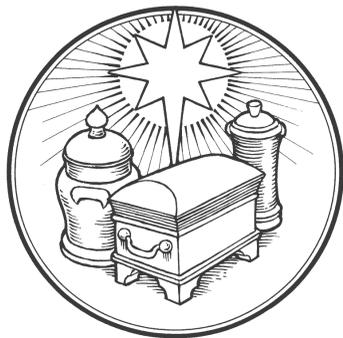


# THE CONGREGATION AT PRAYER

## The Lord God Is Manifested in the Incarnate Son

Isaiah 60:1–6; Ephesians 3:1–12; Matthew 2:1–12

The Feast of the Epiphany centers in the visit of the Magi from the East. In that respect, it is a “Thirteenth Day” of Christmas; and yet, it also marks the beginning of a new liturgical season. While Christmas has focused on the Incarnation of our Lord—that is, on God becoming flesh—the season of Epiphany emphasizes the manifestation or self-



revelation of God in that same flesh of Christ. For the Lord Himself has entered our darkness and rises upon us with the brightness of His true light (Isaiah 60:1–2). He does so chiefly by His Word of the Gospel, which He causes to be preached within His Church on earth—not only

to the Jews but also to Gentiles (Ephesians 3:8–10). As the Magi were guided by the promises of Holy Scripture to find and worship the Christ Child with His mother in the house (Matthew 2:5–11), so does He call disciples from all nations by the preaching of His Word, to find and worship Him within His Church. With gold they confess His royalty; with incense, His deity; and with myrrh, His priestly sacrifice.

✠ THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD ✠

**INVOCATION** *(make the sign of the holy cross and say)*

In the Name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**THE APOSTLES CREED**

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of Heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into Heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the ✠ life everlasting.

**PSALMODY** *(sing or read out loud each day)*

Psalm 24

**LEARN BY HEART LUTHER’S SMALL CATECHISM:** The Ten Commandments

*The Seventh Commandment*

**You shall not steal.**

*What does this mean?*

**We should fear and love God so that we do not take our neighbor’s money or possessions, or get them in any dishonest way, but help him to improve and protect his possessions and income.**

**DAILY READINGS**

<b>Sunday:</b>	Psalms 42-43	Genesis 39	2 Chronicles 16	Acts 9:32-43
<b>Monday:</b>	Psalm 44	Genesis 40	2 Chronicles 17	Acts 10:1-11:18
<b>Tuesday:</b>	Psalm 45	Genesis 41:1-36	2 Chronicles 18:1-19:3	Acts 11:19-30
<b>Wednesday:</b>	Psalm 46	Genesis 41:37-57	2 Chronicles 19:4-11	Acts 12
<b>Thursday:</b>	Psalm 47	Genesis 42	2 Chronicles 20	Acts 13-14
<b>Friday:</b>	Psalm 48	Genesis 43	2 Chronicles 21	Acts 15:1-35
<b>Saturday:</b>	Psalm 49	Genesis 44	2 Chronicles 22	Acts 15:36-17:15

## **PRAYERS**

*The following suggestions are offered as an aid in developing the habit of praying for ourselves and others each week:*

**Sunday:** For the joy of the resurrection among us; for the fruit of faith nourished by Word and Sacrament.

**Monday:** For faith to live in the promise of Holy Baptism; for one's calling and daily work; for the unemployed; for the salvation and well-being of our neighbors; for schools, colleges, and seminaries; for good government and for peace.

**Tuesday:** For deliverance against temptation and evil; for the addicted and despairing, the tortured and oppressed; for those struggling with sin.

**Wednesday:** For marriage and family, that husbands and wives, parents and children live in ordered harmony according to God's Word; for parents who must raise children alone; for our communities and neighborhoods.

**Thursday:** For the Church and her pastors; for deacons, teachers, and other church workers; for missionaries and for all who serve the Church; for fruitful and salutary use of the blessed Sacrament of Christ's body and blood.

**Friday:** For faithful preaching of the holy cross of our Lord Jesus Christ; for the spread of His knowledge throughout the whole world; for the persecuted and oppressed; for the sick and dying.

**Saturday:** For faithfulness to the end; for the renewal of those who are withering in the faith or have fallen away; for receptive hearts and minds to God's Word on the Lord's Day; for pastors as they prepare to administer and for people as they prepare to receive Christ's holy gifts.

O God, by the leading of a star You made known Your only-begotten Son to the Gentiles. Lead us, who know You by faith, to enjoy in Heaven the fullness of Your Divine Presence; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

O Lord, look down from Heaven. Behold, visit, and relieve Your servants who stand in need of our prayers: **[insert the names of family members, friends, church members, government officials, those in need, etc.]** Look upon them with the eyes of Your mercy. Grant them comfort and sure confidence in You. Defend them from all danger, and keep them in perpetual peace and safety, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Our Father who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy Name, Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but ✠ deliver us from evil. For Thine is the Kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever.

Morning

I thank You, my Heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your Dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me.

Evening

I thank You, my Heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your Dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins, where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me.

**BLESSING**

Let us bless the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit ✠ be with us all.

**Amen.**

**LOOKING FORWARD TO NEXT SUNDAY:** *The Second Sunday after the Epiphany*

Amos 9:11–15

Psalm 111

Romans 12:6–16

John 2:1–11

Hymn of the Day

*Songs of Thankfulness and Praise*

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