

Evening Prayer for Epiphany
From Epiphany through Presentation

GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

Introductory Responses

Light and peace in Jesus Christ our hope.

Thanks be to God.

or

Jesus Christ is the light of the world.

A light no darkness can extinguish.

Thanksgiving

Let us give thanks to God our Creator.

It is right to offer thanks and praise.

or

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 be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Blessed be God for ever.

or

Blessed be God: Source of all being, eternal Word and Holy Spirit.

Blessed be God for ever.

or

Blessed be the holy and undivided Trinity, one God.

Blessed be God for ever.

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.

At the end of the Psalm one of the following may be said or sung.

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.

or

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 the holy and undivided Trinity, one God:
as it was in the beginning, is now and will be for ever. Amen.

Evening 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.

Evening 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

The Responsory is said or sung.

Arise, shine, for your light has come;
the glory of the Lord is rising upon you.
Arise, shine, for your light has come;
the glory of the Lord is rising upon you.

God's salvation has been openly shown to all people.
The glory of the Lord is rising upon you.

Glory to God, Source of all being, eternal Word and Holy Spirit:
Arise, shine, for your light has come;
the glory of the Lord is rising upon you.

or

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:
Arise, shine, for your light has come;
the glory of the Lord is rising upon you.

or

Glory to the holy and undivided Trinity, one God:
Arise, shine, for your light has come;
the glory of the Lord is rising upon you.

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

The Canticle

'The Song of Mary', 'A Song of Praise' or 'A Song of Christ's Appearing' 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 ancestors, *
 to Abraham and his children for ever.

Or

A Song of Praise (Revelation 4.11; 5.9b, 10)

You are worthy, our Lord and God, *
to receive glory and honour and power.
For you have created all things, *
and by your will they have their being.
You are worthy, O Lamb, for you were slain, *
and by your blood you ransomed for God
saints from every tribe and language and nation.
You have made them a royal priesthood serving our God, *
and they will reign with you on earth.

Or

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 unapproachable light.

At the end of the Canticle one of the following may be said or sung.

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.

or

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 the holy and undivided Trinity, one God:
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.

Affirmation of Faith

One of the following Affirmations of Faith 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.

Or

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.

Evening Prayer continues with the Litany.

THE PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY

The Litany

The Litany is said or sung.

Redeemer of the nations, guide all who seek you with a pure heart.

Host of the wedding feast, hear our prayer.

Usher in your promised reign of justice and peace.

Host of the wedding feast, hear our prayer.

Encompass us with your light as with a cloak,
and conquer the darkness of our night.

Host of the wedding feast, hear our prayer.

Feed the hunger of your people in desert places with your eternal bread.

Host of the wedding feast, hear our prayer.

Change our vessels of water into the gladdening wine of new life.

Host of the wedding feast, hear our prayer.

Welcome sinners to your banquet table.

Host of the wedding feast, hear our prayer.

Additional intercessions, petitions and thanksgivings may be offered in silence or aloud. Among these concerns it is appropriate to remember

- *the unity of the church;*
- *the peace of the world;*
- *the healing of the sick;*
- *the revelation of Christ to those from whom his glory is hidden and*
- *all who travel.*

After a period of silence either the Collect of the Day or one of the following collects may be said or sung.

Week of 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, so 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.**

Week of the Baptism of Christ

God, your voice moves over the waters. Immerse us in your grace, mark us with your image and raise us to live our baptismal vows empowered by the Holy Spirit and the example of Christ our Lord, in whose name we pray. **Amen.**

Between the Baptism of Christ and Presentation

Perfect Light of revelation, as you shone in the life of Jesus, whose epiphany we celebrate, so shine in us and through us, that we may become beacons of truth and compassion, enlightening all creation with deeds of justice and mercy. **Amen.**

or

O God, you spoke your word and revealed your good news in Jesus the Christ. Fill all creation with that word again, so that by proclaiming your joyful promises to all nations and singing of your glorious hope to all peoples, we may become one living body, your incarnate presence on the earth. **Amen.**

Presentation

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 say in him the dawn of redemption, complete your purpose once made known in him. Make us vessels of his light, so that all the world may glory in the splendour of your peace. **Amen.**

Evening Prayer continues with the Lord's Prayer.

The Lord's Prayer

Believing in the promises of God
and 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.

Thanks be to God.

Evening Prayer may conclude with the following Sentence.

May Christ, who sends us to the nations, give us the power of the Spirit. **Amen.**