

ARISE! YOUR LIGHT HAS COME

Epiphany (shining forth, appearing) observes the manifestation of Christ to all the nations of the world. In the Sundays of the Epiphany season we see Christ as our light, our revealer. What these epiphanies have to say to us is that looking with discerning eye and listening with discriminating ear, we can perceive God behind, above, within, around, and below the world all about us. In Epiphany we begin to see more and more of Jesus, from his baptism in the Jordan River to his transfiguration on the mountain. Christ is the coming of the light and the power of the light to draw us to God. This light will unveil evil even as it reveals the goodness and glory of God; God's unstoppable love for us.

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

WE REMEMBER OUR BAPTISMS, CONFESS OUR FAITHLESSNESS,
AND HEAR GOD'S FAITHFUL PROMISE OF FORGIVENESS

Pastor: Trusting in the word of life given in baptism,
we are gathered in the name
of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit,
the holy Trinity, one God,
the fountain of living water,
the rock who gave us birth,
our light and our salvation.

People: Amen.

Pastor: Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,
we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness.
Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

Pastor: We give you thanks, O God,
for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters
and by your Word you created the world,
calling forth life in which you took delight.
Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family.
You led Israel safely through the Sea from slavery into freedom and the
land of promise.
In the waters of the Jordan, your Son was baptized by John, anointed with
the Holy Spirit, and proclaimed your beloved one.
By water, your Word, and the Spirit you claim us as your daughters and
sons,
making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.
Through this water remind us of our baptism.
We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life,

and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ.
Shower us with your Spirit,
and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.
To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**People: Blessed be God,
who gives us life with all creation,
joins us to the saving death of Christ,
and raises us to new life by the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

HYMN FOR THE SEASON OF EPIPHANY

“O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright”

[click on the link below]

<https://youtu.be/i3QSwL5YRTg>

**O Morning Star, how fair and bright!
You shine with God's own truth and light,
aglow with grace and mercy!
Of Jacob's line, King David's son,
our Lord and Savior, you have won
our hearts to serve you only!
Lowly, holy!!
Great and glorious,
all victorious,
rich in blessing!
Rule and might o'er all possessing!**

**Come, precious diamond, light divine,
and deep within our hearts now shine;
there light a flame undying!
In your one body let us be
as living branches of a tree,
your life our lives supplying.
Now, though daily
earth's deep sadness
may perplex us
and distress us,
yet with heav'nly joy you bless us.**

**Lord, when you look on us in love,
at once there falls from God above
a ray of purest pleasure.**

Your word and Spirit, flesh and blood
refresh our souls with heav'nly food.
You are our dearest treasure!
Let your mercy
warm and cheer us!
Oh, draw near us!
For you teach us
God's own love through you has reached us.

Almighty Father, in your Son
you loved us, when not yet begun
was this old earth's foundation!
Your Son has ransomed us in love
to live in him here and above:
this is your great salvation.
Alleluia!
Christ the living,
to us giving
life forever,
keeps us yours and fails us never!

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! Exaltation!
Tell the story!
Praise to Christ, who reigns in glory!

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.**

GATHERING

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S CALL WITH PRAISE AND PRAYER,
AND PREPARE TO HEAR GOD'S WORD OF LIFE

GREETING

Pastor: The light and love of God,
who wonderfully made you,
who graciously redeemed you,
who calls you each by name,
be with you all.

People: **And also with you**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Let us pray

People: **Holy God, creator of light and giver of goodness, your voice moves over the waters. Immerse us in your grace, and transform us by your Spirit, that we may follow after your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

WORD

THE CHURCH HEARS THE GOOD NEWS OF GOD ACTING
IN THIS AND EVERY TIME AND PLACE

FIRST READING: Genesis 1:1-5

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, 'Let there be light'; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

SECOND READING: Acts 19:1-7

While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed through the inland regions and came to Ephesus, where he found some disciples. He said to them, 'Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?' They replied, 'No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.' Then he said, 'Into what then were you baptized?' They answered, 'Into John's baptism.' Paul said, 'John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, in Jesus.' On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied — altogether there were about twelve of them.

THE GOSPEL

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the first chapter.

People: Glory to you, O Lord.

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, 'The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.'

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

[click on the link below]

<https://youtu.be/Qp4UV87JuN8>

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Baptized and Set Free"

[click on the link below]

<https://youtu.be/IP4V4LGj1TA>

We are people created, chosen by God,
Then we're washed, ever gently, in mercy and love.
Sin has power no more. Jesus opened the door
to a fountain bringing healing, and wholeness and more.
We are fed and we're nourished, filled and refreshed.
Then our hunger returns and again we are blessed.
For whatever the need, God is greater indeed:
endless ocean, always deeper than all of our need.

We are nourished by water, all living things,
and by life that the Spirit abundantly brings.
As we journey toward home, may your presence be known:
precious river, ever flowing, now carry us home.

Now with praise and thanksgiving, we join the song.
All are welcome! We gather to sing loud and strong.
Not enslaved, but set free! From now on, all will be
one in Jesus, one in water, baptized and set free!

APOSTLES' CREED

Pastor: Let us confess our faith in the words of the Apostles' Creed.

All: 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 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.**

TODAY IN OUR PRAYERS

We remember the missing and murdered indigenous women in Canada, the people of Syria, Iraq, Iran, Ukraine, Sudan, South Sudan, Afghanistan, Turkey, Yemen, Venezuela, Somalia, Libya, Hong Kong, Belarus, the Palestinians and Israelis, Armenia and Azerbaijan, Thailand, Nigeria, Ethiopia, the Rohingya Muslim refugees, all at the Mexico/United States border seeking refuge, the people of Haiti suffering from natural and political disasters, the people of the Bahamas suffering from hurricanes and those in Central America hit by hurricanes Eta and Iota, the people and government of the United States caught up in post-election violence and insurrection, those in the United States, Canada, and throughout the world caught up in racism and injustice and the resulting violence and destruction of lives and property, and those throughout the world, in Canada, in our province, and in our community threatened by the coronavirus.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE OF FAITH

[The congregational response after each petition is: "HEAR OUR PRAYER."]

Pastor: As we see and hear the promises of God revealed in Jesus, the Word made flesh, let us pray for all people and the whole creation that the light of Christ's grace and mercy shine upon all, saying, "O Christ, our light and life," and responding, "Hear our prayer."

Petitioner: O God, who calls us, you have showered us with the grace of baptism. We are washed by the Word, anointed by the Spirit, and named God's beloved children. Cause your grace to grow into faith and love, that we might bring all peoples the good news of Christ and serve to meet the needs of all. O Christ, our light and life ...

Petitioner: We pray for all the nations and world leaders and all people caught up in conflict, we especially remember the United States and its post-election violence. Bless the nations with the power of your peace that all suffering the trauma of war and violence may see your light shining in the darkness and be led by your righteous hand to act with honesty, justice and wisdom for the sake of the peace and security of all people. O Christ, our light and life ...

Petitioner: Marked with the cross of Christ and splashing in the waters of our Baptism, fill us with joy as we awaken to each new day of grace, celebrating the gifts of creation. Enlighten us in the ways of holy stewardship, especially honoring the gift of water by caring for oceans, lakes, rivers, streams, ponds, creeks, aquifers, and all that you, our Creator, in your goodness have given us. O Christ, our light and life ...

Pastor: As nourishing rains and snow renew the parched earth, so bring healing to those who dwell in the desert places of life, those who suffer from illness, loss, and brokenness, or are grieving. We remember especially before you ... Send your Spirit to illumine their darkness with the light of your healing, comfort, and reassurance. O Christ, our light and life...

Petitioner: God of wandering and exile, bless the resolutions, the commitments and promises we have made to you and to one another to be a people of the Gospel in this place. Calm our fears, assure us in the midst of uncertainty, give us strength, and keep us celebrating the joy that is ours centred in the cross and resurrection of Jesus. O Christ, our light and life ...

Petitioner: We pray for our youth and students as they resume classes, that in their lives of challenge, change, and growth toward maturity they may remember the promises of their baptism, the constant and abiding love of God for them, and the calling to care for their friends, peers, and others. O Christ, our light and life ...

Petitioner: Generous God, fill us with compassion and concern for others, young and old, that we may look after one another in these challenging days. Bring healing to those who are sick with the virus and be with their families. Comfort the family and friends of those who have died. Strengthen and protect all medical professionals caring for the sick and all who work in our medical and health care facilities. Give wisdom to leaders in healthcare and governance that they may make the right decisions for the well-being of people. We pray in gratitude for all those in our country who will continue to work in the days ahead in so many fields of life for the sake of us all. Bless them and keep them safe. O God of creation and life, we place

ourselves in your protection. May the mantle of your peace enfold us this day and tomorrow. O Christ. Our light and life ...

Petitioner: We give thanks to you, O God, for the greatest of epiphanies in the cross and resurrection of Jesus Christ, our Lord. May it be the source of our hope, a guide for our lives, and the power that enables us to sing, to pray, to hear the Gospel, and to love our neighbour. O Christ, our light and life ...

Pastor: Receive our prayers, gracious God, and fill us with hope as we behold your presence among us in Jesus Christ our Lord.

People: Amen.

THANKSGIVING

THE COMMUNITY PRAISES GOD FOR THE GRACIOUS GIFTS OF
CREATION AND THE SAVING DEEDS OF JESUS CHRIST

THE GREETING AND SHARING OF PEACE

Pastor: Since we are forgiven and renewed by God's Spirit, let us also be reconciled with one another and share the Peace of the Lord.

The peace of Christ be with you always.

People: And also with you.

*(The congregation greets one another with a gesture of peace, using these or similar words:
"Christ's peace be with you.")*

THE OFFERING

(We worship God with the offering of our selves, our time, our talents, and our possessions.)

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Leader: Let us pray.
God of all creation,

People: with great joy we worship you and lay before you these gifts.

Use what we have gathered here
in feeding the hungry world with your love.
Let our lives serve you only,
and lead us always to our dearest treasure,
Jesus Christ, the light of the world and the life of all. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor: Let us pray with confidence in the words our Saviour gave us:

People: 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.

SENDING

ALL RECEIVE THE BLESSING OF GOD, LEAVE IN PEACE,
AND ARE SENT OUT TO SERVE

BENEDICTION

Pastor: May Christ, whose epiphany revealed God's glory to the world,
deepen your faith and make your hearts glad.
God's blessing be with you,
Christ's peace be with you,
the Spirit's outpouring of love be with you, now and always.

People: Amen

CLOSING HYMN

"Wash, O God, Your Sons and Daughters "

[click on the link below]

<https://youtu.be/bGWELySJ6OU>

Wash, O God, our sons and daughters,
where your cleansing waters flow.
Number them among your people;
bless as Christ blessed long ago.
Weave them garments bright and sparkling;
compass them with love and light.
Fill, anoint them; send your Spirit,
holy dove and heart's delight.

We who bring them long for nurture;
by your milk may we be fed.
Let us join your feast, partaking
cup of blessing, living bread.
God, renew us, guide our footsteps;
free from sin and all its snares,
one with Christ in living, dying,
by your Spirit, children, heirs.

Oh, how deep your holy wisdom!
Unimagined, all your ways!
To your name be glory, honor!
With our lives we worship, praise!
We your people stand before you,
water washed and Spirit born.
By your grace, our lives we offer.
Recreate us; God, transform!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISMISSAL

Pastor: Go forth as light into the world. The joy of the Lord is your strength.

People: Thanks be to God.