

Morning Prayer: Sunday, 24 January 2021: The Third Sunday of Epiphany

Preparation

Minister: O Lord, open our lips

All: **and our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

Minister: Your light springs up for the righteous

All: **and all the peoples have seen your glory.**

The prayer of thanksgiving:

Minister: Blessed are you, Sovereign God, king of the nations, to you be praise and glory for ever. From the rising of the sun to its setting your name is proclaimed in all the world. As the Sun of Righteousness dawns in our hearts anoint our lips with the seal of your Spirit that we may witness to your gospel and sing your praise in all the earth. Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

All: **Blessed be God for ever.**

A Song of Joy Is Said: From Psalm 100

Minister: O be joyful in the Lord, all the earth;
serve the Lord with gladness
and come before his presence with a song.

Lay Minister: Know that the Lord is God;
it is he that has made us and we are his;
we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.

Minister: Enter his gates with thanksgiving
and his courts with praise;
give thanks to him and bless his name.

Lay Minister: For the Lord is gracious; his steadfast love is everlasting,
and his faithfulness endures from generation to generation.

All: **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.**

The opening prayer:

Minister: The night has passed, and the day lies open before us;
let us pray with one heart and mind.

Silence is kept.

Lay Minister: As we rejoice in the gift of this new day, so may the light of your
presence, O God, set our hearts on fire with love for you; now and for ever.

All: Amen.

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The Word of God

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The appointed psalmody is said. Psalm 113

All: From the rising of the sun to its setting let the name of the Lord be praised.

Minister: Alleluia. Give praise, you servants of the Lord,
O praise the name of the Lord.

Lay Minister: Blessed be the name of the Lord,
from this time forth and for evermore.

Minister: From the rising of the sun to its setting
let the name of the Lord be praised.

Lay Minister: The Lord is high above all nations
and his glory above the heavens.

Minister: Who is like the Lord our God,
that has his throne so high,
yet humbles himself to behold the things of heaven and earth?

Lay Minister: He raises the poor from the dust
and lifts the needy from the ashes,

Minister: To set them with princes,
with the princes of his people.

Lay Minister: He gives the barren woman a place in the house
and makes her a joyful mother of children. Alleluia.

All: From the rising of the sun to its setting let the name of the Lord be praised.

Lay Minister: From the rising of the sun to its setting we praise your name, O Lord; may your promise to raise the poor from the dust and turn the fortunes of the needy upside be fulfilled in our time also, as it was in your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: 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.

The lay minister brings the first reading: Revelation 19.6-10

Then I heard what seemed to be the voice of a great multitude, like the sound of many waters and like the sound of mighty thunder-peals, crying out, 'Hallelujah! For the Lord our God the Almighty reigns. Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready; to her it has been granted to be clothed with fine linen, bright and pure'- for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints. And the angel said to me, 'Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.' And he said to me, 'These are true words of God.'

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Canticle: A Song of the New Jerusalem.

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All: Above you the Holy One arises, and above you God's glory appears.

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

Lay Minister: Though night still covers the earth,
and darkness the peoples;

Minister: Above you the Holy One arises,
and above you God's glory appears.

Lay Minister: The nations will come to your light,
and kings to your dawning brightness.

Minister: Your gates will lie open continually,
shut neither by day nor by night.

Lay Minister: The sound of violence shall be heard no longer in your land,
or ruin and devastation within your borders.

Minister: You will call your walls, Salvation,
and your gates, Praise.

Lay Minister: No more will the sun give you daylight,
nor moonlight shine upon you;

Minister: But the Lord will be your everlasting light,
your God will be your splendour.

Lay Minister: For you shall be called the city of God,
the dwelling of the Holy One of Israel. *Isaiah 60.1-3, 11a, 18, 19, 14b*

All: Above you the Holy One arises, and above you God's glory appears.

**All: 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.**

The Second reading is given. John 2.1-11

The Wedding at Cana

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, 'They have no wine.' And Jesus said to her, 'Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come.' His mother said to the servants, 'Do whatever he tells you.' Now standing there were six stone water-jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to them, 'Fill the jars with water.' And they filled them up to the brim. He said to them, 'Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward.' So they took it. When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom and said to him, 'Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now.' Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

The responsory is said:

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Minister: O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness;

All: let the whole earth tremble before him.

Lay Minister: Tell it out among the nations that the Lord is King.

All: O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.

Minister: Tell out his salvation from day to day.

All: Let the whole earth tremble before him.

Lay Minister: Declare his glory among the nations and his wonders among all peoples.

All: O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness;

let the whole earth tremble before him. from Psalm 96

Gospel Canticle: The Benedictus (The Song of Zechariah)

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**Refrain: All: This is the Christ, the Chosen of God,
the one who will bring healing to the nations.**

Minister: Blessed be the Lord the God of Israel,
who has come to his people and set them free.

Lay Minister: He has raised up for us a mighty Saviour,
born of the house of his servant David.

Minister: Through his holy prophets God promised of old
to save us from our enemies, from the hands of all that hate us,

Lay Minister: To show mercy to our ancestors,
and to remember his holy covenant.

Minister: This was the oath God swore to our father Abraham:
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,

Lay Minister: Free to worship him without fear,
holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life.

Minister: And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High,
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,

Lay Minister: To give his people knowledge of salvation
by the forgiveness of all their sins.

Minister: In the tender compassion of our God
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,

Lay Minister: To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death,
and to guide our feet into the way of peace. *Luke 1.68-79*

***All: 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.***

***All: This is the Christ, the Chosen of God,
the one who will bring healing to the nations.***

Prayers

Lay Minister: Let us pray for the world, his church, our needs and for the needs of
others: Creative God, you continually surprise us, and help us to cope with and do
things that are beyond our imagination and expectations; breathe new life into your
church around the world, for the family of faith in this benefice, bring life into our
traditions and familiar practices, so that we your people, are better equipped to
serve you in this changing world.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Minister: Faithful God, you are present in the struggles and turmoil of life,
strengthening the tired and stressed, and defending the needs of the weak and
vulnerable; give courage and hope to those most in need, especially at this time of
challenge and pandemic, help us to be your hands of love and strengthen all those
who work for healing, justice and mercy in this place.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lay Minister: Loving God, you are the thread that draws people together into loving
and supportive relationships, and wants to bring freedom to those who suffer; help
all those who are struggling with family life, bring peace and joy to all our homes
and help us all to grow in love.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Minister: Merciful God, who brings healing to those who suffer, purpose to those
who feel set adrift, and comfort to those who are lonely and distressed; bring

purpose to the lost and relieve the suffering of all those who struggle with pain, of mind, body or spirit.

Lord in your mercy, *All:* **hear our prayer.**

Lay Minister: Holy God, who reigns on high surrounded by your adopted children from across many generations; welcome into your eternal presence those who have died recently, comfort those who mourn and help us to draw on the stories of their witness to inspire our own journey of faith.

May they rest in peace. *All:* **and rise in glory.**

Lord in your mercy. *All:* **hear our prayer.**

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

Silence may be kept.

The Collect of the day is said:

- *Minister:* Almighty God, whose Son revealed in signs and miracles the wonder of your saving presence: renew your people with your heavenly grace, and in all our weakness sustain us by your mighty power; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

All: **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer is said:

- *Lay Minister:* 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.**

The Blessing and Conclusion

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The Minister:

Eternal Lord, who renews life in both the miraculous and the ordinary. Nourish us with the new wine of your kingdom and sustain us with the light of your word that your glory will be known throughout the world.

And the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, remain with you and all those you love this day and forever more.

All: Amen.

The Lay Minister: May Christ, who sends us to the nations, give us the power of his Spirit.

All: Amen.

Let us bless the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God