus**

Merciful God, hear our fervent prayer for all who suffer from the coronavirus. May those who are infected receive the proper treatment and the comfort of your healing presence. May their caregivers, families and neighbors be shielded from the onslaught of the virus. Give solace to those who grieve the loss of over 350, 000 loved ones. Protect and guide those who strive to find a cure, that their work may conquer the disease and restore communities to wholeness and health. Help us to rise above fear. We ask all this in the name of your Son Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

## **A Prayer for an End to Racism**

Lord, Jesus Christ who reached across the ethnic boundaries between Samaritan, Roman and Jew, who offered fresh sight to the blind and freedom to captives, help us to break down the barriers in our community and to see the reality of racism and bigotry, and free us to challenge and uproot it from ourselves, our society and our world. **Amen.**

## **A Prayer of St. Chrysostom**

Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. **Amen.**

## **Blessing**

May Christ, the son of God, be manifest in you, that your lives may be a light to the world; and the blessing of god almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

## **Dismissal**

Go out into the world in peace; have courage; hold onto what is good; return no one evil for evil; strengthen the faint hearted; support the weak, and help the suffering; honor all people; love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**