

MORNING PRAYER FOR EPIPHANY
From Epiphany until Presentation inclusive

THE GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

Introductory Responses

Blessed are you, Son of David;
born to rule,
you received gifts from the magi.
Blessed are you, Son of Man;
baptized by John,
you saved us from ourselves.
Blessed are you, servant Lord;
teaching and preaching, healing and comforting,
you proclaimed God's gracious reign.
Let heaven and earth shout their praise.

With all the voices of heaven
we celebrate the coming of our Saviour.
Let heaven and earth shout their praise.

With all creatures on earth
we sing and dance at Christ's birth.
Praise and honour and glory to you, O Lord most high.

Morning Prayer continues with the Psalm of the Day.

THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

The Psalm

A Psalm from the Daily Office Lectionary, the Weekday Eucharistic Lectionary or the Revised Common Lectionary Daily Readings is said or sung.

Morning Prayer continues with the Reading.

The Reading

A Reading from the Daily Office Lectionary, the Weekday Eucharistic Lectionary or the Revised Common Lectionary Daily Readings is read. After a period of silent reflection one of the following is said.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

or

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.

Thanks be to God.

or

Holy Word, Holy Wisdom.

Thanks be to God.

Morning Prayer continues with the Responsory or the Canticle or both. If two Readings are read, then the Responsory follows the first Reading and the Canticle the second.

The Responsory

Blessed is your name for ever, O Lord;
may all the earth be filled with your glory.

**Blessed is your name for ever, O Lord;
may all the earth be filled with your glory.**

Rule your people with righteousness
and the poor with justice.

May all the earth be filled with your glory.

Defend the needy among the people
and rescue the poor from their oppressors.

May all the earth be filled with your glory.

Have pity on the lowly and poor;
preserve the lives of the needy.

May all the earth be filled with your glory.

Glory to God, Source of all being, eternal Word and Holy Spirit.

**Blessed is your name for ever, O Lord;
may all the earth be filled with your glory.**

Morning Prayer continues with [the Second Reading or] the Canticle or an Affirmation of Faith.

The Canticle

'The Song of Zechariah' or one of the seasonal canticles, 'A Song of Hannah' or 'A Song of David', may be said or sung.

The Song of Zechariah (Luke 1.68-79)

Blessed are you, Lord, the God of Israel, *
you have come to your people and set them free.

You have raised up for us a mighty Saviour, *
born of the house of your servant David.
Through your holy prophets, *
you promised of old to save us from our enemies,
from the hands of all who hate us, *
to show mercy to our forebears,
and to remember your holy covenant.
This was the oath you swore to our father Abraham: *
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,
free to worship you without fear.
And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, *
for you will go before the Lord to prepare the way,
to give God's 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. ⁱ

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.

or

Glory to God, Source of all being, eternal Word and Holy Spirit: *
as it was in the beginning, is now and will be for ever. Amen.

Morning Prayer continues with an Affirmation of Faith or the Litany.

A Song of Hannah (1 Samuel 2.1, 2, 3b-5, 7, 8)

My heart exults in the Lord; *
my strength is exalted in my God.
My mouth derides my enemies, *
because I rejoice in your salvation.
There is no Holy One like you, O Lord, *
nor any Rock like you, our God.
For you are a God of knowledge *
and by you our actions are weighed.
The bows of the mighty are broken, *
but the feeble gird on strength.
Those who were full now hire themselves out for bread, *
but those who were hungry are well fed.
The barren woman has borne sevenfold, *
but she who has many children is forlorn.
Both the poor and the rich are of your making; *
you bring low and you also exalt.

You raise up the poor from the dust, *
and lift the needy from the ash heap.
You make them sit with the rulers *
and inherit a place of honour.
For the pillars of the earth are yours *
and on them you have set the world. ⁱⁱ

Morning Prayer continues with the Affirmation of Faith or the Litany.

A Song of David (1 Chronicles 29.10b-13, 14b)

Blessed are you, God of Israel, for ever and ever, *
for yours is the greatness, the power,
the glory, the splendour and the majesty.
Everything in heaven and on earth is yours; *
yours is the kingdom, O Lord,
and you are exalted as head over all.
Riches and honour come from you *
and you rule over all.
In your hand are power and might; *
yours it is to give power and strength to all.
And now we give you thanks, our God, *
and praise your glorious name.
For all things come from you, *
and of your own have we given you. ⁱⁱⁱ

Morning Prayer continues with the Affirmation of Faith or the Litany.

Affirmation of Faith

Either The Apostles' Creed or the 'Hear, O Israel' may be said or sung.

The Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
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,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,**

and 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. ^{iv}

Morning Prayer continues with the Litany.

Hear, O Israel
Hear, O Israel,
the Lord our God, the Lord is one.
Love the Lord your God
with all your heart,
with all your soul,
with all your mind,
and with all your strength.

This is the first and the great commandment.
The second is like it:
Love your neighbour as yourself.

There is no commandment greater than these.

The following may be said or sung after 'Hear, O Israel'.

Lord, have mercy upon us,
and write both these commandments in our hearts,
we beseech you.

Morning Prayer continues with the Litany.

THE PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY

The Litany

The Litany is said or sung.

Let us pray to Christ, the Sun of Righteousness, saying, "Word made manifest, hear our prayer."

For all who walk in the darkness of violence and oppression, and for all who by their life and preaching cast into that darkness the light of God's peace and justice, **Word made manifest, hear our prayer.**

For all who carry on the teaching of prophets and apostles, and for the full communion in life and worship of those who receive God's word, **Word made manifest, hear our prayer.**

For all who have at their disposal this world's riches, and for all who call out to them, **Word made manifest, hear our prayer.**

For all who raise their eyes to the heavens looking for healing and deliverance, **Word made manifest, hear our prayer.**

For the rulers of the earth, and for every child that stands in need of their protection, **Word made manifest, hear our prayer.**

For all who through death have passed into the full epiphany of God's glory, **Word made manifest, hear our prayer.**^v

Additional intercessions, petitions and thanksgivings may be offered in silence or aloud. After a period of silence either the Collect of the Day or one of the following Collects may be said or sung.

Epiphany

O God of light and peace, whose glory, shining in the child of Bethlehem, still draws the nations to yourself: dispel the darkness that shrouds our path, that we may come to kneel before Christ in true worship, offer him our hearts and souls, and return from his presence to live as he has taught. **Amen.**^{vi}

Baptism of Christ

God of grace and glory, you call us with your voice of flame to be your people, faithful and courageous. As your beloved Son embraced his mission in the waters of baptism, inspire us with the fire of your Spirit to join in his transforming work. We ask this in the name of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen.**^{vii}

Presentation of the Lord

God of steadfast love, you sent your Son to be the light of the world, saving people everywhere from sin and death. As Anna gave thanks for the freedom he would bring, and Simeon saw in him the dawn of redemption, complete your purpose once made known in him. Make us the vessels of his light, that all the world may glory in the splendour of your peace. **Amen.**^{viii}

Morning Prayer continues with the Lord's Prayer.

The Lord's Prayer

Gathering our prayers and praises into one,
let us pray as our Saviour taught us,
**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 for ever. Amen.**

Morning Prayer continues with the Dismissal.

THE SENDING FORTH OF THE COMMUNITY

The Dismissal

Let us bless the Lord made manifest.
Thanks be to God.

Morning Prayer may conclude with the following Sentence.

May Christ, the Son of God, be manifest in us, that our lives may be a light to the world. **Amen.**

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Note

All liturgical texts are taken from *The Book of Alternative Services* unless otherwise noted and may have been emended for more inclusive language.

ⁱ *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* (2006), 303.

ⁱⁱ *Common Worship: Daily Prayer* (2000), 572.

ⁱⁱⁱ *Common Worship: Daily Prayer* (2000), 573.

^{iv} *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* (2006), 105.

^v *Intercessions for the Christian People* (1990), 11 alt.

^{vi} *Revised Common Lectionary Prayers* (2002), 52.

^{vii} *Revised Common Lectionary Prayers* (2002), 54.

^{viii} *Revised Common Lectionary Prayers* (2002), 222.

^{ix} *The Book of Occasional Services* (2003), 24.