



An Order of Worship for the Evening

Officiant Light and peace, in Jesus Christ our Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Officiant Arise, shine; for your light has come,
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. *Isaiah 60:1*

Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate Word: Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Phos hilaron

O gracious light,
pure brightness of the everliving Father in heaven,
O Jesus Christ, holy and blessed!
Now as we come to the setting of the sun,
and our eyes behold the vesper light,
we sing your praises, O God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
You are worthy at all times to be praised by happy voices,
O Son of God, O Giver of Life,
and to be glorified through all the worlds.

Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14

- 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;
he shall rescue the poor and crush 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 kings of Tarshish and of the isles shall pay tribute,
and the kings of Arabia and Saba offer gifts.
- 11 All kings 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; he 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.

The Reading: The Coming of the Magi, Matthew 2:1-12

A reading from the Gospel of Matthew.

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, 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." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

'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.'"

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. 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." 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. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. 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. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Different from the Beginning: A Magi's Tale

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Officiant Let us pray.

O God, by the leading of a star you manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth: Lead us, who know you now by faith, to your presence, where we may see your glory face to face; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Chalking the Door – An Epiphany Home Blessing

You are invited to use these prayers to chalk your own door and bless your home for this new year.

Officiant Peace be to this house, and to all who enter here. **Amen.**

Let us pray.

God of heaven and earth, you revealed your only-begotten One to every nation by the guidance of a star. Bless this house and all who inhabit it. Fill *us* with the light of Christ, that *our* concern for others may reflect your love. We ask this through Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

Mark the inscription on the doorway in chalk: 20+C+M+B+24

The three Wise Men, Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar followed the star to Bethlehem and the child Jesus two thousand, and twenty-two years ago. May Christ bless *our* home, and remain with *us* throughout the new year. **Amen.**

Let us pray.

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,
for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Blessing and Dismissal

Officiant May Christ, the Son of God, be manifest in you, that your lives may be a light to the world; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Officiant Let us bless the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

A note on chalking your door for Epiphany:

The short liturgy included in this service is a way of marking our homes, usually at the front or main entrance, with sacred signs and symbols as we ask God's blessing upon those who live, work, or visit throughout the coming year. In Exodus, the Israelites marked their doors with blood so that the Lord would pass over their homes; but in this service, we mark our doors with chalk as a sign that we have invited God's presence and blessing into our homes.

In Deuteronomy 6:9 God tells the people of Israel: "These words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house... You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates." Chalking the door is a tangible way to honor God in our lives.

Traditionally, the chalking is done above the lintel of the front door of the home and takes this form: 20+C+M+B+24

The letters are the abbreviation for the Latin phrase "Christus mansionem benedicat" - "Christ bless this house." A second meaning and mnemonic device is Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar - traditional names for the Magi. The + signs represent the cross and are signs of blessing. The first and last numbers are the current year. (from buildfaith.org)

Service taken from The Book of Occasional Services and the Book of Common Prayer.