

MORNING PRAYER FOR THE THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

Introductory Responses

Presider Blessed are you, David's heir, born to rule,
People **you received gifts from the magi.**

Blessed are you, Son of Man, baptized by John,
you saved us from ourselves.

Blessed are you, Servant Lord,
teaching and preaching, healing and comforting,
you proclaimed God's gracious reign.

With all the voices of heaven and earth,
we celebrate your epiphany.
Let heaven and earth shout their praise.

Blessed be God: Source of all being, eternal Word and Holy Spirit.
Blessed be God for ever.

The Psalm (19)

The com - mand - ment of God is clear and gives light to the eyes.

1 2 3 4

- (1) The heavens declare your glory, O God,
 (2) and the firmament shows your handiwork.
 (3) One day tells its tale to another,
 (4) and one night imparts knowledge to another. **R.**

- (1) Although they have no words or language,
 (2) and their voices are not heard,
 (3) their sound has gone out into all lands,
 (4) and their message to the ends of the world. **R.**

- (1) In the deep you have set a pavilion for the sun;
 (2) it comes forth like a bridegroom out of his chamber,
 (2) and rejoices like a champion to run its course.
 (3) It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens
 (3) and runs about to the end of it again;
 (4) nothing is hidden from its burning heat. **R.**

- (1) The law of God is perfect and revives the soul;
 (2) the testimony of our God is sure
 and gives wisdom to the innocent.
 (3) The statutes of our God are just and rejoice the heart;
 (4) the commandment of God is clear
 and gives light to the eyes. **R.**

- (1) The fear of God is clean and endures for ever;
 (1) the judgments of our God are true
 and righteous altogether.
 (2) More to be desired are they than gold,
 more than much fine gold,
 (2) sweeter far than honey, than honey in the comb.
 (3) By them also is your servant enlightened,
 (4) and in keeping them there is great reward. **R.**
- (1) How can I tell how often I offend?
 (1) cleanse me from my secret faults.
 (2) Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins;
 let them not get dominion over me;
 (2) then shall I be whole and sound,
 and innocent of a great offence.
 (3) Let the words of my mouth and the meditation
 of my heart be acceptable in your sight,
 (4) O God, my strength and my redeemer. **R.**

The First Reading (Nehemiah 8.1-10)

Reader A reading from the book of Nehemiah:

All the people gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told the scribe Ezra to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the Lord had given to Israel. Accordingly, the priest Ezra brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month. He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law. The scribe Ezra stood on a wooden platform that had been made for the purpose; and beside him stood Mattithiah, Shema, Anaiah, Uriah, Hilkiah, and Maaseiah on his right hand; and Pedaiiah, Mishaël, Malchijah, Hashum, Hash-baddanah, Zechariah, and Meshullam on his left hand. And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up. Then Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God, and all the people answered, 'Amen, Amen', lifting up their hands. Then they bowed their heads and worshipped the Lord with their faces to the ground. Also Jeshua, Bani, Sherebiah, Jamin, Akkub, Shabbethai, Hodiah, Maaseiah, Kelita, Azariah, Jozabad, Hanan, Pelaiiah, the Levites, helped the people to understand the law, while the people remained in their places. So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading.

And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, 'This day is holy to the Lord your God; do not mourn or weep.' For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. Then he said to them, 'Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our Lord; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the Lord is your strength.'

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

People

Thanks be to God.

The Responory

Presider O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness;
People **let the whole earth tremble before God.**

Tell it out among the nations that the Lord is sovereign.
O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.

Tell out the salvation of God from day to day.
Let the whole earth tremble before God.

Declare the glory of the Holy One among the nations
and the wonders of God among the peoples.
**O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness;
let the whole earth tremble before God.**

The Second Reading (1 Corinthians 12.12-31a)

Reader A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians:

Just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body - Jews or Greeks, slaves or free - and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. If the foot would say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear would say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. If all were a single member, where would the body be? As it is, there are many members, yet one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you," nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and those members of the body that we think less honourable we clothe with greater honour, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect; whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honour to the inferior member, that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honoured, all rejoice together with it. Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. And God has appointed in the church first

apostles, second prophets, third teachers; then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? But strive for the greater gifts.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The Canticle (Song of the New Jerusalem): Rise Up and Shine (CP 157)

The Third Reading (Luke 4.14-21)

Reader A reading from the Gospel according to Saint Luke:

Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone. When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour." And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

The Rev. Donald McKenzie

Musical Reflection

The Apostles' Creed

Presider Let us confess the faith of our baptism, as we say,
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 again 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.**

The Litany

Leader Holy God, You continue to delight in your people, draw us into the circle of your presence that we too might shine and share the radiance of your love. You are the fountain of life; the path of abundant life for all, the very breath of life itself. We open our hearts and minds to You in prayer. When I invite your response with 'Source of life and love', please reply: **hear our prayer.**

Everlasting Light of creation, may your people in all world
worship in spirit and in truth.

People Source of life and love,
Holy One, shine upon us and hear us.

May the church discover that unity which is your will.

Source of life and love,
Holy One, shine upon us and hear us.

May the nations of the earth seek after the ways that make for peace.

Source of life and love,
Holy One, shine upon us and hear us.

May the whole creation be set free
to enjoy the glorious liberty of your children.

Source of life and love,
Holy One, shine upon us and hear us.

May all who with Christ have entered the shadow of death,
rest in peace and rise in glory.
Source of life and love,
Holy One, shine upon us and hear us.

The Collect

Presider Almighty God,
by grace alone you call us
and accept us in your service.
Strengthen us by your Spirit,
and make us worthy of your call;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

People **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Presider Believing in the promises of God,
let us pray as our Saviour taught us, in the languages of our hearts,

All **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 for ever. Amen.**

Offertory Hymn: Thy Strong Word (CP 369)

Prayer Over the Gifts

Presider Loving God,
before the world began you called us.
Make holy all we offer you this day,
and strengthen us in that calling.
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord.

People **Amen.**

The Blessing

Presider May Almighty God, who led the Wise Men by the shining of a star to find the Christ, the Light from Light, lead you also, in your pilgrimage, to find the Lord.

People **Amen.**

Presider May God, who sent the Holy Spirit to rest upon the Only-begotten at his baptism in the Jordan River, pour out that Spirit on you who have come to the waters of new birth.

People **Amen.**

Presider May God, by the power that turned water into wine at the wedding feast at Cana, transform your lives and make glad your hearts.

People **Amen.**

Presider And the blessing of God Almighty, the Source of all being, the Eternal Word, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever.

People **Amen.**

Sending Hymn: Here in This Place New Light is Streaming (CP 465)

The Dismissal

Presider Let us bless the Lord. Alleluia!

People **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

May Christ, who sends us to the nations,
give us the power of the Spirit.

Amen.