

A Service of the Word



Third Sunday of Epiphany
24th January 2021

The Gathering

In the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

All **Amen.**

The Greeting

Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the universe.

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

The Lord be with you

All **and also with you.**

Words of welcome and introduction

Opening hymn - Brightest and best

**1 Brightest and best of the sons of the morning,
dawn on our darkness, and lend us thine aid;
star of the east, the horizon adorning,
guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.**

- 2 Cold on his cradle the dew-drops are shining;
low lies his head with the beasts of the stall;
angels adore him in slumber reclining,
Maker and Monarch and Saviour of all.**
- 3 Say, shall we yield him, in costly devotion,
odours of Edom, and offerings divine,
gems of the mountain and pearls of the ocean,
myrrh from the forest, or gold from the mine?**
- 4 Vainly we offer each ample oblation,
vainly with gifts would his favour secure:
richer by far is the heart's adoration,
dearer to God are the prayers of the poor.**
- 5 Brightest and best of the sons of the morning,
dawn on our darkness, and lend us thine aid;
star of the east, the horizon adorning,
guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.**

Reginald Heber (1783-1826)

Prayers of Penitence

The grace of God had dawned upon the world
through our Saviour Jesus Christ,
who sacrificed himself for us to purify a people as his own.

Let us confess our sins.

God be gracious to us and bless us,
and make your face shine upon us:
Lord, have mercy.

All Lord, have mercy.

May your ways be known on the earth,
your saving power among the nations:
Christ, have mercy.

All **Christ, have mercy.**

You, Lord, have made known your salvation,
and reveal your justice in the sight of the nations:
Lord, have mercy.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

The president pronounces Absolution.

Almighty God,
who forgives all who truly repent,
have mercy upon us,
pardon and deliver us from all our sins,
confirm and strengthen us in all goodness,
and keep us in life eternal;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

Gloria in Excelsis

We now sing the Gloria in Excelsis

All: **Glory be to God in heaven.
Peace to all throughout the earth.
Thanks and praise to God our Father.
Love came down by human birth.
Gloria in excelsis Deo.
Gloria in excelsis Deo.**

**Jesus Christ, Son of the Father,
born on earth true love to bring.
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
hear us as we ever sing:
Gloria in excelsis Deo.
Gloria in excelsis Deo.**

**Here on earth Christ's life he gave us;
living, dying, ris'n on high.
God we praise your gen'rous spirit.
All our needs you full supply
Gloria in excelsis Deo.
Gloria in excelsis Deo.**

The Collect

The Collect is prayed and all respond, boldly

All Amen.

The Liturgy of the Word

Reading

One reading comes before the Gospel. At the end the reader says

**This is the word of the Lord.
All Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Reading

Alleluia, alleluia.

Christ was revealed in flesh,
proclaimed among the nations
and believed in throughout the world.

All **Alleluia.**

Hear the Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to *N.*

All **Glory to you, O Lord.**

At the end

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

After the sermon silence is kept, for reflection.

The Creed

Let us affirm our faith in Jesus Christ the Son of God.

We believe in one God,

All **the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit
and the Virgin Mary and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son
is worshipped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy
catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism
for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession

At the end

Merciful Father

All **accept these prayers
for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Believing the promises of God, let us pray with confidence
as our Saviour has taught us

All **Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come; thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

Hymn – Blessed Assurance

1. **Blessed Assurance, Jesus is mine:
O what a fore taste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God;
Born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.**

Chorus

***This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Saviour all the day long.
(Repeat)***

2. **Perfect submission, perfect delight,
visions of rapture burst on my sight;
angels descending, bring from above
echoes of mercy, whispers of love.**
3. **Perfect submission, all is at rest,
I in my Saviour am happy and blest;
watching and waiting, looking above,
filled with His goodness, lost in His love.**

Frances Jane van Alstyne (Fanny J. Crosby) (1820-1915)

Notices

The Dismissal

Blessing

May God the Father,
who led the wise men by the shining of a star
to find the Christ, the Light from light,
lead us also in our pilgrimage to find the Lord.

All **Amen.**

May God the Son,
who turned water into wine at the wedding feast at Cana,
transform our lives and make glad our hearts.

All **Amen.**

May God the Holy Spirit,
who came upon the beloved Son
at his baptism in the river Jordan,
pour out his gifts upon us
who have come to the waters of new birth.

All **Amen.**

And the blessing of God Almighty,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
be among us and remain with us always.

All **Amen.**

The Dismissal

We have seen his glory,
the glory revealed to all nations.
Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All **In the name of Christ. Amen.**

Final Hymn – Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun

- 1 Jesus shall reign where'er the sun
does his successive journeys run;
his kingdom stretch from shore to shore,
till moons shall wax and wane no more.**

- 2 People and realms of ev'ry tongue
dwell on his love with sweetest song,
and infant voices shall proclaim
their early blessings on His name.**

- 3 Blessings abound where'er he reigns:
the pris'ners leap to lose their chains;
the weary find eternal rest,
and all the humble poor are blest.**

- 4 To him shall endless prayer be made,
and praises throng to crown his head;
his name like incense shall arise
with ev'ry morning sacrifice.**

**5 Let ev'ry creature rise and bring
peculiar honours to our King;
angels descend with songs again,
and earth repeat the loud amen.**

Isaac Watts (1674-1748)

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