

# Evening Prayer on the Day of Epiphany

January 6, 2021

Resurrection Lutheran Church

*The feast of Epiphany (“manifestation”) concludes the Christmas season with a celebration of God’s glory revealed in the person of Jesus Christ. In Isaiah and Ephesians, that glory is proclaimed for all nations and people. Like the light of the star that guided the magi to Jesus, the light of Christ reveals who we are: children of God who are claimed and washed in the waters of baptism. We are sent out to be beacons of the light of Christ, sharing the good news of God’s love to all people.*

*Kindly share in the spoken responses at home with your device’s microphone on mute in order to minimize background noises that will help maintain a worshipful atmosphere.*

## ***Dialogue***

The light shines in the darkness,  
**and the darkness has not overcome it.**  
The Word became flesh and lived among us,  
**and we have beheld Christ’s glory.**  
To us a child is born, to us a Son is given.  
**In the Word was life, and the life was the light of all people.**

## ***Hymn of Light***

“Joyous Light of Glory” (ELW #229 – pray along when sung by Pastor)

## ***Thanksgiving for Light***

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**  
We give you thanks, O God,  
for in the beginning you called light into being,  
and you set light in the sky  
to govern night and day.  
In a pillar of cloud by day  
and a pillar of fire by night  
you led your people into freedom.  
Enlighten our darkness by the light of your Christ:

may your Word be a lamp to our feet  
and a light to our path;  
for you are merciful,  
and you love your whole creation,  
and with all your creatures we give you glory,  
through your Son Jesus Christ,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
now and forever.

**Amen.**

### ***Psalmody***

Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14

- <sup>1</sup>Give the king your justice, O God,  
and your righteousness to the king's son;  
<sup>2</sup>that he may rule your people righteously  
and the poor with justice;  
<sup>3</sup>that the mountains may bring prosperity to the people,  
and the hills, in righteousness.  
<sup>4</sup>Let him defend the needy among the people,  
rescue the poor, and crush the oppressor.  
<sup>5</sup>May he live as long as the sun and moon endure,  
from one generation to another.  
<sup>6</sup>Let him come down like rain upon the mown field,  
like showers that water the earth.  
<sup>7</sup>In his time may the righteous flourish;  
and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.  
<sup>10</sup>May the kings of Tarshish and of the isles pay tribute,  
and the kings of Sheba and Seba offer gifts.  
<sup>11</sup>May all kings bow down before him,  
and all the nations do him service.  
<sup>12</sup>For the king delivers the poor who cry out in distress,  
the oppressed, and those who have no helper.  
<sup>13</sup>He has compassion on the lowly and poor,  
and preserves the lives of the needy.  
<sup>14</sup>From oppression and violence he redeems their lives,  
and precious is their blood in his sight.

## ***Reading***

A reading from Matthew

<sup>1</sup>In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup>asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.” <sup>3</sup>When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; <sup>4</sup>and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. <sup>5</sup>They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

<sup>6</sup>“And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,  
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;  
for from you shall come a ruler  
who is to shepherd my people Israel.”

<sup>7</sup>Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup>Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.” <sup>9</sup>When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup>When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. <sup>11</sup>On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. <sup>12</sup>And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road. (2:1-12)

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

## ***Response to the Reading***

*The reading of scripture is followed by silence for reflection and brief comments by the Pastor.*

Jesus said, I am the light of the world.

**Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness.**

## ***Gospel Canticle, Song of Mary***

“Canticle of the Turning” (ELW # 723 – pray along when sung by Pastor)

## ***Prayers***

Let us pray. Almighty and ever-living God, you revealed the incarnation of your Son by the brilliant shining of a star. Shine the light of your justice always in our hearts and over all lands, and accept our lives as the treasure we offer in your praise and for your service, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

Let us pray that everyone will receive the blessings of Epiphany, responding to each bid with the words “Hear our prayer.”

*A brief silence.*

For all the baptized, that even in hardship we grow deeper into the mystery of God, we pray:

*A brief silence.*

O God, shining with grace, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

For believers in all the world’s religions, that God welcome also their devotion, we pray:

*A brief silence.*

O God, greater than the church, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

For the earth, that each season provide sustenance for plants and animals, we pray:

*A brief silence.*

O God, preserver of creation, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

For scientists, that they probe what is both beyond and within what we see, we pray:

*A brief silence.*

O God, keeper of all knowledge, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

For the leaders of nations, that they strive for peace and justice, we pray:

*A brief silence.*

O God, monarch of all peoples, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

For the Congress of the United States, that God grant it wisdom for its tasks, we pray:

*A brief silence.*

O God, guidance for government, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

For all persons who have means, that they assist those who have little, we pray:

*A brief silence.*

O God, great in generosity, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

For victims of injustice and prejudice, that their cries be heeded, we pray:

*A brief silence.*

O God, compassionate savior, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

For children, that they be protected from harm, we pray:

*A brief silence.*

O God, loving parent, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

For all who are suffering from the coronavirus, that they come to health and wholeness, we pray:

*A brief silence.*

O God, giver of life, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

For those who have asked for our prayers, . . . , and for those we too often forget, that God meet their multitude of needs, we pray:

*A brief silence.*

O God, refuge of the downhearted, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

For each of us, that as if with a star God guide us throughout the journey of life, we pray:

*A brief silence.*

O God, light of holiness, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

In thanksgiving for all who have died in the faith, that at our end we join them in life with God:

*A brief silence.*

O God, goal of our days, in your mercy,  
**Hear our prayer.**

That God will receive these prayers, for the sake of the divine infant before whom we kneel, we pray, now and forever.

**Amen.**

### *Lord's Prayer*

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus 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 forever. Amen.**

### *Blessing*

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

Almighty God,  
who sent the Holy Spirit to Mary,  
proclaimed joy through the angels,  
sent the shepherds with good news,  
and led the magi by a star,  
bless you this day ✝ through the Word made flesh.  
**Amen.**

**Hymn:** "O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright" ELW 308 (*sing along at home as you desire, but kindly keep your device's microphone on mute*)

## O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright!



1 O Morn - ing Star, how fair and bright! You shine with  
 2 Come, pre - cious dia - mond, light di - vine, and deep with -  
 3 Lord, when you look on us in love, at once there  
 4 Al - might - y Fa - ther, in your Son you loved us,



God's own truth and light, a - glow with grace and mer - cy!  
 in our hearts now shine; there light a flame un - dy - ing!  
 falls from God a - bove a ray of pur - est plea - sure.  
 when not yet be - gun was this old earth's foun - da - tion!



Of Ja - cob's line, King Da - vid's son, our Lord and Sav - ior,  
 In your one bod - y let us be as liv - ing branch - es  
 Your word and Spir - it, flesh and blood re - fresh our souls with  
 Your Son has ran - somed us in love to live in him here



you have won our hearts to serve you on - ly! Low - ly,  
 of a tree, your life our lives sup - ply - ing. Now, though  
 heav'n - ly food. You are our dear - est trea - sure! Let your  
 and a - bove: this is your great sal - va - tion. Al - le -



ho - ly! Great and glo - rious, all vic - to - rious, rich  
 dai - ly earth's deep sad - ness may per - plex us and  
 mer - cy warm and cheer us! Oh, draw near us! For  
 lu - ia! Christ the liv - ing, to us giv - ing life



in bless - ing! Rule and might o'er all pos - sess - ing!  
 dis - tress us, yet with heav'n - ly joy you bless us.  
 you teach us God's own love through you has reached us.  
 for - ev - er, keeps us yours and fails us nev - er!

- 5 Oh, let the harps break forth in sound! Our joy be all with music crowned,  
 our voices gaily blending!  
 For Christ goes with us all the way—  
 today, tomorrow, ev'ry day!  
 His love is never ending!  
 Sing out! Ring out!  
 Jubilation!  
 Exultation!  
 Tell the story!  
 Praise to Christ, who reigns in glory!
- 6 What joy to know, when life is past,  
 the Lord we love is first and last,  
 the end and the beginning!  
 He will one day, oh, glorious grace,  
 transport us to that happy place  
 beyond all tears and sinning!  
 Amen! Amen!  
 Come, Lord Jesus!  
 Crown of gladness!  
 We are yearning  
 for the day of your returning.

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