

**Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2023**

## **Epiphany**

**Reading 1:** Ephesians 3: 4 - 7

**Gospel:** Luke 2: 15 - 21

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

**And also with you.**

**Psalm: 29**

Ascribe to the LORD, O heavenly beings,  
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

<sup>2</sup> Ascribe to the LORD the glory of his name;  
worship the LORD in holy splendour.

<sup>3</sup> The voice of the LORD is over the waters;  
the God of glory thunders,  
the LORD, over mighty waters.

<sup>4</sup> The voice of the LORD is powerful;  
the voice of the LORD is full of majesty.

<sup>5</sup> The voice of the LORD breaks the cedars;  
the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon.

<sup>6</sup> He makes Lebanon skip like a calf,  
and Sirion like a young wild ox.

<sup>7</sup> The voice of the LORD flashes forth flames of fire.

<sup>8</sup> The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness;  
the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.

<sup>9</sup> The voice of the LORD causes the oaks to whirl,<sup>[b]</sup>  
and strips the forest bare;  
and in his temple all say, 'Glory!'

<sup>10</sup> The LORD sits enthroned over the flood;  
the LORD sits enthroned as king for ever.

<sup>11</sup> May the LORD give strength to his people!  
May the LORD bless his people with peace!

**Song:** Emmanuel, Emmanuel: <https://youtu.be/SCylr-0v7Pg>

**Invitation to Confession:**

When the Lord comes,  
he will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness,  
and will disclose the purposes of the heart.  
Therefore in the light of Christ let us confess our sins.

**Confession:**

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

**Absolution:**

May the God of love and power  
forgive us and free us from our sins,  
heal and strengthen us by His Spirit,  
and raise us to new life in Christ our Lord. Amen.

Blessed be 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.

**Reading 1: Ephesians 3: 1 – 12**

This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles— <sup>2</sup>for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given to me for you, <sup>3</sup>and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, <sup>4</sup>a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. <sup>5</sup>In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: <sup>6</sup>that is, the Gentiles have become fellow-heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

<sup>7</sup>Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given to me by the working of his power. <sup>8</sup>Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, <sup>9</sup>and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; <sup>10</sup>so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. <sup>11</sup>This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, <sup>12</sup>in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

*This is the word of the Lord.      Thanks be to God.*

**Gospel:      Matthew 2: 1 – 12**

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup> asking, '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.' <sup>3</sup> When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; <sup>4</sup> and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. <sup>5</sup> They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

<sup>6</sup> "And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,  
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;  
for from you shall come a ruler  
who is to shepherd my people Israel."

<sup>7</sup> Then Herod secretly called for the wise men<sup>[a]</sup> and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup> Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, 'Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.' <sup>9</sup> When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup> When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. <sup>11</sup> On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. <sup>12</sup> And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.     **Praise to you O Christ.**

**Talk:** (click link)     <https://youtu.be/VzKMF-kvqls>

*Let us declare our faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.*

## **The Creed**

*Let us declare our faith in the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

Though he was divine,  
he did not cling to equality with God,  
but made himself nothing.  
Taking the form of a slave,  
he was born in human likeness.  
He humbled himself  
and was obedient to death,  
even the death of the cross.  
Therefore God has raised him on high,  
and given him the name above every name:  
that at the name of Jesus  
every knee should bow,  
and every voice proclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.  
Amen.

## **Prayers of Intercession**

When the Lord comes,

he will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness,  
and will disclose the purposes of the heart.  
Therefore in the light of Christ let us 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.**

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

***Silence is kept.***

**Collect:**

O Lord of all time and eternity, who in the baptism of Jesus thy beloved Son didst open the heavens and didst reveal thyself as Father: by the power of thy Spirit make perfect the heavenly work of our rebirth through the waters of the new creation; 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  
and 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 forever. Amen.

*Let us pause for a moment to bring ourselves  
and all that we offer to God  
and give Him thanks.*

**Song:** (click link) *Thou didst leave thy Throne* [https://youtu.be/P7w\\_z8o2SQI](https://youtu.be/P7w_z8o2SQI)

**Blessing:**

May Christ draw you to humility and worship,  
and bring you to see God at work;

.....and the blessing of God almighty;  
Father Son and Holy Spirit,  
be with us, and remain with us  
and all those whom we love,  
now and forever.  
Amen.

*Post something on the Facebook page to bless others.*