

# Welcome to a Service of The Word

Epiphany

*5<sup>th</sup> January 2025*

## The Greeting

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

**Angels from the realms of glory**

## Prayer of preparation

**Almighty God,  
to whom all hearts are open,  
all desires known,  
and from whom no secrets are hidden:  
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts  
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,  
that we may perfectly love you,  
and worthily magnify your holy name;  
through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.**

## Invitation to confession

The grace of God has dawned upon the world  
through our Saviour Jesus Christ,  
who sacrificed himself for us to purify a people as his own.  
Let us confess our sins.

*cf Titus 2.11-14*

## Confession

**Almighty and most merciful Father,  
we have wandered and strayed from your ways  
like lost sheep.**

**We have followed too much the devices and desires  
of our own hearts.**

**We have offended against your holy laws.**

**We have left undone those things  
that we ought to have done;  
and we have done those things  
that we ought not to have done;  
and there is no health in us.**

**But you, O Lord,  
have mercy upon us sinners.  
Spare those who confess their faults.  
Restore those who are penitent,  
according to your promises  
declared to mankind**

**in Christ Jesus our Lord.  
And grant, O most merciful Father,  
for his sake,  
that we may live a disciplined,  
righteous and godly life,  
to the glory of your holy name.  
Amen.**

### **Absolution**

May God who loved the world so much  
that he sent his Son to be our Saviour  
forgive us our sins  
and make us holy to serve him in the world,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

### **Readings**

**Isaiah 60.1–6 or Ephesians 3. 1 - 12**

*At the end:*

This is the Word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

## As with gladness men of old

### Gospel Reading

#### Matthew 2. 1 - 12

*At the end:*

This is the Word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

### Sermon

#### The First Noel

### Profession of faith

Let us declare our faith in God.

**We believe in God the Father,  
from whom every family  
in heaven and on earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son,  
who lives in our hearts through faith,  
and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,  
who strengthens us  
with power from on high.**

**We believe in one God;  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**

**Amen.**

## Prayers of Intercession

*These responses may be used:*

Lord, in your mercy

**hear our prayer.**

Merciful Father,

**accept our prayers for the sake of your Son,  
our Saviour, Jesus Christ.**

**Amen.**

## The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray

**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.**

## The Collect

*The Collect is said, and the people respond:*

**Amen.**

## Brightest and Best

### Notices

### The Blessing

Christ, who by his incarnation  
gathered into one,  
things earthly and heavenly,  
fill you with peace and goodwill  
and make you partakers of the divine nature;  
and the blessing ...

## Lord Jesus Christ: Living Lord

### The Dismissal

One in heart and one in mind,  
and empowered by the Spirit,  
go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**In the name of Christ.**

**Amen.**

## **Exit Music: Go tell it on the mountain**

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