

Morning Prayer

Wednesday, January 6



Opening Sentence

I will give you as a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the Earth. *Isaiah 49:6*

Confession

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. *Amen.*

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

Versicle and Response

Lord, open our lips.
And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.
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 Lord has shown forth his glory:
Come let us adore him..

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.

Antiphon

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

Psalm 46 *Deus noster refugium*

¹God is our refuge and strength, *
a very present help in trouble.
²therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved, *
and though the mountains be toppled into the
depths of the sea;
³Though its waters rage and foam, *
and though the mountains tremble at its tumult.
⁴the Lord of hosts is with us; *
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.
⁵there is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, *
the holy habitation of the Most High.
⁶God is in the midst of her;
she shall not be overthrown; *
God shall help her at the break of day.
⁷the nations make much ado, and the kingdoms are shaken; *
God has spoken, and the earth shall melt away.
⁸the Lord of hosts is with us; *
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.
⁹Come now and look upon the works of the Lord, *
what awesome things he has done on earth.
¹⁰It is he who makes war to cease in all the world; *
he breaks the bow, and shatters the spear,
and burns the shields with fire.
¹¹"Be still, the n, and know that I am God; *
I will be exalted among the nations;
I will be exalted in the earth."
¹²the Lord of hosts is with us; *
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

Psalm 97 *Dominus regnavit*

¹ The Lord is King;
let the earth rejoice; *
let the multitude of the isles be glad.
² Clouds and darkness are round about him, *
righteousness and justice are the foundations of his throne.
³ A fire goes before him *
and burns up his enemies on every side.
⁴ His lightnings light up the world; *
the earth sees it and is afraid.
⁵ The mountains melt like wax at the presence of the Lord, *
at the presence of the Lord of the whole earth.

⁶ The heavens declare his righteousness, *
and all the peoples see his glory.
⁷ Confounded be all who worship carved images
and delight in false gods! *
Bow down before him, all you gods.
⁸ Zion hears and is glad, and the cities of Judah rejoice, *
because of your judgments, O Lord.
⁹ For you are the Lord,
most high over all the earth; *
you are exalted far above all gods.
¹⁰ The Lord loves those who hate evil; *
he preserves the lives of his saints
and delivers them from the hand of the wicked.
¹¹ Light has sprung up for the righteous, *
and joyful gladness for those who are truehearted.
¹² Rejoice in the Lord, you righteous, *
and give thanks to his holy Name.

Gloria Patri

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. *Amen.*

The Old Testament Lesson

Isaiah 52:7-10

⁷ How beautiful upon the mountains
are the feet of the messenger who announces peace,
who brings good news,
who announces salvation,
who says to Zion, 'Your God reigns.'
⁸ Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices,
together they sing for joy;
for in plain sight they see
the return of the Lord to Zion.
⁹ Break forth together into singing,
you ruins of Jerusalem;
for the Lord has comforted his people,
he has redeemed Jerusalem.
¹⁰ The Lord has bared his holy arm
before the eyes of all the nations;
and all the ends of the earth shall see
the salvation of our God.
the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Canticle 11 the Third Song of Isaiah

Isaiah 60:1-3, 11a, 14c, 18-19

Surge, illuminare

Arise, shine, for your light has come, *
and the glory of the Lord has dawned upon you.
For behold, darkness covers the land; *
deep gloom enshrouds the peoples.
But over you the Lord will rise, *
and his glory will appear upon you.
Nations will stream to your light, *
and kings to the brightness of your dawning.
Your gates will always be open; *
by day or night they will never be shut.
They will call you, the City of the Lord, *
The Zion of the Holy One of Israel.
Violence will no more be heard in your land, *
ruin or destruction within your borders.
You will call your walls, Salvation, *
and all your portals, Praise.
The sun will no more be your light by day; *
by night you will not need the brightness of the moon.
The Lord will be your everlasting light, *
and your God will be your glory.
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 New Testament Lesson

Revelation 21:22-27

²²I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. ²³And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God is its light, and its lamp is the Lamb. ²⁴The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it. ²⁵Its gates will never be shut by day and there will be no night there. ²⁶People will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations. ²⁷But nothing unclean will enter it, nor anyone who practices abomination or falsehood, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life.

the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Canticle 16

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 his 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 forever. *Amen.*

The Gospel

Matthew 12:14-21

¹⁴But the Pharisees went out and conspired against him, how to destroy him.
¹⁵When Jesus became aware of this, he departed. Many crowds followed him, and he cured all
of the m, ¹⁶and he ordered them not to make him known. ¹⁷This was to fulfil what had been
spoken through the prophet Isaiah:
¹⁸'Here is my servant, whom I have chosen,
my beloved, with whom my soul is well pleased.
I will put my Spirit upon him,
and he will proclaim justice to the Gentiles.
¹⁹He will not wrangle or cry aloud,
nor will anyone hear his voice in the streets.
²⁰He will not break a bruised reed
or quench a smoldering wick
until he brings justice to victory.
²¹And in his name the Gentiles will hope.'
the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

The Apostle's 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 Lord's Prayer

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 forever. *Amen.*

Suffrages

Save your people, Lord, and bless your inheritance;
Govern and uphold the m, now and always.
Day by day we bless you;
We praise your Name forever.
Lord, keep us from all sin today;
Have mercy on us, Lord, have mercy.
Lord, show us your love and mercy;
For we put our trust in you.
In you, Lord, is our hope;
And we shall never hope in vain.

Collect of the Day

O God, who by the leading of a star 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.*

For Mission

O God and Father of all, whom the whole heavens adore: Let the whole earth also worship you, all nations obey you, all tongues confess and bless you, and men and women everywhere love you and serve you in peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Trinity Cycle of Prayer

Nora, Andy, Otis and Mae Hastings-Place

Let us pray now for our own needs and those of others.

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.*

Benediction

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. *Amen. 2 Corinthians 13:14*

The Commemoration

Note on the readings:

The readings from Isaiah and the Psalms, as given above, speak of kings bringing tribute. It is perhaps worth noting, that Matthew does not say that they were kings, or even that they were Gentiles, and, contrary to his usual practice in his Infancy Narrative, does not refer to these passages from the Jewish Scriptures.

Note on the feast:

"Epiphany" is a word of Greek origin, related to such English words as "theophany," "phenotype," and "phenomenon." It means an appearance, a displaying, a showing forth, a making clear or public or obvious. On this day, Christians have traditionally celebrated the making known of Jesus Christ to the world.

Several events have been thought of as special instances of the making known of Our Lord, such as: His birth; the coming of the Magi; His Baptism; His first miracle at Cana. Current majority usage, at least in the West, celebrates His birth on 25 December, the coming of the Magi on 6 January, and His Baptism on the next Sunday. On the following Sundays up to the beginning of Lent, we remember Our Lord's public preaching of the kingdom, particularly the earlier stages of that preaching when opposition had not yet crystallized. On the Last Sunday after Epiphany (the Sunday before Lent), we commemorate the Transfiguration, the climax of this first phase of our Lord's public ministry.

Today, then, we commemorate the visit of the Magi, a token of the day when all the peoples of the earth will acknowledge Jesus Christ as Lord, God, and Savior. The visit of the Magi is recorded in the second chapter of Matthew. *Magi (magoi)*, the Latin (Greek) plural of *magus (magos)*, referred originally to the priests of Parsiism, the monotheistic religion preached in Persia by Zoroaster in about the sixth century BC. In later years it came to mean magicians, priests, physicians, scribes, scholars, or learned men. From it we derive our word "magic." The KJV Bible translates the word as "wise men." Matthew tells us how they came to Jerusalem and then to Bethlehem and gave gifts to the infant Jesus. (For a discussion of whether this is a historical event, look for the document of that name on the Web page <http://elvis.rowan.edu/~kilroy/CHRISTIA/library/infancy1.html>. See also parts 2,3,

and 4. Ignore the references to the Assumption of *Moses*. these are based on what turned out to be a bad translation.) In poem and picture, the wise men came to be thought of as three kings, and in many countries (particularly Spanish-speaking ones), children receive gifts, not on 25 December, but on 6 January in memory of the gifts that the wise men brought to the Holy Child. Christian writers have interpreted the gold as a sign that Jesus is King, the Frankincense as a sign that He is God, and the myrrh (used in embalming) as a sign that He is by His death and Resurrection the Savior of the world. This imagery is found in the song, "We Three Kings of Orient Are." the three gifts are also understood as a sign of three responses that we ought to make to Christ. See the following hymn:

The Blessed Birth

That so thy Blessed Birth, O Christ,
might through the world be spread about,
the star appeared in the East,
whereby the Gentiles found thee out;
and offered thee Myrrh, Incense, Gold,
thy three-fold office to unfold.

Tears that from true repentance drop,
instead of Myrrh present will we:
for Incense we will offer up
our prayers and praises unto thee;
and bring for Gold each pious deed,
which doth from saving faith proceed.

And as those wise men never went
to visit Herod anymore,
so, finding thee, we will repent
our courses followed heretofore;
and that we homeward may retire
the way by thee we will enquire.

George Herbert (1588-1633) in his *Hymns and Songs of the Church*, 1633

There is a musical setting by H. Walford Davies (1869-1941)

[Can't find Davies' setting online, but the hymn does more-or-less fit the 7.7.7.7.7.7 meter.--
editor, December 2020]

A Hymn for the Epiphany Season

[Songs of Thankfulness and Praise](#) (youtube.com)

Songs of thankfulness and praise, Jesus, Lord, to thee we raise,
manifested by the star to the sages from afar;

Branch of royal David's stem in thy birth at Bethlehem;
anthems be to thee add rest, God in man-made manifest.

Manifest at Jordan's stream, Prophet, Priest, and King supreme;

and at Cana, wedding guest, in thy Godhead manifest;

manifest in power divine, changing water into wine;

anthems be to thee add rest, God in man-made manifest.

Manifest in making whole palsied limbs and fainting soul;

manifest in valiant fight, quelling all the devil's might;

manifest in gracious will, ever bringing good from ill;

anthems be to thee add rest, God in man-made manifest.

Manifest on mountain height, shining in resplendent light,

where disciples filled with awe thy transfigured glory saw.

When from thence thou leddest them steadfast to Jerusalem,

cross and Easter day attest God in man-made manifest.

Grant us grace to see the e, Lord, mirrored in thy holy word;
may we imitate the e now, and be pure, as pure art thou;
that we like to the e may be at thy great epiphany;
and may praise the e, ever blest, God in man-made manifest.
Christopher Wordsworth (1807-1885) Stanza Four by F. Bland Tucker (1895-1984)