



Morning Prayer
2nd Sunday of Epiphany
17th January 2021

An Order for Morning Prayer on Sunday

17 January 2021

Epiphany 2

† Preparation

Grace, mercy and peace
from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ
be with you
and also with you.

This is the day that the Lord has made.
Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

We have come together in the name of Christ
to offer our praise and thanksgiving,
to hear and receive God's holy word,
to pray for the needs of the world,
and to seek the forgiveness of our sins,
that by the power of the Holy Spirit
we may give ourselves to the service of God.

Prayers of Penitence

The grace of God has 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. *cf Titus 2.11-14*

Lord God,
we have sinned against you;
we have done evil in your sight.
We are sorry and repent.
Have mercy on us according to your love.
Wash away our wrongdoing and cleanse us from our sin.
Renew a right spirit within us

**and restore to us the joy of your salvation;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

May the Father of all mercies
cleans us from our sins,
and restore us in his image
to the praise and glory of his name,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Blessed is the Lord,
for he has heard the voice of our prayer;

Therefore shall our hearts dance for joy
and in our song will we praise our God.

Blessed are you, Lord our God,
creator and redeemer of all;
to you be glory and praise for ever.
From the waters of chaos you drew forth the world.
and in your great love fashioned us in your image.
Now, through the deep waters of death,
you have brought your people to new birth
by raising your Son to life in triumph.
May Christ your light ever dawn in our hearts
as we offer you our sacrifice of thanks and praise.
Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit:
Blessed be God for ever.

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

Silence is kept.

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.

Amen.

† The Word of God

Psalmody

Psalm 139.1-5,12-18

- 1 O Lord, you have searched me out and known me;
you know my sitting down and my rising up;
you discern my thoughts from afar.
- 2 You mark out my journeys and my resting place
and are acquainted with all my ways.
- 3 For there is not a word on my tongue,
but you, O Lord, know it altogether.
- 4 You encompass me behind and before
and lay your hand upon me.
- 5 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me,
so high that I cannot attain it.
- 12 For you yourself created my inmost parts;
you knit me together in my mother's womb.
- 13 I thank you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made;
marvellous are your works, my soul knows well.
- 14 My frame was not hidden from you,
when I was made in secret
and woven in the depths of the earth.
- 15 Your eyes beheld my form, as yet unfinished;
already in your book were all my members written,
- 16 As day by day they were fashioned
when as yet there was none of them.
- 17 How deep are your counsels to me, O God!
How great is the sum of them!
- 18 If I count them, they are more in number than the sand,
and at the end, I am still in your presence.

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.

First Reading

1 Samuel 3.1-10

¹Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the LORD under Eli. The word of the LORD was rare in those days; visions were not widespread.

²At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; ³the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the LORD, where the ark of God was. ⁴Then the LORD called, 'Samuel! Samuel!' and he said, 'Here I am!' ⁵and ran to Eli, and said, 'Here I am, for you called me.' But he said, 'I did not call; lie down again.' So he went and lay down. ⁶The LORD called again, 'Samuel!' Samuel got up and went to Eli, and said, 'Here I am, for you called me.' But he said, 'I did not call, my son; lie down again.' ⁷Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, and the word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him. ⁸The LORD called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli, and said, 'Here I am, for you called me.' Then Eli perceived that the LORD was calling the boy. ⁹Therefore Eli said to Samuel, 'Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say, "Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening."' So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

¹⁰Now the LORD came and stood there, calling as before, 'Samuel! Samuel!' And Samuel said, 'Speak, for your servant is listening.'

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The reading may be followed by a time of silence.

Old Testament Canticle

A Song of the New Jerusalem

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

- 2 Though night still covers the earth,
and darkness the peoples;
- 3 Above you the Holy One arises,
and above you God's glory appears.
- 4 The nations will come to your light,
and kings to your dawning brightness.
- 5 Your gates will lie open continually,
shut neither by day nor by night.
- 6 The sound of violence shall be heard no longer in your land,
or ruin and devastation within your borders.
- 7 You will call your walls, Salvation,
and your gates, Praise.
- 8 No more will the sun give you daylight,
nor moonlight shine upon you;
- 9 But the Lord will be your everlasting light,
your God will be your splendour.
- 10 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*

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.

Second Reading

John 1.43-51

⁴³The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, 'Follow me.' ⁴⁴Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. ⁴⁵Philip found Nathanael and said to him, 'We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth.' ⁴⁶Nathanael said to him, 'Can anything good come out of Nazareth?' Philip said to him, 'Come and see.' ⁴⁷When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him, he said of him, 'Here is truly an Israelite in whom

there is no deceit!’ ⁴⁸Nathanael asked him, ‘Where did you come to know me?’ Jesus answered, ‘I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you.’ ⁴⁹Nathanael replied, ‘Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!’ ⁵⁰Jesus answered, ‘Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these.’ ⁵¹And he said to him, ‘Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man.’

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The reading may be followed by a time of silence.

Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead

And Christ shall give you light.

You have died and your life is hid with Christ in God.

Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead.

Set your minds on things that are above,
not on things that are on the earth.

And Christ shall give you light.

When Christ our life appears you will appear with him in glory.

**Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead,
and Christ shall give you light.**

Gospel Canticle

Benedictus

- 1 Blessed be the Lord the God of Israel,
who has come to his people and set them free.
- 2 He has raised up for us a mighty Saviour,
born of the house of his servant David.
- 3 Through his holy prophets God promised of old
to save us from our enemies,
from the hands of all that hate us,

- 4 To show mercy to our ancestors,
and to remember his holy covenant.
- 5 This was the oath God swore to our father Abraham:
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,
- 6 Free to worship him without fear,
holy and righteous in his sight
all the days of our life.
- 7 And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High,
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,
- 8 To give his people knowledge of salvation
by the forgiveness of all their sins.
- 9 In the tender compassion of our God
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,
- 10 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

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.

Sermon (There is a reflection at the end of this booklet)

The Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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.

Prayers

Let us pray for obedience to the call of God in all things.

As the first disciples came to faith in Christ, so may the Church be faithful in following him ... May she be made worthy to know and to reveal the mystery of salvation.

Lord in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Where there is hostility between nations and races, where a name can arouse suspicion, bring the peace of Christ ... Teach all people to trust one another and find friendship for each in seeking the good of all.

Lord in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Help us all to guide in the right way those who are near to us ... Let the homes of this community be blessed with the presence of the Lord.

Lord in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Have mercy on all who are imprisoned in old feuds and rivalries, who have ceased to believe in the power of good ... Grant that they may lose their fear, and see love in the eyes of the stranger.

Lord in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

We give thanks for the departed to whom heaven has been opened and the divine vision granted ... May our faith in this world bring us to follow Christ until we come to eternal life.

Lord in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

We pray in the name of Christ, the Son of God, the King of Israel.

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

The Collect is said.

Almighty God,
in Christ you make all things new:
transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace,
and in the renewal of our lives
make known your heavenly glory;
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.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer is said

**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

The Blessing

The Lord bless us, and preserve us from all evil,
and keep us in eternal life.
Amen.

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2nd Sunday of Epiphany

by Angus Ritchie

UNTIL the feast of Candlemas, the liturgy retains a focus on the manifestation (epiphaneia) of Christ to the world. In this Sunday's Gospel, we read of Jesus's encounter with Philip and Nathaniel. In the preceding verses, Jesus calls three other disciples. Each of these encounters with Jesus leads on to a confession of faith. Andrew announces that "We have found the Messiah"; Philip declares Jesus to be "him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote"; while Nathaniel proclaims him "Son of God" and "King of Israel".

These confessions all emerge from personal encounter rather than theological debate. When Philip tells Nathaniel about Jesus, Nathaniel's initial reaction is scepticism: "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Nazareth is a marginal, humble town. It is the last place in which anyone would have expected God's glory to be manifest.

Philip's response is not to argue but rather to invite him to "Come and see." As Johann Bengel observed centuries ago, it is our personal encounter with Jesus which offers the "best remedy against preconceptions" (quoted in *The Gospel of John*, by Rudolf Bultmann).

The face-to-face encounter between Nathaniel and Jesus is decisive in challenging his preconceptions. What is less clear is why Nathaniel finds Jesus's words — "I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you" — so compelling. Nathaniel must have been doing something significant under the fig tree, but John does not tell us what. Jean Vanier offers some suggestions: perhaps he was expressing a yearning to see the Messiah, or even making a special promise to God about what he would do if this prayer was answered (Drawn into the Mystery of Jesus through the Gospel of John). All that we can say with certainty is that Jesus's observation inspires Nathaniel to recognise and heed his call.

Jesus responds by indicating that a greater manifestation is to come: Nathaniel will see "heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man". As Vanier observes, Jesus's words

“are pregnant with meaning, echoing Jacob and the prophets. They reveal the whole reality of how the Word came down from heaven, became flesh, and will return to the Father with all his brothers and sisters in humanity.”

Our Old Testament reading invites us to reflect on how we hear God’s voice. Because “the word of the Lord was rare in those days”, the prophet Eli has ceased to expect God to speak. Initially, he does not recognise that God is indeed addressing Samuel. When he finally realises, he instructs Samuel to respond “Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.” This expectant attitude should accompany our reading of scripture, that the written Word might draw us into an encounter with Christ, the Word made flesh.

Such an encounter is the goal of the Fourth Evangelist. He writes so that his readers will come to faith in Jesus, “and that through believing you may have life in his name”. He is not interested in simply imparting information. He aims to draw readers into an encounter in which Christ is manifest. That is his gift to us.