

## Evening Prayer - Thursday and daily in Epiphanytide

### THE BLESSING OF THE LIGHT

*A light, which may be the Paschal Candle, is brought in, or a candle may simply be lit.*

Jesus Christ is the light of the world,  
A light no darkness can extinguish.

The light of Christ be with you

**And also with you.**

Let us give thanks to God

**It is right to offer thanks and praise.**

Blessèd are you,

Ruler of all,

to you be glory and praise for ever!

From the rising of the sun to its setting  
your glory is proclaimed in all the world.

You gave the Christ as a light to the nations,  
and through the anointing of his Spirit  
you established us as a royal priesthood.

As you call us into his marvellous light,  
may our lives bear witness to your truth  
and our lips never cease to proclaim your praise,  
Creator, Redeemer, and Giver of Life:

**Blessèd be God for ever!**

*While the other candles are lit the following or another suitable hymn may be sung.*

### A SONG OF THE LIGHT

- 1 O gladsome light, of the holy glory  
of the immortal Father,\*  
heavenly, holy, blessèd Jesus Christ.**
- 2 Now that we have come to the setting of the sun  
and behold the light of evening,\*  
we praise you, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**
- 3 For it is right at all times to worship you  
with voices of praise,\*  
O Son of God and giver of life:  
therefore all the world glorifies you.**

*Verses from PSALM 141 may be said:*

**Let my prayer rise before you as incense,  
the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.**

O Lord, I call to you; come to me quickly;  
hear my voice when I cry to you.

Set a watch before my mouth, O Lord,  
and guard the door of my lips.

**Let my prayer rise before you as incense,  
the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.**

Let not my heart incline to any evil thing;  
let me not be occupied in wickedness.

But my eyes are turned to you, Lord God,  
in you I take refuge;  
do not leave me defenceless.

**Let my prayer rise before you as incense,  
the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.**

*THE OPENING PRAYER may be said:*

As our evening prayer rises before you, O God,  
so may your mercy come down upon us  
to cleanse our hearts  
and set us free to sing your praise,  
now and for ever. **Amen.**

Ka haere mai a Ihu ki Kāiri, ka kauwhau i te rongopai o te Atua ka mea, "Kua rite te wā, kua tata hoki te rangatiratanga o te Atua: rīpenetā, whakaponohia te rongopai."

*Maka 1.14b, 15*

E te kai tiaki o ngā mea katoa  
Te tVmatanga o te whakaaro rangatira  
Te taumata o ngā taumata katoa  
Te kai tohutohu kawenata  
E pono ai mātou  
Ki ō mātou anō kupu.  
Meinga kia maranga ake mātou  
Ki ngā mea tika o tēnei ao  
Kia puta te ihi te wehi te tapu  
I waenganui i te iwi whānui  
Ngā hua o te tino rangatiratanga  
Me te oranga tonutanga  
E kore nei e memeha. **Āmine.**

**THE WORD OF GOD** — *see the introduction*

*the Psalm(s) - the following may be used, those in the Lectionary, or those in the Alternate Table of Psalms*

**Week 1 & Sundays in Epiphany — Psalm 72**

- 1 Give the king your justice O God:  
and your righteousness to a king's son,
- 2 that he may judge your people rightly:  
and uphold the poor with justice.
- 3 Let the mountains bring forth peace  
for the people:  
and the hills prosperity with justice.
- 4 May the king defend the cause of the poor  
among the people:  
save the children of the needy  
and crush the oppressor.
- 5 May he live as long as the sun endures:  
as long as the moon from age to age.
- 6 May he come down like rain upon the grass:  
like showers that water the earth.
- 7 In his days may righteousness flourish:  
and abundance of peace

- till the moon is no more.
- 8 May his rule extend from sea to sea:  
and from the River to the ends of the earth.
- 9 May the tribes of the desert bow down  
before him:  
and his enemies lick the dust.
- 10 May the kings of Tarshish and of the isles  
pay tribute:  
the kings of Sheba and Seba bring their gifts.
- 11 May all kings fall prostrate before him:  
and all nations render him service.
- 12 He shall deliver the needy when they cry:  
and the poor who have no helper.
- 13 He shall have pity on the weak and the needy:  
and save the lives of the poor.
- 14 He shall rescue them  
from oppression and violence:  
and their blood shall be precious in his sight.
- 15 Long may the king live,  
and receive gifts of gold from Sheba:  
may prayer be made for him continually,  
and may people bless him everyday.
- 16 Let there be abundance of wheat in the land,  
growing thick up to the hill-tops:  
may its crops flourish like those of Lebanon,  
and the sheaves be numberless  
as blades of grass.
- 17 May the king live for ever:  
and his name endure as long as the sun.
- 18 May all nations pray to be blessed as he is:  
and all peoples call him blessed.
- 19 Blessed are you O Lord our God:  
for you alone do marvellous things.
- 20 Blessed be your glorious name for ever:  
let the whole earth be filled with your glory.  
Amen. Amen.

*Jesus, as we travel far and fast,  
lead our minds back to the wise men following your star,  
and forward to the day  
when all will see your shining light. Amen.*

**Week 2 and Mondays in Epiphany — Psalm 48**

- 1 Great is the Lord and highly to be praised:  
in the city of our God.
- 2 Fair and lofty is God's holy mountain:  
it is the joy of all the earth.
- 3 On Mount Zion, as in the far north,  
stands the city of the Most High:  
in her citadels God is well known  
as a sure defence.
- 4 See how the rulers assembled:  
they came on together against her.

- 5 They were amazed when they saw her:  
they were dismayed and ready to flee.
- 6 Trembling came upon them and anguish:  
as it comes on a woman in child-birth,
- 7 or as when the east wind blows:  
and breaks up the ships of Tarshish.
- 8 As we have heard, so have we seen  
in the city of the Lord of hosts:  
the city our God upholds for ever.
- 9 We have called to mind your steadfast love  
O God:  
in the midst of your temple.
- 10 As your name is great O God,  
so is your praise to the ends of the earth:  
your right hand is filled with victory.
- 11 Let God's mountain rejoice,  
and the daughter-cities of Judah be glad:  
because of your judgments.
- 12 Go in procession around the circuit of Jerusalem:  
count the number of her towers,
- 13 take note of her ramparts, examine her citadels:  
so that you may tell the next generation,
- 14 that such is God, our God for ever and ever:  
God shall be our guide to all eternity.

*Jesus, your justice goes beyond the ancient law,  
your wisdom embodies all prophetic insight;  
make us glad to be yours,  
and able to follow you to Jerusalem. Amen.*

### **Week 3 & Tuesdays in Epiphany**

— Psalms 122 & 117

- 1 I was glad when they said to me:  
'Let us go to the house of the Lord.'
- 2 And now our feet are standing:  
within your gates O Jerusalem,
- 3 Jerusalem that is built as a city:  
where people come together in unity.
- 4 There the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord:  
as was decreed for Israel,  
to give thanks to the name of the Lord.
- 5 There are set thrones of judgment:  
the thrones of the house of David.
- 6 Pray for the peace of Jerusalem:  
may those who love you prosper.
- 7 Peace be within your walls:  
and prosperity within your palaces.
- 8 For the sake of my kinsfolk and companions:  
I will pray that peace may be with you.
- 9 Because of the house of the Lord our God:  
I will pray for your good.
- 10 Praise the Lord all you nations:

acclaim the Most High all you peoples.  
11 For great is God's love for us:  
and the faithfulness of the Lord  
endures for ever.  
Whakamoemitia a Ihowa. / O praise the Lord.

*O God,  
it is your will to hold both heaven and earth  
in a single peace.  
Let the design of your great love  
shine on the waste of our wraths and sorrows,  
and give peace to your Church,  
peace among nations,  
peace in our homes, and peace in our hearts. Amen.*

**Week 4 & Wednesdays in Epiphany — Psalm 81**

1 Sing out with joy to God our strength:  
shout in triumph to the God of Jacob.  
2 Raise a song and sound the hand-drum:  
the tuneful harp with the lute.  
3 Blow the trumpet in the new moon:  
and at the full moon on our festival.  
4 For this was made a statute for Israel:  
and a law of the God of Jacob,  
5 which was imposed as a duty on Joseph:  
when he came out of the land of Egypt.  
6 'I eased your shoulders from the burden:  
and your hands were freed from the load.  
7 'You called to me in trouble and I saved you:  
I answered you in the thunder-cloud,  
but put you to the test  
at the waters of Meribah.  
8 'Hear O my people, and I will admonish you:  
O Israel, if only you would listen.  
9 'There shall be no strange god among you:  
nor shall you worship an alien god.  
10 'I am the Lord your God,  
who brought you out of the land of Egypt:  
open wide your mouth and I shall fill it.  
11 'But my people would not hear my voice:  
and Israel would not obey me.  
12 'So I left them in their stubbornness of heart:  
to follow their own devices.  
13 'O that my people would listen to me:  
and that Israel would walk in my ways.  
14 'I would soon put down their enemies:  
and turn my hand against their adversaries.  
15 'Those who hate me would cringe before me:  
and their fate would be sealed for ever.  
16 'But Israel I would feed  
with the finest wheat-flour:  
and satisfy them with honey from the rock.'

*God of glory,  
you nourish us with bread from heaven.  
Fill us with your Holy Spirit,  
that through us your light may shine in all the world.  
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.*

**Week 5 & Thursdays in Epiphany — Psalm 98**

- 1 Sing to the Lord a new song:  
for the Lord has done marvellous things.
- 2 With your own right hand O Lord,  
and with your holy arm:  
you have gained for yourself the victory.
- 3 You have made known your victory:  
you have displayed your saving power  
to all the nations.
- 4 You have remembered your faithfulness,  
and your love for the house of Israel:  
and all the ends of the earth  
have seen your victory.
- 5 Shout with joy to the Lord all the earth:  
sing and rejoice with the sound of melody.
- 6 Sing to the Lord with the harp:  
with the harp and the voice of song.
- 7 With trumpets also and horns:  
shout with joy before the Lord our king.
- 8 Let the sea roar and all that is in it:  
the world and those who inhabit it.
- 9 Let the rivers clap their hands:  
and let the hills rejoice together before the Lord.
- 10 For you O Lord are coming to judge the earth:  
with righteousness you will judge the world,  
and the peoples with equity.

*Praise to you, Jesus Christ,  
God in human form.  
You show us the fulness of life;  
help us to find this life for ourselves  
and for others. Amen.*

**Week 6 & Fridays in Epiphany — Psalm 36**

- 1 Sin speaks to the wicked deep in their heart:  
there is no fear of God before their eyes.
- 2 They flatter themselves in their own sight:  
that their iniquity will not be found out  
and hated.
- 3 The words of their mouth are mischief and deceit:  
they have ceased to act wisely and do good.
- 4 They plot mischief as they lie in bed:  
they are set on a course that is not good,  
and hold back from nothing that is evil.
- 5 Your steadfast love, O Lord,  
extends to the heavens:  
your faithfulness up to the clouds.

- 6 Your righteousness is like the strong mountains,  
     your judgments are like the great deep:  
 you Lord save both people and beasts.
- 7 How precious is your steadfast love O God:  
     mortals take refuge  
     in the shadow of your wings.
- 8 They feast on the rich abundance of your house:  
     you give them drink  
     from the stream of your delights.
- 9 For with you is the well of life:  
     and in your light we see light.
- 10 Continue your loving kindness  
     to those who know you:  
     and your justice to the true of heart.
- 11 Let not the foot of pride come against me:  
     nor the hand of the wicked drive me away.
- 12 There are they fallen,  
     those who do evil:  
     they are thrown down and unable to rise.

*Jesus our Lord,  
 you have taught us  
 that judgment begins at the house of God;  
 save us from our self-satisfaction, rigidity and corruption,  
 so that we may stand ready to do your will. Amen.*

**Week 7 & Saturdays in Epiphany — Psalm 46**

- 1 God is our refuge and strength:  
     a very present help in trouble.
- 2 So we will not be afraid  
     though the earth should quake:  
     and mountains fall into the depths of the sea,
- 3 though the waters of the sea rage and foam:  
     and the mountains tremble at the tumult.
- 4 There is a river,  
     its streams make glad the city of God:  
     which the Most High has made a holy dwelling.
- 5 God is within her, she cannot be shaken:  
     God will help her at the break of day.
- 6 Nations are in tumult, kingdoms are shaken:  
     but God has spoken, and the earth melts away.
- 7 The Lord of hosts is with us:  
     the God of Jacob is our stronghold.
- 8 Come and see what the Lord has done:  
     the devastation brought upon the earth.
- 9 The Lord makes wars to cease in all the world:  
     the Lord breaks the bow and snaps the spear,  
     and burns the shields in the fire.
- 10 'Be still then, and know that I am God:  
     high over the nations, high above the earth.'
- 11 The Lord of hosts is with us:  
     the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

*Jesus, Saviour in storm,  
when the waters of the deep are broken up,  
when the landmarks are washed away or drowned ,  
come to us across the water. Amen.*

*THE OLD TESTAMENT CANTICLE*

*If there are two Scripture Readings, the first may be read before the OT Canticle, or both may be read after it.*

*Either: THE TIME OF GOD'S FAVOUR*

- 1 Listen to me you islands:  
and hearken you peoples from afar.
- 2 My servant, in the time of my favour  
I will answer you:  
and in the day of salvation I will help you
- 3 to restore the land:  
and share out afresh its desolate fields;
- 4 to say to the captives 'Go free':  
and to those in darkness,  
'Come forth into light.'
- 5 They will feed beside the way:  
and find pasture on every barren hill.
- 6 They will neither hunger nor thirst:  
nor will the desert heat or the sun  
beat upon them,
- 7 for the One who loves them will guide them:  
and lead them beside the springs of water.
- 8 Shout for joy O heavens and exult O earth:  
break forth O mountains into song;
- 9 for I the Lord will comfort my people:  
I will have compassion on my own  
in their distress.

*Isaiah 49.1, 8-10, 13*

**Glory to . . .**

*Or:*

*YOUR LIGHT HAS COME*

- 1 Arise, shine, for your light has come:  
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.
- 2 Behold darkness covers the earth:  
and thick darkness is over the peoples.
- 3 But upon you the Lord shall rise:  
and the glory of the Lord will appear upon you.
- 4 Nations will come to your light:  
and kings to the brightness of your rising.
- 5 No longer will violence be heard in your land:  
nor ruin or destruction within your borders.
- 6 But you will call your walls 'Salvation':  
and all your gates 'Praise'.
- 7 No more shall the sun be your light by day:  
nor by night will you need  
the brightness of the moon,
- 8 for the Lord will be your everlasting light:  
and your God will be your glory.

*Isaiah 60:1-3,18,19*

**Glory to . . .**



THE SCRIPTURE READING(S)

*The Short Scripture Reading may be used, or those from the lectionary, either is followed by the Responsory, or*

*This RESPONSE to the reading may be used:*

Arise, shine, for your light has come;  
**The glory of the Lord is rising upon you.**

THE GOSPEL CANTICLE: THE MAGNIFICAT

*Refrain:*

**My Spirit rejoices in you, my God,\*  
for holy is your name.**

*Or, in Epiphanytide:*

**Behold, my servant, whom I uphold,\*  
my chosen, in whom my soul delights;  
the anointed one on whom my Spirit rests.**

*Or, on feasts of Teachers & Confessors:*

**Those who keep and teach the commandments\*  
will be considered great in heaven.**

*Or, on feasts of Bishops:*

**Well done, good and faithful servant,\*  
you have been faithful over a little:  
I will make you ruler over much.**

The Song of the Blessed Virgin Mary

- 1 My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord:  
my spirit rejoices in God my saviour,
- 2 for you Lord have looked with favour  
on your lowly servant:  
and from this day all generations will call me  
blessèd.
- 3 You O Most Mighty have done great things for  
me:  
and holy is your name.
- 4 You have mercy on those who fear you:  
from generation to generation.
- 5 You have shown the strength of your arm:  
you have scattered the proud in their conceit.
- 6 You have cast down the mighty from their  
thrones:  
and have lifted up the lowly.
- 7 You have filled the hungry with good things:  
and the rich you have sent away empty.
- 8 You have come to the help of your people:  
for you have remembered your promise of mercy,
- 9 the promise you made to our forebears:  
to Abraham and his children for ever.

**Glory to God: Source of all being,  
Eternal Word, and Holy Spirit:  
as it was in the beginning, is now,  
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

*Or*

**Glory to the Father and to the Son:**

**and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning is now:  
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

*The refrain is repeated after the canticle.*

**THE PRAYERS**

*Intercession and Thanksgiving are offered in free prayer or in silence, ending with the following, [or some other appropriate litany or prayer]:*

You, Lord are the light of the world;  
come and make our darkness bright.

**Lord, have mercy. E te Ariki, kia aroha mai.**

O God, give the solitary a home  
and bring forth the prisoners into freedom.

**Christ, have mercy. E te Karaiti, kia aroha mai.**

Restore us again, O God of hosts;  
show the light of your countenance  
and we shall be saved.

**Lord, have mercy. E te Ariki, kia aroha mai.**

*THE COLLECT for the day, or for Thursdays:*

Living God,

in you there is no darkness;

shed upon us through this night the light of your forgiveness, your healing and  
your peace,

that when we wake from sleep

we may know once more the brightness of your presence;

through our Saviour Jesus Christ . . .

*Or for Epiphanytide:*

Almighty God,

from whom all thoughts of truth and peace proceed:

kindle, we pray, in every heart,

the true love of peace,

and guide with your pure and peaceable wisdom

those who take counsel for the nations of the earth;

that in tranquillity your Kingdom may go forward

till the earth is filled with the knowledge of your love;

through Jesus Christ our Lord . . .

*The Lord's Prayer follows*

Longing for the unity of all peoples on earth

and as Christ teaches us we pray . . .

**THE CONCLUSION**

**THE BLESSING**

**The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
and the love of God,  
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,  
be with us all evermore. Amen.**

*ko tēnei rānei*

**Kia tau ki a tātou katoa**

**te atawhai o tō tātou Ariki, o Ihu Karaiti,**

**me te aroha o te Atua,**

**me te whiwhinga tahitanga ki te Wairua Tapu,**

**ake ake. Āmine.**

*Or, in Epiphanytide:*

**May Christ the Son of God, gladden our hearts  
with the good news of God's Kingdom. Amen.**

Let us bless the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**