

EVENING PRAYER FOR EPIPHANY
From Epiphany until Presentation inclusive

THE GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

Introductory Responses

Light and peace in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Thanks be to God.

or

Jesus Christ is the light of the world.

A light no darkness can extinguish.

Then the Thanksgiving for the Light may be said or sung.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Blessed are you, Sovereign God, our light and our salvation, to you be glory and praise for ever. You gave your Christ as a light to the nations, and through the anointing of the Spirit you established us as a royal priesthood. As you call us into your marvellous light, may our lives bear witness to your truth and our lips never cease to proclaim your praise. Blessed are you, the Holy One of Israel, in the Word made manifest through the Spirit, now and for ever. **Amen.**

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 Mary' or one of the seasonal canticles, 'Song of the First-Born' or 'A Song of the Lamb', may be said or sung.

The Song of Mary (Luke 1.46-55)

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, *
my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,
for you, Lord, have looked with favour *

on your lowly servant.
From this day all generations will call me blessed: *
you, the Almighty, have done great things for me,
and holy is your name.
You have mercy on those who fear you, *
from generation to generation.
You have shown strength with your arm *
and scattered the proud in their conceit,
casting down the mighty from their thrones *
and lifting up the lowly.
You have filled the hungry with good things
and sent the rich away empty.
You have come to the aid of your servant Israel, *
to remember the promise of mercy,
the promise made to our forebears, *
to Abraham and his children for ever. ⁱⁱ

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.

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

Song of the First-Born (Colossians 1.15-20)

Christ is the image of the invisible God, *
the one who is first over all creation.
Because all things were created by him: *
both in the heavens and on the earth,
the things that are visible *
and the things that are invisible.
Whether they are thrones or powers, *
or rulers or authorities,
all things were created *
through him and for him.
Christ existed before all things, *
and all things are held together in him.
Christ is the head of the body, the church, *
who is the beginning,
the one who is firstborn *
from among the dead
so that he might occupy *
the first place in everything.

Because all the fullness of God *
was pleased to live in Christ,
and, through Christ, all things are reconciled to God *
whether things on earth or in the heavens.
Christ brought peace *
through the blood of his cross. ⁱⁱⁱ

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

A Song of Christ's Appearing (1 Timothy 3.16; 6.15, 16)

Christ Jesus was revealed in the flesh *
and vindicated in the spirit.
He was seen by angels *
and proclaimed among the nations.
Believed in throughout the world, *
he was taken up in glory.
This will be made manifest at the proper time *
by the blessed and only Sovereign,
who alone has immortality, *
and dwells in inapproachable light. ^{iv}

Evening Prayer continues with an 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. ^v

Evening 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.

Evening Prayer continues with the Litany.

THE PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY

The Litany

The Litany is said or sung.

Let us pray to the God of grace and glory, saying, 'Revealer of truth, remember your promise.'

God of grace and glory, may your people in all the world worship in spirit and in truth. **Revealer of truth, remember your promise.**

May the church discover again that unity which is your will. **Revealer of truth, remember your promise.**

May the nations of the earth seek after the ways that make for peace. **Revealer of truth, remember your promise.**

May the whole creation, groaning in travail, be set free to enjoy the glorious liberty of your children. **Revealer of truth, remember your promise.**

May all who with Christ have entered the shadow of death rest in peace and rise in glory. **Revealer of truth, remember your promise.** ^{vi}

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.** ^{vii}

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.** ^{viii}

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.** ^{ix}

Evening 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.

Evening Prayer continues with the Dismissal.

THE SENDING FORTH OF THE COMMUNITY

The Dismissal

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

Evening 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 *Common Worship: Daily Prayer* (2000), 232 alt.

ⁱⁱ *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* (2006), 315.

ⁱⁱⁱ *Common English Bible* alt.

^{iv} *Common Worship: Daily Prayer* (2000), 621.

^v *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* (2006), 105.

^{vi} *Common Worship: Daily Prayer* (2000), 379 alt.

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

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

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

^x *The Book of Occasional Services* (2003), 24.