

# The Epiphany of our Lord

## Wednesday, January 6, 2021

Led by the Class of 2019 Conference of Bishops

### +GATHERING+

Prelude

Welcome

Confession and Forgiveness



Give us light, give us light, give us light, O God.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,  
who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

**Amen.**

God of all mercy and consolation,  
come to the help of your people,  
turning us from our sin to live for you alone.  
Give us the power of your Holy Spirit  
that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness,  
and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another  
*Silence.*

We confess to you our unwillingness to see you in our neighbor, O God.  
For our bigotry and racist behaviors.

Give us your light. . .

*The cantor sings the bhajan in English:*

We confess to you our selfish-pride, hatred, envy, unkind words, and uncharitable acts.  
For the pain we have caused to one another  
and the devastation we have caused to your creation.

Give us your light. . .

*The assembly sings:* Give us light; give us light; give us light, O God.

We confess to you those places and times where hunger and poverty,  
illness and death have made life an unbearable burden.

Give us your light. . .

*The assembly sings:* Give us light; give us light; give us light, O God.

We confess to you those places and times where suspicion and hatred,  
conflict and war have challenged your goodness.

Give us your light. . .

*The assembly sings:* Give us light; give us light; give us light, O God.

God, who is rich and mercy loved us even when we were dead in sin,  
and made us alive together in Christ.

By grace you have been saved.

In the name of + Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.

Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit,  
that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

**Amen.**

## **Song of Praise**

### **Greeting and Prayer of the Day**

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

**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

*pause.*

Almighty and ever-living God,  
you revealed the incarnation of your Son  
by the brilliant shining of a star.  
Shine the light of your justice

always in our hearts and over all lands,  
and accept our lives as the treasure we offer  
in your praise and for your service,  
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

**+WORD+**

**First Reading      Isaiah 60:1-6**

<sup>1</sup>Arise, shine; for your light has come,  
and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.

<sup>2</sup>For darkness shall cover the earth,  
and thick darkness the peoples;  
but the LORD will arise upon you,  
and his glory will appear over you.

<sup>3</sup>Nations shall come to your light,  
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

<sup>4</sup>Lift up your eyes and look around;  
they all gather together, they come to you;  
your sons shall come from far away,  
and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms.

<sup>5</sup>Then you shall see and be radiant;  
your heart shall thrill and rejoice,  
because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you,  
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.

<sup>6</sup>A multitude of camels shall cover you,  
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;  
all those from Sheba shall come.

They shall bring gold and frankincense,  
and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.

**Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14**

<sup>1</sup>Give the king your jus- | tice, O God,  
and your righteousness to | the king's son;

<sup>2</sup>**that he may rule your | people righteously  
and the | poor with justice;**

<sup>3</sup>that the mountains may bring prosperity | to the people,  
and the | hills, in righteousness.

<sup>4</sup>**Let him defend the needy a- | mong the people,**

**rescue the poor, and crush | the oppressor. R**

<sup>5</sup>May he live as long as the sun and | moon endure,  
from one generation | to another.

<sup>6</sup>**Let him come down like rain upon | the mown field,  
like showers that wa- | ter the earth.**

<sup>7</sup>In his time may the | righteous flourish;  
and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall | be no more.

<sup>10</sup>**May the kings of Tarshish and of the | isles pay tribute,  
and the kings of Sheba and Seba | offer gifts. R**

<sup>11</sup>May all kings bow | down before him,  
and all the nations | do him service.

<sup>12</sup>**For the king delivers the poor who cry out | in distress,  
the oppressed, and those who | have no helper.**

<sup>13</sup>He has compassion on the low- | ly and poor,  
and preserves the lives | of the needy.

<sup>14</sup>**From oppression and violence he re- | deems their lives,  
and precious is their blood | in his sight. R**

## **Gospel      Matthew 2:1-12**

<sup>1</sup>In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup>asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.” <sup>3</sup>When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; <sup>4</sup>and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. <sup>5</sup>They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

<sup>6</sup>“And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,  
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;  
for from you shall come a ruler  
who is to shepherd my people Israel.’ ”

<sup>7</sup>Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup>Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.” <sup>9</sup>When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup>When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. <sup>11</sup>On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. <sup>12</sup>And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

## **Homily**

Hymn of the Day

*Let Streams of Living Justice*



1. Let streams of liv - ing jus - tice flow down up - on the earth;  
2. The dread - ed dis - ap - pear - ance of fam - i - ly and friend;  
3. For heal - ing of the na - tions, for peace that will not end,  
4. Your ci - ty's built to mu - sic; we are the stones you seek;



give free - dom's light to cap - tives, let all the poor have worth.  
the tor - ture and the si - lence— the fear that knows no end;  
for love that makes us lo - vers, God grant us grace to mend.  
your har - mo - ny is lan - guage: we are the words you speak.



The hun - gry's hands are plead - ing, the work - ers claim their rights,  
the mo - ther with her can - dle, the child who holds a gun,  
Weave our var - ied gifts to - geth - er; knit our lives as they are spun;  
Our faith we find in ser - vice, our hope in oth - er's dreams,



the mourn - ers long for laugh - ter, the blind - ed seek for sight.  
the old one nur - sing ha - tred— all seek re - lease to come.  
on your loom of time en - roll us till our thread of life is run.  
our love in hand of neigh - bor; our home - land bright - ly gleams.



Make lib - er - ty a bea - con, strike down the i - ron power,  
Each can - dle burns for free - dom; each lights a ty - rant's fall;  
O great weav - er of our fab - ric, bind church and world in one;  
In - scribe our hearts with jus - tice; your way— the path un - tried;



a - bol - ish an - cient ven - geance: pro - claim your peo - ple's hour.  
each flo - wer placed for mar - tyrs gives tongue to sil - enced call.  
dye our tex - ture with your ra - diance, light our col - ors with your sun.  
your truth— the heart of stran - ger; your life— the Cru - ci - fied.

## Prayers of Intercession

Trusting the divine mystery revealed to us in Jesus, let us pray for the church, the world and all of God's creation.

*A brief silence.*

Holy One, you call your church to be messengers of your good news. Equip all the baptized for lives of courageous compassion, confident that the light of Christ leads them in their journeys.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Holy creator, the sun and moon reveal your glory. Open our hearts to wonder at all your works, from distant galaxies to the depths of the oceans. When we are misled by the quest for riches, direct us to the lands and creatures who most need our attention and advocacy. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Holy wisdom, you guide the nations by your righteousness. Grant world leaders the courage to enter into relationship with one another, patience to hear the concerns of your people, and strength to act on behalf of those most marginalized. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Holy redeemer, you come to the aid of all in need. We pray for people forced to flee their homes and those who fear their arrival. We pray for all whose work involves ensuring safe travel: pilots, drivers, engineers, ship personnel, maintenance teams and security workers. We pray for those who are poor and hungry this day, and for those who are sick in or in any need (*especially for those who have and are suffering from the COVID-19 virus and all who mourn those who have died from it*) Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Holy Counselor, your Spirit works in and among us. Guide the ministry of our synods and their leaders, especially as they work with ecumenical and interfaith partners. Sustain them in times of challenge and energize them for their callings. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

Holy God, we give you thanks for your saints of every time and place (*especially*). Encouraged by their dreams and visions, accompany us on our earthly journeys, until we arise to join the chorus of heavenly voices. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Receive these prayers, Gracious God, and the prayers of our hearts. We ask this in the name of Jesus, the bright Morning Star, by the power of your life-giving Spirit.

**Amen.**

## Lord's Prayer

**+SENDING+**

**Blessing**

*by Sr. Ruth Fox, OSB (1985)(KLS adapted)*

May God bless you with discomfort  
At easy answers, half-truths, and superficial relationships,  
So that you may live deep within your heart.

May God bless you with anger  
At injustice, oppression and exploitation of people,  
So that you may work for justice, freedom and peace.

May God bless you with tears  
To shed for those who suffer pain, rejection, hunger, and war,  
So that you may reach out your hand to comfort them  
And turn their pain into joy.

And may God bless you with enough foolishness  
To believe that you can make a difference in the world,  
So that you can do what others claim cannot be done  
To bring justice and kindness to all of God's children. In the name of the Triune +God.

*Amen*

**Sending Song**      *O Morning Star How Fair and Bright*

**Dismissal**

Go in peace to welcome the stranger and love the neighbor.  
Thanks be to God.

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