

Liturgy

The Third Sunday after the Epiphany

GATHERING

O come, let us magnify the LORD;

let us make a joyful noise to our Rock and our Salvation!

**The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness,
on them light has shined!**

You have multiplied the nation;

You have increased its joy.

**They rejoice before You with joy and exultation,
for the yoke of their burden and the rod of their oppressor
You have broken.**

Now our heads are lifted up above our enemies;

Let us offer sacrifices with shouts of joy in His tabernacle!

One thing I have desired of the LORD, that I will seek:

**That I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life,
to behold the beauty of the LORD and to meditate in His temple.**

The LORD is our light and our salvation, our stronghold!

He has shown forth His glory. Come, let us adore Him!

— based on Isaiah 9:1-4 and Psalm 27:1, 4-9

Immortal Invisible (Your Great Name We Praise)

Immortal, invisible, God only wise;
In light inaccessible hid from our eyes.
Most holy, most glorious, the Ancient of Days;
Almighty, victorious, Your great Name we praise!

Verse 2

Unresting, unchanging, and silent as light;
Not wanting or wasting, You rule us in might.
Your justice, like mountains high soaring above;
Your clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.

Chorus

Most holy, most glorious, the Ancient of Days;
Almighty, victorious, Your great Name we praise!

Verse 3

All life comes from You, Lord, to both great and small;
In all life You live, Lord, the true Life of all.
We blossom and flourish but quickly grow frail;
We wither and perish, but You never fail.

Verse 4

Great Father of Glory, pure Father of Light;
Your angels adore You, all veiling their sight.
All praise we will render, oh Father of Grace;
Till one day in splendor we see face to face.

CCLI Song #4088941 © 2001 Sovereign Grace Praise; Bob Kauflin | Walter Chalmers Smith

*LECTIONARY for the third Sunday
after the Epiphany, Year A:*

Isaiah 9:1-4

Psalm 27:1, 4-9

1 Corinthians 1:10-18

Matthew 4:12-23

On this third Sunday of the season of Epiphany we continue our focus and reflection of the Person, work, and glorious acts of Jesus in His incarnation here on earth. As we walk through this last period of the Season of Light (which comprises Advent, Christmastide, and Epiphany), we look with renewed thanksgiving and amazement at His deeds and the revelation of God's heart for the world He created. At the same time, we are alert for those "a-ha moments" when God manifests His glory and reveals something to us of His purposes for us and His calling on our lives.

Today's lectionary invites us to ponder the revelation, or manifestation—the epiphany—of Christ as the Light of the world. As you read and worship through these texts, prayers, and songs, consider in how many and varied ways this truth comes alive: "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness, on them light has shined!" (Isaiah 9:2)

The Gathering responsive reading, written for the pastor or another designated reader and the congregation, draws from the Old Testament readings for today.

Immortal, Invisible (Your Great Name We Praise) retains the tune of the traditional hymn, but gives it a more joyful setting and adds a chorus with lyrics that repeat the last two lines of the first verse. It starts the service with a wonderful declaration of the wonder of the Light of the world.

INVOCATION

Prayers of adoration, praise, and thanksgiving for God's presence

(Sung)

Most holy, most glorious, the Ancient of Days;
Almighty, victorious, Your great Name we praise.

Gloria Patri

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,
As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Setting: Ellen Koehler. Copyright ©2009 Ellen Koehler. All Rights Reserved.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

**In the beginning was the Word,
and the Word was with God,
and the Word was God.**

He was in the beginning with God.

All things came into being through Him,
and apart from Him nothing came into being
that has come into being.

In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men.

*The Light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness did not comprehend it.*

There came a man sent from God, whose name was John.

He came as a witness, to testify about the Light,
so that all might believe through him.

He was not the Light,

but he came to testify about the Light.

**The true Light, which gives light to everyone,
was coming into the world.**

He was in the world, and the world was made through Him,
and the world did not know Him.

He came to His own,

and those who were His own did not receive Him.

But as many as received Him,

**to them He gave the right to become children of God,
even to those who believe in His name,
who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh
nor of the will of man, but of God.**

And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us,

**and we beheld His glory,
glory as of the only begotten from the Father,
full of grace and truth.**

No one has seen God at any time;

**the only begotten God who is in the bosom of the Father,
He has made Him known.**

– John 1:1-14, 18

The Lord Is My Light

The Lord is my light, my light and salvation;
In God I trust, in God I trust.

Songs and Prayers from Taizé

Copyright ©1991 Ateliers et Presses de Taizé, 71250 Taizé, France.

The chorus of Immortal Invisible, as sung above, in in the key of G. Transpose it to the key of E to use as a transition to Gloria Patri.

Ellen's setting of the "lesser doxology," Gloria Patri, is available in the music catalog (Liturgical and Psalm Settings section) as a lead sheet and scored for voice and piano accompaniment. It is also included in the collection, Singing the Liturgy, Volume 1. Here's a link:

<https://clerestorynotes.com/live/sheetmusic/gloria-patri>

You can hear Gloria Patri in the Audio Media Studio section of the Music

Room:

https://clerestorynotes.com/live/content/music_library/gloria-patri-clip

The Profession of Faith is taken from the opening chapter of the gospel of John. Though it's not included in today's lectionary, it is eminently appropriate as the declaration of the Person and Work of the Light of the world. This antiphonal setting of John 1:1-14, 18 is written for two readers or groups within the congregation, designated by the lines printed in regular and italic fonts, and the whole congregation (designated by the bold font).

PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

Hear, O LORD, when I cry aloud;
be gracious to me and answer me!
You have said, "Seek My face."

*My heart says to You,
"Your face, LORD, I will seek."*

Do not hide Your face from me.
Do not turn Your servant away in anger,
O You who have been my help.
Do not cast me off or forsake me,
O God of my salvation!

– Psalm 27:7-9

[Silence]

Almighty and merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against You and one another in thought, word and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We recognize that in Jesus Christ our light has come, yet too often we choose to walk in shadows and ignore the light.

Gracious God, forgive our sins and remove from us the veil of darkness that can so easily shroud our lives. Empower us to live in Your light and to walk in Your ways, for the sake of Him who is the light of the world, Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

Agnus Dei

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,
Have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,
Have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,
Grant us peace.

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ASSURANCE OF PARDON

The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?
The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom then shall I be afraid?
For in the day of trouble He will hide me in His shelter.

*He will conceal me in the secret place of His dwelling,
and set me high on a rock.
I would have despaired unless I had believed
that I would see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living.*

– Psalm 27:1, 5, 13

**We give thanks with joy to the Father,
who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in Light.**

For He has rescued us from the domain of darkness,
and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son,
in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

– Colossians 1:12-14

Thanks be to God!

This prayer of confession and repentance is adapted from The Book of Common Prayer (Morning Prayer, rite two) and the beginning of the traditional Collect for the second Sunday of Epiphany.

A useful and user-friendly resource is The (Online) Book of Common Prayer [www.bcponline.org].

A lovely, Celtic setting of the traditional prayer of repentance. Any contemplative setting of Agnus Dei would be suitable here.

TIME OF OFFERING

Words and prayers of thanksgiving and praise

Lord of Lords

Beholding Your beauty is all that I long for.
To worship You, Jesus, is my sole desire.
For this very heart You have shaped for Your pleasure,
Purposed to lift Your name higher.

Here in surrender, in pure adoration,
I enter Your courts with an offering of praise.
I am Your servant, come to bring You glory,
As is fit for the works of Your hands.

Now unto the Lamb who sits on the throne,
Be glory and honour and praise.
All of creation resounds with the song:
Worship and praise Him, the Lord of lords.

Spirit now living and dwelling within me,
Keep my eyes fixed ever on Jesus' face.
Let not the things of this world ever sway me,
I'll run 'til I finish the race.

Now unto the Lamb who sits on the throne,
Be glory and honour and praise.
All of creation resounds with the song:
Worship and praise Him, the Lord of lords.

Now unto the Lamb who sits on the throne,
Be glory and honour and praise.
All of eternity echoes the song:
Worship and praise Him, the Lord of lords.

Holy Lord, You are holy.
Jesus Christ is the Lord.

Now unto the Lamb who sits on the throne,
Be glory and honour and praise.
Call all the sinners to join in the song:
Worship and praise Him, the Lord of lords.
Lord of lords . . .

CCLI Song #4869971 ©2007 Hillsong Music Publishing Australia. Brooke Ligertwood

Psalm 27:4: "One thing I have desired of the Lord, that I will seek: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD and to meditate in His temple."

THE WORD

Isaiah 9:1-4

Psalm 27:1, 4-9

1 Corinthians 1:10-18

Matthew 4:12-23

THE TABLE

Remembering the Body of Christ

Passing of the Peace

The Lord be with you!

And also with you!

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again!

The Lord's Prayer (sung)

Our Father, who art in heaven,

Hallowed be Thy name.

Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done,

On earth as it is in heav'n.

Provide each day our daily needs;

Forgive our sins as we forgive others' wrongs;

And lead us not into temptation,

But deliver us from evil.

For Thine is the kingdom, forever and ever;

And Thine is the power, forever and ever;

And Thine is the glory, now and forever,

Amen, amen, amen.

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I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

I want to walk as a child of the light;

I want to follow Jesus.

God set the stars to give light to the world;

The Star of my life is Jesus.

Chorus

In Him there is no darkness at all,

The night and the day are both alike.

The Lamb is the light of the city of God;

Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

I want to see the brightness of God;

I want to look at Jesus.

Clear Sun of righteousness shine on my path,

And show me the way to the Father.

I'm looking for the coming of Christ;

I want to follow Jesus.

When we have run with patience the race,

We shall know the joy of Jesus.

CCLI Song No. 89848; ©1970, 1975 Celebration; Kathleen Thomerson

Music for The Lord's Prayer is available in the music catalog as a lead sheet and scored for voice and piano.

It is also available in the music collection, Singing the Liturgy, Volume 1.

Link:

<https://clerestorynotes.com/live/sheetmusic/lords-prayer>

You can hear The Lord's Prayer in the Audio Media Studio.

Link:

https://clerestorynotes.com/live/content/music_library/lords-prayer-clip

There are many wonderful songs that could be used here at Table, that speak of the glory Christ, the Light of the world. Here are some other examples:

- King of Wisdom and Light (CCLI Song #2514352; ©1998 International Liturgy Publications; Jim Cowan)

- Turn Your Eyes (CCLI Song #7120053 ©2019 Sovereign Grace Praise | Sovereign Grace Songs | Sovereign Grace Worship. Original words and music: Helen H. Lemmel. Addt'l words and music: George Romanacce, Nic Trout, Kevin Winebarger, Nathan Stiff.)

- How Great Is Our God (CCLI Song #4348399 ©2004 worshiptogether.com songs; Chris Tomlin, Ed Cash, Jesse Reeves).

SENDING FORTH
The Life of the Body

Christ, Be our Light

Longing for light, we were in darkness.
Longing for truth, we turned to You.
Make us your own, Your holy people,
Light for the world to see.

Christ, be our light!
Shine in our hearts, shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in Your church sent forth today.

Words and Music: Bernadette Farrell; © OCP Publications 1998

Benediction:

Almighty God, whose Son our Savior Jesus Christ
is the Light of the world:
Grant that Your people, illumined by Your word and Table,
may shine with the radiance of Christ's glory,
that He may be known, worshiped, and obeyed
to the ends of the earth;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.
Amen. Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

A thought about worship from the Ancient Fathers –

“We, whose spiritual eyes have been opened by the Word, Jesus Christ, and who see the difference between light and darkness, prefer to take our stand ‘in the light.’ We won't have anything at all to do with darkness. In addition, the true Light, endowed with life, knows who to reveal His full splendor to and to whom His light. For He doesn't just display His brilliance due to the weakness in the recipient's eyes. And whose eyes are affected and injured if we must speak of them at all? Those who are ignorant of God and whose passions prevent them from seeing the truth. Christians, however, aren't blinded by the words of those who opposed worshipping God. But let those who know they are blinded by following crowds who are in error and groups that keep festivals to demons, draw near to the Word, Jesus Christ. He can give the gift of sight. Like the poor and blind whom . . . Jesus healed because they said to Him, ‘Son of David, have mercy upon me,’ those who draw near to Him will also receive mercy and recover their eyesight, created fresh and beautiful by the Word of God.”

– Origen

Lectionary for next week: Micah 6:1-8
Psalm 15
1 Corinthians 1:18-31
Matthew 5:1-12

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The closing words of prayer and blessing are adapted as a benediction from the traditional prayer for the second Sunday of Epiphany (Book of Common Prayer).