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TABLE
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Evening Prayer for Epiphany 2019

The table or gathering place is dark, or partially so, when the service is to begin. A central candle may be used with any other number of candles or lamps that are necessary for light. When the candle is lit, with the other candles and lamps, the Candlelighter greets the people.

Greeting

Candlelighter: Light and peace in Jesus Christ our Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

The Candlelighter reads one of the following short lessons for Epiphany.

Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you, and nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising. - *Isaiah 60:1-3*

Or

For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. - *1 Cor 4:5-6*

Or

I will make you as a light for the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth. - *Isaiah 49:6b*

Prayer for Light

Candlelighter: Let us pray.

*The Candlelighter reads **one** of the following prayers.*

Lighten our darkness, we beseech thee, O Lord; and by your great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night; for the love of your only Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Or

Almighty God, whose Son our Savior Jesus Christ is the light of the world; grant that your people, illumined by your Word and Sacraments, may shine with the radiance of Christ's glory that he may be known, worshiped and obeyed to the ends of the earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God now and forever. **Amen.**

Service Leader: O God, make speed to save us.

People: **O Lord, make haste to help us.**

Together: **Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

O Gracious Light

Together:

**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.**

The evening service continues in any of the following ways: *If there is no break, skip Grace at Meals and continue with the Vespers. If a meal is to be shared, a prayer, or one of the following blessings, may follow the O Gracious Light.* 3

Grace at Meals

One of the following prayers is prayed before the meal:

Give us grateful hearts, our Father, for all your mercies, and make us mindful of the needs of others, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Blessed are you, O Lord God, King of the Universe, for you give us food to sustain our lives and make our hearts glad, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

For these and all his mercies, God's holy Name be blessed and praised, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Or... you may sing this song!

Oh, the Lord is good to me.

And so I thank the Lord.

For giving me the things I need:

the sun and rain and an appleseed.

The Lord is good to me.

Amen. Amen. Amen-amen-amen. Amen.

Let's eat!

Vespers: Be Our Light in the Darkness

Service Leader:

(Jan 6 - Feb 1)

Behold the Christ, the newborn king!

(February 2)

The Glory of the Lord has been revealed!

(Feb 3 - 24)

Jesus, the Christ, has come into the world!

(Feb 25 - Mar 5)

The Lord has shown forth his Glory!

People:

Come, let us adore him.

Collect and Response

Service Leader: Let us pray.

Silence is kept.

First Collect for the Season of Epiphany: *(Jan 6 - Feb 1)*

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 forever. *Amen.*

The Presentation of Christ in the Temple: *(February 2)*

Almighty and everliving God, we humbly pray that, as your only-begotten Son was this day presented in the temple in the substance of our flesh, so we may be presented to you with pure and clean hearts by Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever. *Amen.*

Collect for the Season of Epiphany: *(Feb 3 - Feb 24)*

Give us grace, O Lord, to answer readily the call of our Savior Jesus Christ and proclaim to all people the Good News of his salvation; that we and the whole world may perceive the glory of his marvelous works, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. *Amen.*

The Transfiguration: Conclusion of Epiphany: *(Feb 25 - Mar 5)*

O God, who before the passion of your only-begotten Son revealed his glory upon the holy mountain, grant that we, beholding by faith the light of his countenance, may be strengthened to bear our cross and be changed into his likeness from glory to glory, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. *Amen.*

Response (unison):

May our light so shine before the world and give glory to God in heaven! Amen.

The Evening Song

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The psalms and canticles may be read by anyone, read in unison, or recited responsively.

(January 6—February 1)

Canticle 11

The Third Song of Isaiah

Isaiah 60:1-3, 11a, 14c, 18-19

Arise, shine, for your light has come, *
and the glory of the Lord has dawned upon you.
For behold, darkness covers the land; *
deep gloom enshrouds the peoples.
But over you the Lord will rise, *
and his glory will appear upon you.
Nations will stream to your light, *
and kings to the brightness of your dawning.
Your gates will always be open; *
by day or night they will never be shut.
They will call you, The City of the Lord, *
The Zion of the Holy One of Israel.
Violence will no more be heard in your land, *
ruin or destruction within your borders.
You will call your walls, Salvation, *
and all your portals, Praise.
The sun will no more be your light by day; *
by night you will not need the brightness of the moon.
The Lord will be your everlasting light, *
and your God will be your glory.

Response (Unison):

**Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

(February 2: Candlemas)**Psalm 84***A traditional baptismal psalm*

How dear to me is your dwelling, O LORD of hosts! *

My soul has a desire and longing for the courts of the LORD;
my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.

The sparrow has found her a house and the swallow a nest where
she may lay her young; *

by the side of your altars, O LORD of hosts, my King and my
God.

Happy are they who dwell in your house! *

they will always be praising you.

Happy are the people whose strength is in you! *

whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' way.

Those who go through the desolate valley will find it a place of
springs, *

for the early rains have covered it with pools of water.

They will climb from height to height, *

and the God of gods will reveal himself in Zion.

LORD God of hosts, hear my prayer; *

hearken, O God of Jacob.

Behold our defender, O God; *

and look upon the face of your Anointed.

For one day in your courts is better than a thousand in my own
room, *

and to stand at the threshold of the house of my God than to
dwell in the tents of the wicked.

For the LORD God is both sun and shield; *

he will give grace and glory;

No good thing will the LORD withhold *

from those who walk with integrity.

O LORD of hosts, *

happy are they who put their trust in you!

Response (Unison):

**Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Isaiah 6:1-8

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty; and the hem of his robe filled the temple. Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. And one called to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory."

The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke. And I said: "Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!"

Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. The seraph touched my mouth with it and said: "Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out." Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I; send me!"

Response (Unison):

**Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

(February
y 25—March 5)

Psalm 99

The Transfiguration

The LORD is King; let the people tremble; *
he is enthroned upon the cherubim; let the earth shake.
The LORD is great in Zion; *
he is high above all peoples.
Let them confess his Name, which is great and awesome; *
he is the Holy One.

"O mighty King, lover of justice, you have established equity; *
 you have executed justice and righteousness in Jacob."

Proclaim the greatness of the LORD our God and fall down before
 his footstool; *

he is the Holy One.

Moses and Aaron among his priests, and Samuel among those
 who call upon his Name, *

they called upon the LORD, and he answered them.

He spoke to them out of the pillar of cloud; *

they kept his testimonies and the decree that he gave them.

"O LORD our God, you answered them indeed; *

you were a God who forgave them, yet punished them for
 their evil deeds."

Proclaim the greatness of the LORD our God and worship him
 upon his holy hill; *

for the LORD our God is the Holy One.

Response (Unison):

**Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,
 as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Prayer Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Prayer Leader: 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 Song of Simeon

Nunc dimittis (Luke 2:29-32)

Antiphon: (Unison)

O God, you have caused a new light to shine in our hearts.

(Prayer Leader)

Lord, you now have set your servant free
to go in peace as you have promised;
For these eyes of mine have seen the Savior,
whom you have prepared for all the world to see:
A Light to enlighten the nations,
and the glory of your people Israel.

Antiphon: (Unison)

O God, you have caused a new light to shine in our hearts.

Collects for the Evening

*The Service Leader may choose or assign from the following, **two** collects for the evening. When this evening falls on a Friday, Saturday or Sunday, the collect for that evening should be prayed first.*

A Collect for Fridays

Lord Jesus Christ, by your death you took away the sting of death; grant to us your servants so to follow in faith where you have led the way that we may at length fall asleep peacefully in you and wake up in your likeness, for your tender mercies' sake. Amen.

A Collect for Saturdays

O God, the source of eternal light, shed forth your unending day upon us who watch for you, that our lips may praise you, our lives may bless you, and our worship on the morrow give you glory, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

A Collect for Sundays

Lord God, whose son our Savior Jesus Christ triumphed over the powers of death and prepared for us our place in the new Jerusalem; grant that we, who have this day given thanks for his resurrection, may praise you in that city of which he is the light, and where he lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.

One: The Church in Jerusalem Epiphany Prayer

O God, who by a star guided the wise men to the worship of your Son, we pray you to lead to yourself the wise and great of every land that unto you every knee may bow, and every thought be brought into captivity through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Two: New Saint Joseph Sunday Missal

Father of light, unchanging God, today you reveal to all people of faith the resplendent fact of the Word made flesh. Your light is strong; your love is near. Draw us beyond the limits that this world imposes, to the life where your Spirit makes all life complete. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Three: Prayer in the Evening

O Lord, support us all the day long, until the shadows lengthen, and the evening comes, and the busy world is hushed, and the fever of life is over, and our work is done. Then in your mercy, grant us a safe lodging and a holy rest and peace at the last. Amen.

Four: St. Augustine's Prayer for the Night

Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who work, or watch, or weep this night, and give your angels charge over those who sleep. Tend the sick, Lord Christ; give rest to the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering, pity the afflicted, shield the joyous; and all for your love's sake. Amen.

Closing

Service Leader: Let us bless the Lord!

People: **Thanks be to God.**

The Service Leader concludes the Vespers with two of the following passages.

Behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem saying, "Where is he who has been born King of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him." *Matthew 2:1-2*

Again, Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." *John 8:12*

Epiphany Benediction

(Church of England)

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If clergy is not present, substitute "our" for "your," and "us" for "you."

Leader: May God the Father who led the wise men by the shining of a star to find the Christ, the Light of light, lead you also in your pilgrimage to find the Lord.

People: **Amen.**

Leader: May God the Son, who turned water into wine at the wedding feast at Cana, transform your lives and make glad your hearts.

People: **Amen.**

Leader: May the Holy Spirit, who came upon the beloved Son at his baptism in the river Jordan, pour out his gifts on you who have come to the waters of new birth.

People: **Amen.**

Leader: And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.

People: **Amen.**



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