

The Epiphany of our Lord

INTRODUCTION

In the name of the Father,
and of ✠ the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

All respond: Amen.

Grace, mercy and peace
from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

And also with you.

The PRAYERS OF PENITENCE are introduced.

The grace of God has dawned upon the world
through our Saviour Jesus Christ, who sacri-
ficed himself for us to purify a people as his
own. Let us confess our sins.

God be gracious to us and bless us : and make
your face shine upon us. Lord, have mercy.

℟. **Lord, have mercy.**

May your ways be known on the earth : your
saving power among the nations. Christ,
have mercy.

℟. **Christ, have mercy.**

You, Lord, have made known your salvation :
and reveal your justice in the sight of the
nations. Lord, have mercy.

℟. **Lord, have mercy.**

May almighty God have mercy on us,
forgive us ✠ our sins,
and bring us to everlasting life.

Amen.

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS is recited.

**Glory to God in the highest, and peace to
his people on earth.**

**Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God
and Father, we worship you, we give you
thanks, we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the
sin of the world: have mercy on us; you**

**are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.**

**For you alone are the Holy One, you
alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most
High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in
the glory ✠ of God the Father. Amen.**

All remain standing for the COLLECT.

O God, who by the leading of a star manifested
your only Son to the peoples of the earth:
mercifully grant that we, who know you now
by faith, may at last behold your glory face to
face; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity
of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING

Isa 60.1-6

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 car-
ried on their nurses' arms. Then you shall see
and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and re-
joice, 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 the land, 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.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

℟. Kings, O Lord, people and nations fall prostrate before you. (*All repeat*)

O God, give your judgement to the king, to a king's son your justice, that he may judge your people in justice and your poor in right judgement. ℟.

In his days justice shall flourish and peace till the moon fails. He shall rule from sea to sea, from the Great River to earth's bounds. ℟.

Many kings shall offer him their gifts bringing him their tribute. Before him all kings shall prostrate fall, nations all shall serve him. ℟.

He shall save the poor when they cry and the helpless needy. He will have pity on the weak and save the lives of the poor. ℟.

SECOND READING

Eph 3.1–12

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Ephesians.

For this reason I, Paul, am a prisoner for Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles – assuming that you have heard of the stewardship of God's grace that was given to me for you, how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I have written briefly. When you read this, you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ, which was not made known to the sons of men in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit. This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

Of this gospel I was made a minister according to the gift of God's grace, which was given me by the working of his power. To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things, so

that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in him.

This is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Mt 2.2

Alleluia, alleluia.
We have seen his star at its rising:
and have come to pay him homage.
℟. **Alleluia.**

GOSPEL READING

Mt 2.1–12

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Hear the Gospel ✠ of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Matthew.
Glory to you, O Lord.

Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him." When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he enquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet: 'And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.'"

Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him." After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that

they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. And going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshipped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

A SERMON *may follow.*

All stand to recite the NICENE CREED.

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, (*all bow*) was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and was made man. (*all rise*) For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life ✠ of the world to come. Amen.

The INTERCESSIONS are introduced, and all kneel. One of these responses may be used:
✠. Lord, hear us. ✠. **Lord, graciously hear us.**
or ✠. Lord, in your mercy, ✠. **Hear our prayer.**

At the Commemoration of the Departed:
✠. Rest eternal ✠ grant to them, O Lord;
✠. **And let light perpetual shine upon them.**

The Intercessions end:

Merciful Father,

Accept these prayers, for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

All stand as the priest introduces the PEACE.
The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

All may sit for the OFFERTORY. *The priest may praise God for his gifts, to which all respond:*
Blessed be God for ever.

All stand for the PRAYER *over the* OFFERINGS.
Pray, my brothers and sisters, that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands, for the praise and glory of his name, for our good, and the good of all his Church.

Lord, accept the offerings of your Church, not gold, frankincense and myrrh, but the sacrifice and food they symbolize: Jesus Christ, who is Lord for ever and ever. **Amen.**

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

The PREFACE *follows.*

All respond with the **SANCTUS & BENEDICTUS.**

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he ✠ who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

All kneel. After the Consecration, all acclaim:

Praise to you, Lord Jesus:

Dying, you destroyed our death;

rising, you restored our life.

Lord Jesus, come in glory.

The Eucharistic Prayer continues, and ends:

... for ever and ever. **Amen.**

RITE OF COMMUNION

The priest introduces the **LORD'S PRAYER.**

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, 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 priest breaks the Host; AGNUS DEI is said.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: grant us peace.

The priest gives the **COMMUNION INVITATION.**

God's holy gifts for God's holy people.

Jesus Christ is holy, Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

The priest says the **POST-COMMUNION prayer.**

Lord God, the bright splendour whom the nations seek: may we who with the wise men have been drawn by your light discern the glory of your presence in your Son, the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord.

CONCLUSION

The priest gives the **BLESSING and DISMISSAL.**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Bow your heads and pray for God's blessing.

May God the Father, who led the wise men by the shining of a star to find the Christ, the Light from light, lead you in your pilgrimage to find the Lord.

May God, who has delivered us from the dominion of darkness, give us a place with the saints in light in the kingdom of his beloved Son.

May the light of the glorious gospel of Christ shine in your hearts and fill your lives with his joy and peace.

And the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Go in the peace of Christ. **Thanks be to God.**

The service may be followed by the **ANGELUS.**

∩. The angel of the Lord declared unto Mary:

℟. **And she conceived by the Holy Spirit.**

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee; blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.

Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now, and at the hour of our death.

∩. Behold the handmaid of the Lord:

℟. **Be it unto me according to thy word.**

Hail Mary ...

∩. And the Word was made flesh:

℟. **And dwelt among us.**

Hail Mary ...

∩. Pray for us, O holy Mother of God:

℟. **That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.**

Let us pray. Pour forth, we beseech you, O Lord, your grace into our hearts; that we to whom the Incarnation of Christ, your Son, was made known by the message of an angel, may by his Passion and Cross ✠ be brought to the glory of his Resurrection; through the same Christ our Lord. **Amen.**