

*Evening Prayer*  
*Epiphany Season*  
*Wednesday, 20 January 2021*

**Preparation**

O God, make speed to save us.  
**All** O Lord, make haste to help us.

From the rising of the sun to its setting  
**All** your glory is proclaimed in all the world.

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.**

*This opening prayer may be said*

That this evening may be holy, good and peaceful,  
let us pray with one heart and mind.

*Silence is kept.*

As our evening prayer rises before you, O God,  
so may your mercy come down upon us  
to cleanse our hearts  
and set us free to sing your praise  
now and for ever.  
**Amen.**

**The Word of God**

*Psalmody*

*Psalm 97*

<sup>1</sup>The LORD is king! Let the earth rejoice;  
let the many coastlands be glad!

<sup>2</sup> Clouds and thick darkness are all around him;  
righteousness and justice are the foundation of his throne.

<sup>3</sup> Fire goes before him,  
and consumes his adversaries on every side.

<sup>4</sup> His lightnings light up the world;  
the earth sees and trembles.

<sup>5</sup> The mountains melt like wax before the LORD,  
before the Lord of all the earth.

<sup>6</sup> The heavens proclaim his righteousness;  
and all the peoples behold his glory.

<sup>7</sup> All worshipers of images are put to shame,  
those who make their boast in worthless idols;  
all gods bow down before him.

<sup>8</sup> Zion hears and is glad,  
and the towns of Judah rejoice,  
because of your judgments, O God.

<sup>9</sup> For you, O LORD, are most high over all the earth;  
you are exalted far above all gods.

<sup>10</sup> The LORD loves those who hate evil;  
he guards the lives of his faithful;  
he rescues them from the hand of the wicked.

<sup>11</sup> Light dawns for the righteous,  
and joy for the upright in heart.

<sup>12</sup> Rejoice in the LORD, O you righteous,  
and give thanks to his holy name!

**Glory to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning is now  
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

### *Genesis 8:1-14*

But God remembered Noah and all the wild animals and all the domestic animals that were with him in the ark. And God made a wind blow over the earth, and the waters subsided; <sup>2</sup> the fountains of the deep and the windows of the heavens were closed, the rain from the heavens was restrained, <sup>3</sup> and the waters gradually receded

from the earth. At the end of one hundred fifty days the waters had abated; <sup>4</sup> and in the seventh month, on the seventeenth day of the month, the ark came to rest on the mountains of Ararat. <sup>5</sup> The waters continued to abate until the tenth month; in the tenth month, on the first day of the month, the tops of the mountains appeared.

<sup>6</sup> At the end of forty days Noah opened the window of the ark that he had made <sup>7</sup> and sent out the raven; and it went to and fro until the waters were dried up from the earth. <sup>8</sup> Then he sent out the dove from him, to see if the waters had subsided from the face of the ground; <sup>9</sup> but the dove found no place to set its foot, and it returned to him to the ark, for the waters were still on the face of the whole earth. So he put out his hand and took it and brought it into the ark with him. <sup>10</sup> He waited another seven days, and again he sent out the dove from the ark; <sup>11</sup> and the dove came back to him in the evening, and there in its beak was a freshly plucked olive leaf; so Noah knew that the waters had subsided from the earth. <sup>12</sup> Then he waited another seven days, and sent out the dove; and it did not return to him any more.

<sup>13</sup> In the six hundred first year, in the first month, on the first day of the month, the waters were dried up from the earth; and Noah removed the covering of the ark, and looked, and saw that the face of the ground was drying. <sup>14</sup> In the second month, on the twenty-seventh day of the month, the earth was dry.

### ***Canticle***

***All*** You created all things, O God,  
and are worthy of our praise for ever.

1 You are worthy, our Lord and God, ♦  
to receive glory and honour and power.

2 For you have created all things, ♦  
and by your will they have their being.

3 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.

4 You have made them to be a kingdom and priests  
serving our God, ♦  
and they will reign with you on earth.

*Revelation 4.11; 5.9b, 10*

***All*** To the One who sits on the throne and to the Lamb ♦  
be blessing and honour and glory and might, for ever and ever. Amen.

***All*** You created all things, O God,  
and are worthy of our praise for ever.

## **Scripture Reading**

### **Matthew 24:29-42**

<sup>29</sup> “Immediately after the suffering of those days

the sun will be darkened,  
and the moon will not give its light;  
the stars will fall from heaven,  
and the powers of heaven will be shaken.

<sup>30</sup> Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see ‘the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven’ with power and great glory. <sup>31</sup> And he will send out his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

<sup>32</sup> “From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. <sup>33</sup> So also, when you see all these things, you know that he is near, at the very gates. <sup>34</sup> Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. <sup>35</sup> Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

<sup>36</sup> “But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son but only the Father. <sup>37</sup> For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. <sup>38</sup> For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, <sup>39</sup> and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. <sup>40</sup> Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. <sup>41</sup> Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. <sup>42</sup> Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming.

***The reading may be followed by a time of silence.***

***Responsory***

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 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.**

*from Isaiah 60*

## ***Gospel Canticle***

1My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,  
my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour;  
he has looked with favour on his lowly servant.

2From this day all generations will call me blessed;  
the Almighty has done great things for me  
and holy is his name.

3He has mercy on those who fear him,  
from generation to generation.

4He has shown strength with his arm  
and has scattered the proud in their conceit,

5Casting down the mighty from their thrones  
and lifting up the lowly.

6He has filled the hungry with good things  
and sent the rich away empty.

7He has come to the aid of his servant Israel,  
to remember his promise of mercy,

8The promise made to our ancestors,  
to Abraham and his children for ever.

*Luke 1.46-55*

**Glory to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning is now  
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

## **Prayers**

***We share a time of open prayer together. Please feel free to pray out loud or silently.***

***The Collect of the day is said***

Lord Jesus Christ,  
who said to your apostles,  
“Peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you”:  
look not on our sins but on the faith of your Church  
and grant it the peace and unity of your kingdom;

where you are alive and reign with the Father  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.  
**Amen.**

***The Lord's Prayer is said***

Believing the promises of God,  
as our Saviour taught us, so we pray

**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.  
Lead us not into temptation  
but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours  
now and for ever.  
Amen.**

## **The Conclusion**

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

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