

Morning Prayer

(Epiphany Our Lord - Year C)



The Liturgy Letter

O Lord, open our lips
and our mouth shall proclaim your praise.
Your light springs up for the nations
and all the peoples have seen your glory.
The night has passed, and the day lies open before us;
let us pray with one heart and mind.

Opening Scripture

Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising.
-Isaiah 60:3

Hymn - Star in the East | [Leadsheet](#)

Hail the blest morn, see the great Mediator,
Down from the regions of glory descend!
Shepherds, go worship the babe in the manger,
Lo, for his guard the bright angels attend.

*Brightest and best of the sons of the morning,
Dawn on our darkness, and lend us thine aid;
Star of the east, the horizon adorning,
Guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.*

Cold on his cradle the dewdrops are shining;
Low lies his bed with the beasts of the stall;
Angels adore him, in slumber reclining,
Maker and Monarch and Savior of all.

*Brightest and best of the sons of the morning,
Dawn on our darkness, and lend us thine aid;
Star of the east, the horizon adorning,
Guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.*

Vainly we offer each ample oblation;
Vainly with gifts would his favor secure;
Richer by far is the heart's adoration;
Dearer to God are the prayers of the poor.

*Brightest and best of the sons of the morning,
Dawn on our darkness, and lend us thine aid;
Star of the east, the horizon adorning,
Guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.*

Text: Reginald Heber

Music: English Traditional, 1820 (arr. by William Walker in Southern Harmony)

Confession (From *The Book of Common Worship*)

Let us confess our sins to God.

Everlasting God,
in whom we live and move and have our being:
You have made us for yourself,
so that our hearts are restless
until they rest in you.
We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed.
Give us purity of heart and strength of purpose,
that no selfish passion may hinder
us from knowing your will,
no weakness keep us from doing it;
that in your light we may see light clearly,
and in your service find perfect freedom;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.
Amen.

Silence

Lord, open our lips.
And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.
Hear our voice O Lord, according to your faithful love:
He has heard our voice and is faithful and just to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
Amen.

Gloria Patri

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be, world without end, Amen.

Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14 (NIV)

Of Solomon.

- 1 Endow the king with your justice, O God,
the royal son with your righteousness.
- 2 May he judge your people in righteousness,
your afflicted ones with justice.
- 3 May the mountains bring prosperity to the people,
the hills the fruit of righteousness.
- 4 May he defend the afflicted among the people
and save the children of the needy;
may he crush the oppressor.
- 5 May he endure as long as the sun,
as long as the moon, through all generations.
- 6 May he be like rain falling on a mown field,
like showers watering the earth.
- 7 In his days may the righteous flourish
and prosperity abound till the moon is no more...
- 10 May the kings of Tarshish and of distant shores
bring tribute to him.
May the kings of Sheba and Seba
present him gifts.
- 11 May all kings bow down to him
and all nations serve him.
- 12 For he will deliver the needy who cry out,
the afflicted who have no one to help.
- 13 He will take pity on the weak and the needy
and save the needy from death.
- 14 He will rescue them from oppression and violence,
for precious is their blood in his sight.

Gloria Patri

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be, world without end, Amen.

Scripture Readings

Isaiah 60:1-6

Ephesians 3:1-12

(Stand)

Matthew 2:1-12

(A short silence is kept after the reading of the Gospel)

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 for ever. Amen.

The Prayers of the People

Intercessions (A time of spontaneous prayers and intercessions. Say “out loud” the names and situations that you would like to bring before God.)

Jesus, you are the Light of the Nations. Defend us, deliver us, and in your compassion protect us by your grace, through Jesus Christ, in whose name we are bold to pray:

The Lord's Prayer

**If praying with others, stand and hold hands. If praying individually, stand with hands open and outstretched in the [sign of the Orans](#).*

A Prayer for The Epiphany of Our Lord

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 for ever. Amen.

Benediction (Song of Simeon, Luke 2:29-32)

“Sovereign Lord, as you have promised,
you may now dismiss your servants in peace.
For our eyes have seen your salvation,
which you have prepared in the sight of all nations:
a light for revelation to the Gentiles,
and the glory of your people Israel.”

Go forth in the joy of the Incarnation!
Let us bless our Lord.
Thanks be to God!

Hymn - O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (Refrain)

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel has come to thee, O Israel.