



Midweek Service of Word, Song and Prayer

Opening Dialog

The light shines in the darkness, **and the darkness has not overcome it.**

The Word became flesh and lived among us, **and we have beheld Christ's glory.**

To us a child is born, to us a Son is given. **In the Word was life, and the life was the light of all people.**

Opening Prayer

O God, you revealed your Son to the nations by the leading of a star. Lead us now by faith to know your presence in our lives, and bring us at last to the full vision of your glory, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Readings

Isaiah 60

³Nations shall come to God's light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

Where do you see the light of God drawing us together? Where do you see the darkness of this world pulling us apart?

Ephesians 3

⁶...the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

Where do you see the church including others? Where do you see the church excluding others?

Matthew 2

¹In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ²asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage."

Why is it important that the wise men come from the East?

Reflection for the Day

This Little Light of Mine

Epiphany celebrates the in-breaking of God's light. The readings help us understand that the manifestation of God is for all people everywhere. This is a message of radical inclusivity. The magi are drawn from the east to come to pay homage to the Christ child. They who were once far off are now embraced by the one true God, who has sent a Savior into the world. Likewise, Paul reports in Ephesians that he has been given grace to "bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ" (Eph. 3:8). Just as Isaiah had foretold, nations shall come to God's light (Isa. 60:3).

In this inclusive reality, everyone is welcome, and so are their gifts. Just as the magi showed their respect for Christ with gold, frankincense, and myrrh, we can offer our gifts and talents to further the brightness of God's dawn. Whatever we bring—no matter how simple—is accepted and used for a mighty purpose.

There is also a sense of joy at this Epiphany. When the magi saw that the star they were following had stopped over the place where the Christ child lay, they were overwhelmed with joy (Matt. 2:10). The angel had declared to the shepherds that the newborn child would bring good news of great joy for all the people (Luke 2:10). Now again, Christ brings joy to all. Christianity is a truly joyful religion.

Through word and sacrament we too are invited to rise and shine, for our light has come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon us. Fed and nourished in worship, we are sent forth to bear witness, to let our little lights shine.

Hymn of the Day

This Little Light of Mine – JJ Heller

Responsive Prayer

Show us your mercy, O Lord, **and grant us your salvation.** (silence)

Clothe your ministers with righteousness. **Let your people sing with joy.** (silence)

Give peace, O Lord, in all the world; **for only in you can we live in safety.** (silence)

Lord, keep this nation under your care, **and guide us in the way of justice and truth.** (silence)

Let your way be known upon earth; **your saving health among all nations.** (silence)

Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten, **nor the hope of the poor be taken away.** (silence)

Create in us clean hearts, O God, **and sustain us with your Holy Spirit.** (silence)

Closing Prayer

O God, in you we live and move and have our being. Guide and govern us in this day by your Holy Spirit, that in all the cares and occupations of our life we may not forget you, but remember that always we are walking in your sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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. 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.

Blessing

Let us bless the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Dismissal

Almighty God bless us, defend us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life. **Amen.**