



Epiphany 3 Sunday January 23 2022

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

OPENING RESPONSES

PRIEST: Let us now fix our eyes on the star that was seen in the East and allow it to lead us as well. Let us come into God's presence with thanksgiving and joy, bringing all the sick, the suffering, the marginalized, the refugees, and the uprooted before him, knowing that God can dispel our darkness with his light. As we pray today for the unity of the Church, may we and our communities also be lights that guide others to Jesus the Saviour. Glory be to you, Father Almighty, for you have revealed yourself through your creation and invited all people to stand in your presence. We have seen the star of Jesus in our lives and have come to worship him just as the Magi did. We offer him ourselves today and we ask for the presence of the Holy Spirit among us.

ALL: Amen.

PRIEST: We glorify you, O Lord, creator of heaven and earth, for you have set the lights in the vault of the sky. You separated light from darkness and arranged signs to mark sacred times, and days and years. You studded the firmament with stars. How majestic are your works, the heavens declare your glory and the skies proclaim the work of your hands!

ALL: We glorify you, O Lord.

PRIEST: We praise you for you did not abandon us despite our rebellion but sent your son to brighten our darkness and be our light and our salvation. In him was life, and that life was the light of all humanity. And the light shines in the darkness.

ALL: We praise you, O Lord.

PRIEST: We worship you, O Lord, for you accompany us in the chaos of our life through the power of your Holy Spirit.

You light up our paths and give us wisdom and faith in a world of untruth and doubt.

ALL: We worship you, O Lord.

PRIEST: We thank you, O Lord, for you send us into the world to reflect this light around us, in our various churches and diverse cultures and to witness to Jesus, the one true King, offering ourselves to him.

ALL: We thank you, O Lord.

PRIEST: May all the peoples bow before you and worship you.

ALL: Unite us with one another as we come from the North and from the South, from the East and from the West, old and young, men and women to bow down before you and offer you homage, our heavenly King. Amen.

FIRST READING *Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10*

PEOPLE: Thanks be to God

SECOND READING *1 Corinthians 12:1-11* People:

PEOPLE: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL

PRIEST: The Holy Gospel is written in the 4th chapter of the Gospel according to Luke beginning at verse 14.

PEOPLE: Glory be to thee, O Lord.

Luke 4:14-21

This is the Gospel of Christ.

PEOPLE: Praise be to thee, O Christ.

REFLECTION

APOSTLES' CREED

PRIEST: Together we proclaim our faith:

ALL: We believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

We believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.

He 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, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

We 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 OF THE PEOPLE

PRIEST: Let us pray with confidence to the Lord, saying, "Loving God, hear our prayer."

O God, guard and direct your Church in the way of unity, service, and praise.

ALL: Loving God, hear our prayer.

PRIEST: Give to all nations an awareness of the unity of the human family.

ALL: Loving God, hear our prayer.

PRIEST: Cleanse our hearts of prejudice and selfishness, and inspire us to hunger and thirst for what is right.

ALL: Loving God, hear our prayer.

PRIEST: Teach us to use your creation for your greater praise, that all may share the good things you provide.

ALL: Loving God, hear our prayer.

PRIEST: Strengthen all who give their energy or skill for the healing of those who are sick in body or in mind.

ALL: Loving God, hear our prayer.

PRIEST: Set free all who are bound by fear and despair.

ALL: Loving God, hear our prayer.

PRIEST: Grant a peaceful end and eternal rest to all who are dying, and your comfort to those who mourn.

ALL: Loving God, hear our prayer.

CONFESSION

PRIEST: We believe that Jesus Christ is the light of the world, sent to bring light to our lives and guide our paths. We confess the times that we have not always embraced that light.

Forgive us for the times that we have wilfully chosen to live in darkness, and for the times that we have chosen not to see the truth that has been illumined for us.

ALL: Lord have mercy.

PRIEST: We confess that we have not taken good care of the beautiful planet you created for our home. Instead, we have plundered its riches, polluted our environment, and endangered many species of your wonderful creation.

Forgive us for the times that we have not lived up to our God-given responsibility to be good stewards of your creation.

ALL: Lord have mercy.

PRIEST: We confess that we have acted selfishly towards our brothers and sisters.

We have allowed our own needs and desires to

prevail over our commitment to justice for all people.

Forgive us for the times that we have chosen selfishness over sharing, and for the times when we have been indifferent to the injustices of our world.

ALL: Lord have mercy.

PRIEST: We confess that we have separated people based on race, ethnicity, religion, gender, and many other human constructs. We have built walls between ourselves and planted the seeds of mistrust towards the other. We have claimed Jesus on our side in any war we waged.

Forgive us for the times that we have failed to recognize others as being created in your image, and for the times when we have chosen division over unity.

ALL: Lord have mercy.

PRIEST: Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, whom you have sent in the fullness of time to redeem all the people, we ask you to have mercy on us, forgive us our sins and transform us into his glorious image so we can shine as a beacon of hope in our troubled world.

ABSOLUTION

PRIEST: Almighty God hears our prayers, has mercy on us and forgives our sins.

ALL: Thanks be to God, whom we praise with all our voices.

THE PEACE

PRIEST: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

PEOPLE: And also with you.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS - EPIPHANY 3

ALL: 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. Amen.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

PRIEST: The Lord be with you.

PEOPLE: And with thy spirit.

PRIEST: Lift up your hearts.

PEOPLE: We lift them up unto the Lord.

PRIEST: Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.

PEOPLE: It is meet and right so to do.

PRIEST: It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, . . . , we laud and magnify thy glorious name; evermore praising thee and saying:

ALL: Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts, heaven and earth are full of thy glory. Glory be to thee, O Lord most high.

Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord: Hosanna in the highest.

PRIEST: Blessing and glory and thanksgiving be unto thee, almighty God, . . .

. . . the memorial which he hath commanded:

ALL: We praise thee, we bless thee, we thank thee, and we pray to thee, Lord our God.

PRIEST: And we entirely desire thy fatherly goodness . . .

. . . all honour and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end.

ALL: Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

PRE-COMMUNION

PRIEST: The gifts of God for the People of God.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

PRIEST: Almighty and ever-living God, we most heartily thank thee that thou dost graciously feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Saviour Jesus Christ; assuring us thereby of thy favour and goodness towards us; and that we are living members of his mystical body, which is the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs through hope of thy everlasting kingdom.

ALL: And here we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, ourselves, our souls and bodies, to be a reasonable, holy, and living sacrifice

unto thee. And although we are unworthy, yet we beseech thee to accept this our bounden duty and service, not weighing our merits, but pardoning our offences; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honour and glory, world without end. Amen.

BLESSING

PRIEST: Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness.

PEOPLE: Let us wake from sleep and Christ will shine upon us.

PRIEST: Peace be to the whole community, and love with faith, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Grace be with all who have an undying love for our Lord Jesus Christ.

PEOPLE: Thanks be to God.

DISMISSAL

PRIEST: Go now and live as children of light.

PEOPLE: For the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. Amen.