

Sunday 3rd January 2021

Prayer and worship at home
The Epiphany



Preparation

In the name of the Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

The Lord be with you
And also with you.

The Act of Penitence

*As we pray, we reflect on the week that has passed
and ask the Lord for his forgiveness and healing.*

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.

Words of Forgiveness

May the God of love and power
forgive us and free us from our sins,
heal and strengthen us by his Spirit,
and raise us to new life in Christ our Lord. **Amen**

The Special Prayer for this week

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

The Word of the Lord

First Reading *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 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
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.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Holy Gospel | *Luke 1. 26-38*

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ...

Glory to you, O Lord

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.

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

Affirmation of faith

Let us declare our faith in God.

**We believe in God the Father,
from whom every family
in heaven and on earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son,
who lives in our hearts through faith,
and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
who strengthens us
with power from on high.**

**We believe in one God;
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen**

Prayers of Intercession

*You may wish to offer prayer in your own words,
or be prompted by the words here*

The magi came from the east to worship your Son:
Father, grant to Christians everywhere
the spirit of adoration ...
Lord of glory,
hear our prayer.

The infant Christ received gifts of gold, incense and myrrh:
Father, accept the offering of our hearts and minds
[*at the beginning of this year*] ...
Lord of glory,
hear our prayer.

The kingdoms of this world have become
the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ:
Father, grant an abundance of peace to your world
...
Lord of glory,
hear our prayer.

The Holy Family lived in exile and in the shadow of
death:
Father, look in mercy on all who are poor and
powerless,
and all who suffer ...
Lord of glory,
hear our prayer.

Your Son shared the life of his home and family at
Nazareth:
Father, protect in your love our neighbours,
our families and this community of which we are a
part ...
Lord of glory,
hear our prayer.

Father, we rejoice in our fellowship
with the shepherds, the angels, the magi,
the Virgin Mary, Saint Joseph
and all the faithful departed.
In your unfailing love for us and for all people,
hear and answer our prayers through your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Joining with Christians throughout the world,
we pray:

Our Father....

Or

Our Father in heaven....

The Grace

**The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God, and the fellowship of the
Holy Spirit be with us all, evermore. Amen**

Readings for the coming week:

Monday	Psalm 87	Matthew 4. 12-end
Tuesday	Psalm 48	Mark 6. 34-44
Wednesday	Psalm 127	Mark 6. 45-52
Thursday	Psalm 99	Luke 4. 14-22
Friday	Psalm 46	Luke 5. 12-16
Saturday	Psalm 148	John 3.22-30