

Where Two or Three Are Gathered: Worship for Small Assemblies

Epiphany and Time After Epiphany Year C January 6 - February 24, 2019

Planning Notes for Leaders

The Feast of Epiphany is older than the Feast of Christmas. The 12 days of the Christmas season conclude with Epiphany or Three Kings Day on January 6 (liturgical colour is white). It is also a pivot point which shifts the balance from the incarnation of God — Jesus in the manger, to God's anointed one — the teacher, healer, and miracle worker, and ultimately the Crucified and Risen One.

After this comes a series of green, or ordinary time, Sundays which conclude with the Transfiguration of Our Lord. The themes for this time after Epiphany include light, baptism, the wedding at Cana and God's revealing of the divine — unwrapping the gift that arrived at Christmas, God's Son now grown to a man, and his ministry among God's people.

Adding a more elaborate display of candles to your worship space would be effective. It also provides a noticeable contrast when you remove them for the Sundays of Lent.

Epiphany, Jan 6, would be a good time for the Christmas pageant. Gifts of food for the food bank may be added to the procession of gifts brought to the Christ child. You might plan for an evening event which includes burning of the Christmas greens. Besides bringing to an end the season of Christmas, such a bonfire anticipates the fire at the Vigil of Easter.

The Baptism of Our Lord, Jan 13, would be a good day for baptisms. When no baptisms are scheduled, Affirmation of Baptism (ELW p. 234) may be used in place of the Creed.

(with material from *Keeping Time, The Church's Years* by Gail Ramshaw and Mons Tieg Augsburg Fortress copyright 2009 pp 81-82, and from *Celebrating Liturgical Time, Days, Weeks, and Seasons* by J. Neil Alexander Church Publishing New York copyright 2014 pp 36-38)

At the end of this series of Sundays it is time to put away *Alleluia* for the season of Lent. You may choose to do this in a formal way, such as burying an *Alleluia* banner, or recessing such a banner at the end of the worship on Transfiguration of Our Lord. buildfaith.org/saying-good-bye-to-the-alleluia is one option for such a rite.

The Holy Communion liturgy is for use when an Ordained or Authorized Lay Minister is present to preside.

Epiphany, Year C

January 6, 2019

Holy Communion

GATHERING

INVOCATION

In the name of the Father,
and of the + Son,
and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

OPENING DIALOGUE

O God, you created light and life;
Recreate in us light and life,
Morning by morning,
Day by day,
In our coming and going and being,

May your light shine in us and through us.

To define the world, to show the world, to shape the world,

May your light shine in us and through us.

As Jesus' light illumined the paths He trod and the people He met,
so may that light reflect and refract in our lives
your great love for the world.

May your light shine in us and through us.

GATHERING SONG — *Shine, Jesus, Shine* ELW 671

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.

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

SONG — *We Three Kings* (there are several free downloadable options)

GOSPEL ACCALAMTION

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. (Matt. 2:2)

GOSPEL Matthew 2:1-12

SERMON/MEDITATION

HYMN OF THE DAY — *As with Gladness Men of Old* ELW 302

NICENE CREED

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

The following may be used as a call to prayer.

Creator of the stars of night,
your people's everlasting light,
O Christ, redeemer of us all,
we pray you hear us when we call. (ELW 245)

SHARING OF THE PEACE

MEAL

OFFERING

Good and loving God, we rejoice in the birth of Jesus, who came among the poor to bring the riches of your grace. As you have blessed us with your gifts, let them be a blessing for others. With the trees of the field, with all earth and heaven, we shout for joy at the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.** (ELW p. 64)

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE III (ELW p. 110)

COMMUNION HYMN — *In the Singing* ELW 466

LORD'S PRAYER

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Radiant God, with our eyes we have seen your salvation, and in this meal we have feasted on your grace. May your Word take flesh in us, that we may be your holy people, revealing your glory made known to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen. (ELW p. 65)

SENDING

BLESSING

SENDING SONG — *We Are Marching in the Light of God* ELW 866

DISMISSAL

We have a star to guide us, Jesus Christ, the way, the truth, the life.
Go in joy to share this light.
Thanks be to God.

Epiphany, Year C

January 6, 2019
Service of the Word

GATHERING

INVOCATION

In the name of the Father,
and of the + Son,
and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

OPENING DIALOGUE

O God, you created light and life;
Recreate in us light and life,
Morning by morning,
Day by day,
In our coming and going and being,

May your light shine in us and through us.

To define the world, to show the world, to shape the world,

May your light shine in us and through us.

As Jesus' light illumined the paths He trod and the people He met,
so may that light reflect and refract in our lives
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And also with you.

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THANKSGIVING

OFFERING

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THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

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

May all kings bow down before him, and all the nations do him service.

Let him defend the needy among the people,
rescue the poor, and crush the oppressor.

May he live long as the sun and moon endure,
from one generation to another.

Let him come down like rain upon the mown field,
like showers that water the earth.

In his time may the righteous flourish;
and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.

May all kings bow down before him, and all the nations do him service.

For the king delivers the poor who cry out in distress,
the oppressed, and those who have no helper.

He has compassion on the lowly and poor,
and preserves the lives of the needy.

From oppression and violence he redeems their lives,
and precious is their blood in his sight.

May all kings bow down before him, and all the nations do him service.

Psalm 72:1-7, 11-14

LORD'S PRAYER

SENDING

BLESSING

SENDING SONG — *We Are Marching in the Light of God* ELW 866

DISMISSAL

We have a star to guide us, Jesus Christ, the way, the truth, the life.
Go in joy to share this light.

Thanks be to God.

Baptism of Our Lord, Year C

January 13, 2019

Holy Communion

GATHERING

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM *ELW p. 97*

GATHERING SONG — *Wash, O God, Your Sons and Daughters ELW 445*

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.

Almighty God, you anointed Jesus at his baptism with the Holy Spirit and revealed him as your beloved Son. Keep all who are born of water and the Spirit faithful in your service, that we may rejoice to be called children of God, 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 43:1-7

SONG — *Baptized and Set Free ELW 453*

GOSPEL ACCALAMTION

And a voice from heaven said, “This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.” (Matt. 3:17)

GOSPEL Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

SERMON/MEDITATION

HYMN OF THE DAY — *Christ, When for Us You Were Baptized ELW 304*

AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM *ELW p. 234*

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

The following may be used as a call to prayer.

Awaken, Lord, our spirit
to know and love you more,
in faith to stand unshaken,
in spirit to adore. (*ELW 309*)

SHARING OF THE PEACE

MEAL

OFFERING AND PRAYER

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

COMMUNION HYMN — *Here is Bread* ELW 483

LORD'S PRAYER

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

SENDING

BLESSING

SENDING SONG — *O Lord, Now Let Your Servant* ELW 313

DISMISSAL

Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, the life.
Go in joy to share the good news.
Thanks be to God.

Baptism of Our Lord, Year C

January 13, 2019
Service of the Word

GATHERING

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM *ELW p. 97*

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SHARING OF THE PEACE

THANKSGIVING

OFFERING AND PRAYER

THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

Ascribe to the Lord, you gods,
ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.
Ascribe to the Lord the glory due God's name;
worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.

The voice of the Lord is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders; the Lord is upon the mighty waters.

The voice of the Lord is a powerful voice;
the voice of the Lord is a voice of splendor.
The voice of the Lord breaks the cedar trees;
the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon;
The Lord makes Lebanon skip like a calf,
and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.

The voice of the Lord is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders; the Lord is upon the mighty waters.

The voice of the Lord bursts forth in lightening flashes.
The voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness; the Lord shakes the
wilderness of Kadesh.
The voice of the Lord makes the oak trees writhe and strips the forests bare.
And in the temple of the Lord all are crying, "Glory!"

The voice of the Lord is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders; the Lord is upon the mighty waters.

The Lord sits enthroned above the flood;
The Lord sits enthroned as king forevermore.
O Lord, give strength to your people;
give then, O Lord, the blessings of peace.

The voice of the Lord is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders; the Lord is upon the mighty waters.

Psalm 29

LORD'S PRAYER

SENDING

BLESSING

SENDING SONG — *O Lord, Now Let Your Servant* ELW 313

DISMISSAL

Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, the life.
Go in joy to share the good news.
Thanks be to God.

Second Sunday after Epiphany

January 20, 2019

Readings

Isaiah 62:1-5

Psalm 36:5-10 *We feast on the abundance of your house.*

1 Corinthians 12:1-11

John 2:1-11

Hymn Suggestion

ELW 312 Jesus, Come! (alternate tune *Praise, My Soul* ELW 318)

Third Sunday after Epiphany

January 27, 2019

Readings

Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10

Psalm 19 *The teaching of the Lord revives the soul.*

1 Corinthians 12:12-31a

Luke 4:14-21

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

February 3, 2019

Readings

Jeremiah 1:4-10

Psalm 71:1-6 *From my mother's womb you have been my strength.*

1 Corinthians 13:1-13

Luke 4:21-30

1 Corinthians 13:1-13 Responsive Reading

Leader: If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal.

Part 1: And if I have prophetic powers and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing.

Part 2: If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

Leader: Love is patient; love is kind;

Part 1: love is not envious or boastful

Part 2: or arrogant or rude.

Leader: It does not insist on its own way:

Part 1: it is not irritable or resentful;

Part 2: it does not rejoice in wrongdoing,

All: but rejoices in the truth.

Leader: It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

All: Love never ends.

Leader: But as for prophecies, they will come to an end;

Part 1: as for tongues, they will cease;

Part 2: as for knowledge, it will come to an end.

Leader: For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part;

All: but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end.

Leader: When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child;

All: when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways.

Leader: For now we see in a mirror, dimly,

All: but then we will see face to face.

Leader: Now I know only in part;

All: then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known.

Leader: And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three;

All: and the greatest of these is love.

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

February 10, 2019

Readings

Isaiah 6:1-8 (9-13)

Psalm 138 *I will bow down toward your holy temple.*

1 Corinthians 15:1-11

Luke 5:1-11

Hymn Suggestions

ELW 473 Holy, holy, holy

ELW 417 Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty!

Sixth Sunday after Epiphany

February 17, 2019

Readings

Jeremiah 17:5-10

Psalm 1 *They are like trees planted by streams of living water.*

1 Corinthians 15:12-20

Luke 6:17-26

Hymn Suggestion

ELW 728 Blest Are They

Seventh Sunday after Epiphany

February 24, 2019

Readings

Genesis 45:3-11, 15

Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40 *The lowly shall possess the land; they will delight in abundance of peace.*

1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50

Luke 6:27-38

Transfiguration of Our Lord, Year C

March 3, 2019
Holy Communion

GATHERING

INVOCATION

In the name of the Father,
and of the + Son,
and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

OPENING DIALOGUE

O God, you created light and life;
Recreate in us light and life,
Morning by morning,
Day by day,
In our coming and going and being,

May your light shine in us and through us.

To define the world, to show the world, to shape the world,

May your light shine in us and through us.

As Jesus' light illumined the paths He trod and the people He met,
so may that light reflect and refract in our lives
your great love for the world.

May your light shine in us and through us.

GATHERING SONG — *I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light* ELW 815

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.

Holy God, mighty and immortal, you are beyond our knowing, yet we see your glory in the face of Jesus Christ. Transform us into the likeness of your Son, who renewed our humanity so that we may share in his divinity, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, on God, now and forever. **Amen.**

WORD

FIRST READING 2 Corinthians 3:12—4:2

SONG — *Beautiful Savior* ELW 838

GOSPEL ACCALAMTION

Then from the cloud came a voice that said, "This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!" (Luke 9:35)

GOSPEL Luke 9:28-36 (37-43)

SERMON/MEDITATION

HYMN OF THE DAY — *Christ, Be Our Light* ELW 715

NICENE CREED

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

The following may be used as a call to prayer.

Creator of the stars of night,
your people's everlasting light,
O Christ, redeemer of us all,
we pray you hear us when we call. (ELW 245)

SHARING OF THE PEACE

MEAL

OFFERING

God of mercy and grace, the eyes of all wait upon you, and you open your hand in blessing. Fill us with good things at your table, that we may come to the help of all in need, through Jesus Christ, our redeemer and Lord. **Amen.** (ELW p. 64)

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

COMMUNION HYMN — *Light Dawns on a Weary World* ELW 726

LORD'S PRAYER

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Gracious God, in this meal you have drawn us to your heart, and nourished us at your table with food and drink, the body and blood of Christ. Now send us forth to be your people in the world and to proclaim your truth this day and evermore, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.** (ELW p. 65)

SENDING

BLESSING

SENDING SONG — *This Little Light of Mine* ELW 677

DISMISSAL

Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, the life.
Go in joy to share this light.
Thanks be to God.

Transfiguration of Our Lord, Year C

March 3, 2019
Service of the Word

GATHERING

INVOCATION

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and of the + Son,
and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

OPENING DIALOGUE

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And also with you.

Holy God, mighty and immortal, you are beyond our knowing, yet we see your glory in the face of Jesus Christ. Transform us into the likeness of your Son, who renewed our humanity so that we may share in his divinity, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, on God, now and forever. **Amen.**

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THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

The Lord is king; let the people tremble.
The Lord is enthroned upon the cherubim; let the earth shake.
The Lord, great in Zion, is high above all peoples.

Proclaim the greatness of the Lord; worship upon God's holy hill.

Let them confess God's name, which is great and awesome;
God 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; worship upon God's holy hill.

Proclaim the greatness of the Lord and fall down before God's footstool;
God is the Holy One.
Moses and Aaron among your priests, and Samuel among those who call upon
your name, O Lord;
they call upon you and you answer them,
you spoke to them out of the pillar of cloud;
they kept your testimonies and the decree that you gave them.

Proclaim the greatness of the Lord; worship upon God's holy hill.

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 and worship upon God's holy hill;
for the Lord our God is the Holy One.

Proclaim the greatness of the Lord; worship upon God's holy hill.

Psalms 99

LORD'S PRAYER

SENDING

BLESSING

SENDING SONG — *This Little Light of Mine* ELW 677

DISMISSAL

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