

WE PRAY FOR OURSELVES AND THE WORLD

Our heavenly Father has rescued us from darkness, and brought us into his wonderful light through his Son Jesus Christ. We pray to him that his light may shine in the darkness of our world.

Heavenly Father: **shine your light on us.**

Heavenly Father, we thank you for all your servants who, like the star, have led people into the presence of Jesus. May all who pass on the apostolic message of the gospel shine with your love and truth.

Heavenly Father: **shine your light on us.**

We pray for missionaries, both in other countries and here at home, that the light of Christ may shine in every nation. Have mercy on those who love the darkness of sin, and lovingly draw them into your healing brightness.

Heavenly Father: **shine your light on us.**

We thank you for our own nation and the freedom we enjoy. Enlighten our leaders with wisdom that they and all citizens may pursue justice and peace.

Heavenly Father: **shine your light on us.**

Grant the joy of repentance to all who say they are Christians but do not practice their faith, and to all who are wealthy, that they may share their wealth as a gift to the poor.

Heavenly Father: **shine your light on us.**

(other prayers may follow)

Father, make us walk in your light, and shine in the darkness of our world, so that all may see your life-bringing light. We pray in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

WE PRAY 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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

God blesses us

WE GO WITH GOD

Let us praise the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

God the Father show you the light of his glory in the face of his Son, so that you may be a light to the world. And may the almighty Lord guide us and all we do in his peace.

Amen.

WE SING A HYMN/SONG

Epiphany
Sunday Word & Prayer

God welcomes us

WE SING A GATHERING SONG/HYMN

WE COME TO GOD

Arise, shine; for your light has come,
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.
Nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

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

WE CONFESS OUR SIN AND GOD FORGIVES US

Friends in Christ:
Jesus says: 'I have come as light into the world, so that everyone who believes in me should not remain in the darkness.' Let us therefore confess our sins to God our Father, and ask him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to forgive us.

We confess to you, almighty God, before the whole company of heaven, and to each other, that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, by our own fault. Have mercy on us, for Jesus' sake, forgive us all our sins, and bring us to eternal life. Amen.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy on us, and has given his only Son to die for us, and for his sake forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in his name he has given the right to become children of God, and has given them his Holy Spirit. Whoever believes and is baptised will be saved. Grant this, Lord, to us all.

Amen.

WE SING AN EPIPHANY HYMN/SONG

WE PRAY PSALM 72 (1-7, 10-14)

Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to a king's son.
May he judge your people with righteousness, and your poor with justice.
May the mountains yield prosperity for the people, and the hills, in righteousness.
May he defend the cause of the poor of the people, give deliverance to the needy, and crush the oppressor.

All kings will bow down to him and all nations will serve him.

May he live while the sun endures, and as long as the moon, throughout all generations.
May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass, like showers that water the earth.
In his days may righteousness flourish and peace abound, until the moon is no more.

All kings will bow down to him and all nations will serve him.

May the kings of Tarshish and of the isles render him tribute, may the kings of Sheba and Seba bring gifts.
May all kings fall down before him, all nations give him service.

All kings will bow down to him and all nations will serve him.

For he delivers the needy when they call, the poor and those who have no helper.
He has pity on the weak and needy, and saves the lives of the needy.
From oppression and violence he redeems their life; and precious is their blood in his sight.

All kings will bow down to him and all nations will serve him.

WE PRAY AN EPIPHANY PRAYER

The Lord be with you
And also with you.
Let us pray that people of all nations come to faith in Christ.
Eternal God, you led the wise men by the shining of a star to adore your Son.
Guide the nations by his light, so that the whole world sees your glory. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

God speaks to us

WE LISTEN TO GOD’S WORD

OLD TESTAMENT READING (ISAIAH 60:1-6)
Hear the word of God as it is written in the prophet Isaiah, chapter 60, verses 1 to 6.
(after the reading)
This is the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Arise, shine, for your light has come
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.
The glory of the Lord has risen upon us.
Nations will come to your light
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.
The glory of the Lord has risen upon us.

EPISTLE READING (EPHESIANS 3:1-12)
Hear the word of God as it is written in St Paul’s letter to the Ephesians, chapter 3, verses 1 to 12.
(after the reading)
This is the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Alleluia! We have seen his star in the east;
and we have come to worship him. Alleluia!

GOSPEL READING (MATTHEW 2:1-12)
Hear the gospel of the Lord as it is written in the Gospel according to St Matthew, chapter 2, verses 1 to 12.
(after the gospel)
This is the gospel of the Lord
Praise be to you, O Christ, light of the world.

Lord Jesus, thank you for revealing yourself to the Gentiles, so that they could worship you. Lead us also to worship you.
Amen.

WE SING A HYMN/SONG

WE LISTEN TO THE ADDRESS

WE CONFESS OUR FAITH
I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.
And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of God, the Father almighty, from thence he will come 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.**
* ‘catholic’ here meaning ‘universal’

God receives our offering

WE SING A HYMN/SONG AS OUR OFFERING IS RECEIVED

WE PRAY AN OFFERING PRAYER
Let us pray.
Thank you, Lord, for shining on us with the brightness of your presence. Lead us always to worship Christ our king, and to reflect your light to others by lives of loving service. **Amen.**