

## *Morning Praise and Worship for Epiphany*

### **Introduction**

**We three kings of Orient are**

We three kings of Orient are;  
bearing gifts we traverse afar  
field and fountain, moor and mountain,  
following yonder star:  
O star of wonder, star of night,  
star with royal beauty bright,  
westward leading, still proceeding,  
guide us to thy perfect light.

**Melchior**      Born a king on Bethlehem plain,  
gold I bring, to crown him again-  
King for ever, ceasing never,  
over us all to reign:  
*O star of wonder, star of night, ...*

**Caspar**        Frankincense to offer have I;  
incense owns a deity nigh:  
prayer and praising, all men raising,  
worship him, God most high:  
*O star of wonder, star of night, ...*

**Balthazar**      Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume  
breathes a life of gathering gloom;  
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,  
sealed in the stone-cold tomb:  
*O star of wonder, star of night, ...*

Glorious now, behold him arise,  
King and God, and sacrifice!  
heaven sings alleluia,  
alleluia the earth replies:  
*O star of wonder, star of night, ...*

In the name of Christ, the light of the world, welcome.  
Grace, mercy and peace be always with you.

**And also with you**

We have come together in the presence of God our  
Father to rejoice in the gift of Jesus to us as the light  
of the world, to hear and receive the story and  
message of the coming of Christ, and to offer to God  
our thanksgiving in prayer and song.

O Lord, open our lips  
and our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

You laid the foundation of the earth  
and the heavens are the work of your hands.

Christ the light of the world has come to dispel the  
darkness of our hearts. In his light let us examine  
ourselves and confess our sins.

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

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

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

May the God of all healing and forgiveness draw us to  
himself, and cleanse us from all our sins that we may  
behold the glory of his Son, the Word made flesh,  
Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Blessed are you, sovereign God, creator of heaven and  
earth, to you be praise and glory for ever. As your

living Word, eternal in heaven, assumed the frailty of  
our mortal flesh, may the light of your love be born in  
us to fill our hearts with joy as we sing:  
Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.  
**Blessed be God for ever.**

1 As with gladness men of old  
did the guiding star behold,  
as with joy they hailed its light,  
leading onward, beaming bright;  
so, most gracious Lord, may we  
evermore be led to thee.

2 As with joyful steps they sped,  
to that lowly manger-bed,  
there to bend the knee before  
him whom heaven and earth adore;  
so may we with willing feet  
ever seek thy mercy-seat.

3 As they offered gifts most rare  
at that manger rude and bare,  
so may we with holy joy,  
pure and free from sin's alloy,  
all our costliest treasures bring,  
Christ, to thee, our heavenly King.

4 Holy Jesu, every day  
keep us in the narrow way,  
and, when earthly things are past,  
bring our ransomed souls at last  
where they need no star to guide,  
where no clouds thy glory hide.

5 In the heavenly country bright  
need they no created light;  
thou its light, its joy, its crown,  
thou its sun which goes not down;  
there for ever may we sing  
alleluias to our King.

Psalm 72 (on reading sheet)

A Song of the New Jerusalem

Arise, shine out, for your light has come,  
the glory of the Lord is rising upon you.  
Though night still covers the earth, and darkness the  
peoples;  
Above you the Holy One arises, and above you God's  
glory appears.  
The nations will come to your light,  
and kings to your dawning brightness.  
Your gates will lie open continually, shut neither by

day nor by night.

The sound of violence shall be heard no longer in your  
land, or ruin and devastation within your borders.  
You will call your walls, Salvation, and your gates,  
Praise.

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

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

For you shall be called the city of God,  
the dwelling of the Holy One of Israel.

**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.**

Isaiah 60.1-6 (on reading sheet)

Brightest and best of the sons of the morning

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.

## Matthew 2.1-12

### Reflections on Epiphany

#### Creed

Do you believe and trust in God the Father?

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

Do you believe and trust in his Son Jesus Christ?

**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.**

Do you believe and trust in the Holy Spirit?

**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.**

Let us worship the Saviour with joy and make our  
prayer to our heavenly Father.

The magi came from the east to worship your Son:  
Father, grant to Christians everywhere the spirit of  
adoration ...

Lord of glory, **hear our prayer.**

The infant Christ received gifts of gold, incense and  
myrrh:

Father, accept the offering of our hearts and minds ...  
Lord of glory, **hear our prayer.**

The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdom  
of our Lord and of his Christ:

Father, grant an abundance of peace to your world ...  
Lord of glory, **hear our prayer.**

The Holy Family lived in exile and in the shadow of death:

Father, look in mercy on all who are poor and powerless, and all who suffer ...

Lord of glory, **hear our prayer.**

Your Son shared the life of his home and family at Nazareth:

Father, protect in your love our neighbours, our families and this community of which we are a part ...

Lord of glory, **hear our prayer.**

Father, we rejoice in our fellowship with the shepherds, the angels, the magi, the Virgin Mary, Saint Joseph and all the faithful departed.

In your unfailing love for us and for all people, hear and answer our prayers through your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ.

**Amen.**

**Collect (on reading sheet)**

**Lord's Prayer**

**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.**

May the Son of the living God, teach us to walk in his way more trustfully, to accept his truth more faithfully, and to share his life more lovingly; that by the power of the Holy Spirit we may come as one family to the kingdom of the Father.

**The Peace**

**Songs of thankfulness and praise**

- 1 Songs of thankfulness and praise, Jesu, Lord, to thee we raise, manifested by the star, to the sages from afar; branch of royal David's stem in thy birth at Bethlehem: anthems be to thee addressed God in Man made manifest.

**2 Manifest at Jordan's stream,  
Prophet, Priest and King supreme;  
and at Cana wedding-guest  
in thy Godhead manifest;  
manifest in power divine,  
changing water into wine:  
anthems be to thee addressed,  
God in Man made manifest.**

**and may praise thee, ever blest,  
God in Man made manifest.**

**3 Manifest in making whole  
palsied limbs and fainting soul;  
manifest in valiant fight,  
quelling all the devil's might;  
manifest in gracious will,  
ever bringing good from ill:  
anthems be to thee addressed,  
God in Man made manifest.**

**4 Grant us grace to see thee, Lord,  
mirrored in thy holy word;  
may we imitate thee now,  
and be pure, as pure art thou;  
that we like to thee may be  
at thy great Epiphany;**