

Thursday Vespers for Epiphany, January 7, 2021

The Preparation

O God, make speed to save us.

O Lord, make haste to help us.

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

That this evening may be holy, good and peaceful,
let us pray with one heart and mind.

Silence is kept.

**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.**

A Hymn for Epiphany

O come all ye faithful joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem:
Come and behold him, born the king of angels;
O come let us adore him, O come let us adore him,
O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord

God of God, Light of Light,
Lo, he abhors not the virgin's womb;
Very God, begotten not created:
O come let us adore him, O come let us adore him,
O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord

Led by the starlight, Magi Christ adoring,
Offer him incense, gold, and myrrh;
We to the Christ-child bring our heart's oblations.
O come let us adore him, O come let us adore him,
O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord

Common Praise #154

Psalm 72 *Deus, iudicium*

1 Give the king your justice, O God, *
and your righteousness to the king's son;
**2 that he may rule your people righteously *
and the poor with justice;**
3 that the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, *
and the little hills bring righteousness.

**4 He shall defend the needy among the people, *
rescuing the poor and crushing the oppressor.**

5 He shall live as long as the sun and moon endure, *
from one generation to another.

**6 He shall come down like rain upon the mown field, *
like showers that water the earth.**

7 In his time shall the righteous flourish; *
there shall be abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.

**10 The rulers of Tarshish and of the isles shall pay tribute, *
and the rulers of Arabia and Saba offer gifts.**

11 All rulers shall bow down before him, *
and all the nations do him service.

**12 For he shall deliver the poor who cries out in distress *
and the oppressed who has no helper.**

13 He shall have pity on the lowly and poor *
and shall preserve the lives of the needy.

**14 He shall redeem their lives from oppression and violence, *
and dear shall their blood be in his sight.**

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

Matt 4:12-17, 23-25

Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the lake, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:

‘Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali,
on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—
the people who sat in darkness
have seen a great light,
and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death
light has dawned.’

From that time Jesus began to proclaim, ‘Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.’

Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people. So his fame spread throughout all Syria, and they brought to him all the sick, those who were afflicted with various diseases and pains, demoniacs, epileptics, and paralytics, and he cured them. And great crowds followed him from Galilee, the Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea, and from beyond the Jordan.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church

Thanks be to God

All are invited to share a word or a phrase that stood out, or to offer a short thought evoked by the reading.

The Prayers

All are invited to name their intercessions and thanksgivings, either silently or aloud.

After a period of silence the following collect is said.

Almighty God,
in Christ you make all things new:
transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace,
and in the renewal of our lives
make known your heavenly glory;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Believing the promises of God,
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.
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.

The Dismissal

Let us bless the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

May Christ, who sends us to the nations,
give us the power of his Spirit.