



Praying with the Readings
Prayers of the Church
Based on the Readings
of the Three-Year Lectionary
Year A

Paul C. Stratman



Praying with the Readings: Prayers of the Church Based on the Readings of the Three-Year Lectionary, Year A

Copyright © 2021 Paul C. Stratman. All rights reserved.

With the purchase of this book/resource, permission is hereby granted to individual churches, schools and other non-profit, non-commercial groups to reproduce selected prayers for specific occasions, provided the reproductions are for the group's one-time, local worship and educational events and are not for sale. If desired, pronouns that refer to the Deity may be capitalized, British or other Commonwealth English spellings may be substituted, but no other alterations in content may be made. In all cases, the copyright notice, "Reprinted from *Praying with the Readings: Prayers of the Church Based on the Readings of the Three-Year Lectionary, Year A*, copyright © 2021 Paul C. Stratman. Used with permission." must be included on all reproductions.

Publishers and denominational agencies and other such organizations who wish to include the prayers, in whole or in part, in service books, commentaries, and other publications, or to reproduce the prayers by any process must obtain written permission from the author.

1

Contact information:

Paul C. Stratman
1000 Mary Street
Beaver Dam, WI 53916
pcstratman@gmail.com

This book is printed in PT Serif, 11 pt.

Headings use the font PT Sans, distributed as freeware.

www.acollectionofprayers.com

A Collection
of Prayers

PUBLICATIONS



Introduction

In his first letter, St. John wrote, “*if we ask [God] anything according to his will, he hears us*” (1 John 5:14). We pray according to God’s will by asking for the same things God promises, speaking back to God what he has spoken to us.

This resource strives to provide Prayers of the Church¹ using classic forms and praying for the needs of God’s people in fresh ways. Prayers of the Church for each Sunday are composed of several petitions that reflect the thoughts in the readings for the day.

These prayers are written with petitions arranged in this outline:

Invocation, often drawing thoughts or phrases from the Psalm of the Day.

Three or more petitions that draw from the language in the readings, or prayable thoughts in the readings. Usually the petitions have this pattern:

- For some blessing mentioned in the readings for the day (which sometimes continues the idea of invocation, or is acclamation, praising God for some spiritual blessing).
- For those who do not know Christ
- For those who bring God’s blessings to us, sometimes drawing items from the civil calendar
- Thanks for those who have gone before us in faith, or prayers that we may imitate them, drawn from the minor festivals, saints and commemorations, or sometimes from church history

For the sick in mind or body, those who deal with pain, etc.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

Closing collect—usually short, most are classic collects from the early church or Reformation era.

After each petition there is a short response drawn from the psalm or one of the readings for the day, or sometimes a classic liturgical response. Each prayer ends with a classic collect. See the section “Using These Prayers” for suggestions for their use and for variety in their use.

Scriptures are quoted from various versions of the Bible, chosen for familiarity, clarity and appropriate liturgical usage.

Because these prayers are intended to be read aloud, the “Oxford comma” (comma before *and* at the end of a series, as in “*faith, hope, and love*”) is sometimes used for pacing in reading.

¹ In my denomination, the main prayer in the Divine Service is called “The Prayer of the Church.” Other denominations or traditions may call it “The General Prayer,” “The Prayers of the Faithful,” “Prayers of Intercession,” or simply “The Prayers.”

Our Christian friends in Canada, England, Australia and other English-speaking parts of Christendom may replace “the President of the United States, the governor and legislature of this state” and other similar phrases with appropriate expressions for their respective countries.

Christians in denominations with different titles for positions of leadership may change “president of our synod, ... district president” with “presiding bishop... bishop of our diocese” or whatever may be appropriate.

The prayers are written for my denomination’s (WELS) version of the Revised Common Lectionary. The Gospels and Sunday themes should agree with the standard RCL readings most of the time, especially in the festival half of the year. Even if the Scriptures that are read are not all quoted in the prayers, the prayers will still be rich in biblical language.

A chart for use with older lectionaries (*Christian Worship* 1993, ILCW/*Lutheran Book of Worship* 1978 and *Lutheran Worship* 1982) is included.

A separate volume / resource, *Praying with the Readings: Historic Lectionary* is also available.

The goal of a lectionary should be to give a balanced diet of Scripture, and the new lectionary looks like it will do that well. When the readings tell us about the blessings and works of God, they also give us things to pray for.

The holy writer James wrote, “*You do not have because you do not ask*” (James 4:2).

So, Lord, we are asking.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Paul C. Stratman, S. T. M.

The Conversion of St. Paul

January 25, 2021

Using These Prayers

These prayers can be used as desired—petitions omitted or added. The responses are all printed as a short call and response, usually adapted from some verse of Scripture or a classic liturgical response and selected to be seasonally or thematically appropriate.

O Lord, establish your kingdom in this world by the proclamation of your Word that the nations may stream to you. Teach us your ways so that we may walk in your paths.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! **Hosanna in the highest!**

Lift up our heads and prepare our hearts as we prepare to celebrate the birth of Christ, our heavenly King.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! **Hosanna in the highest!**

If desired, the entire response may be read by the congregation. If this style is preferred, the prayer will have to be printed out in full with the whole response in bold for the congregation.

O Lord, establish your kingdom in this world by the proclamation of your Word that the nations may stream to you. Teach us your ways so that we may walk in your paths.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!

Lift up our heads and prepare our hearts as we prepare to celebrate the birth of Christ, our heavenly King.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!

If a more classic litany is desired, replace the response with a more traditional litany response. This may work especially well with prayers during Advent or Lent.

O Lord, establish your kingdom in this world by the proclamation of your Word that the nations may stream to you. Teach us your ways so that we may walk in your paths.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lift up our heads and prepare our hearts as we prepare to celebrate the birth of Christ, our heavenly King.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Or:

O Lord, establish your kingdom in this world by the proclamation of your Word that the nations may stream to you. Teach us your ways so that we may walk in your paths.

Lord, hear our prayer. **Listen to our cry for mercy.**

Lift up our heads and prepare our hearts as we prepare to celebrate the birth of Christ, our heavenly King.

Lord, hear our prayer. **Listen to our cry for mercy.**

Here are suggestions for classic litany responses:

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord, hear our prayers. **Listen to our cries for help.** (*Psalm 39:12*)

Lord, hear our prayer. **Listen to our cry for mercy.** (*Psalm 86:6*)

Righteous God, answer us when we call. **Be merciful to us and hear our prayer.** (*Psalm 4:1*)

Or for evening worship:

Lord, you are the God who saves us; **day and night we cry out to you.** (*Psalm 88:1*)

Let our prayers rise before you like incense, **the lifting up of our hands as the evening sacrifice.** (*Psalm 141:2*)

These prayers could also work as pastoral prayers by eliminating the responses.

If space in the worship materials is an issue, the congregation's directions could be printed like this while the presiding minister has the copy of the whole prayer:

Prayer of the Church

Several prayers and petitions will be made. Each ends:

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! **Hosanna in the highest!**

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer.

O Lord, purify our consciences by your daily presence, that when your Son, our Lord comes, he may find in us a place prepared for himself; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

This resource does not have page numbers. Instead each prayer has its own reference number, in square brackets, e. g., [A03].

Using These Prayers with Older Lectionaries

An asterisk (*) means that the prayer's themes and language may not be a perfect match to the Sunday's Gospel. Items out of regular order have the reference numbers highlighted.

<i>Christian Worship (1993) Sunday/Festival</i>	Year A	Year B	Year C
Advent 1	A02	B02	C02
Advent 2	A03	B03	C03
Advent 3	A04	B04	C04
Advent 4	A05	B05	C05
Christmas Eve		ABC06	
Christmas Day		ABC07	
Christmas 1	A08	B08	C08
Christmas 2	A09	B09	C09
Epiphany	A10	B10	C10
Epiphany 1 / Baptism of Our Lord	A11	B11	C11
Epiphany 2	A12	B12	C12
Epiphany 3	A13	B13	C13
Epiphany 4	A14	B14	C14
Epiphany 5	A15	B15	C15
Epiphany 6	A16	B16	C16
Epiphany 7	A17	B17	C17
Epiphany 8	A18	B18	C18
Transfiguration	A19	B19	C19
Ash Wednesday		ABC20	
Lent 1	A21	B21	C21
Lent 2	A23	B22	C22
Lent 3	A24	B23	C23
Lent 4	A22*	B24	C24
Lent 5	A25	B25	C25
Palm Sunday		ABC26	
Maundy Thursday	A28	B28	C28
Good Friday		ABC29	
Easter Dawn	A31	B31	C31
Easter Day	A32	B32	C32
Easter 2	A33	B33	C33
Easter 3	A34	B34	C34
Easter 4	A35	B35	C35
Easter 5	A36	B36	C36
Easter 6	A37	B37	C37
Ascension	A38	B38	C38
Easter 7	A39	B39	C39
Pentecost	A40	B40	C40

Holy Trinity	A41	B41	C41
Pentecost 2	A43	B43	C43
Pentecost 3	A44	B44	C44
Pentecost 4	A45	B45	C45
Pentecost 5	A46	B46	C46
Pentecost 6	A47	B47	C47
Pentecost 7	A48	B48	C48
Pentecost 8	A49	B49	C49
Pentecost 9	A50	B50	C50
Pentecost 10	A51	B51	C51
Pentecost 11	A52	B53	C52
Pentecost 12	A53	B54	C53
Pentecost 13	A54	B55	C54
Pentecost 14	A55	B52*	C55
Pentecost 15	A56	B56	C56
Pentecost 16	A57	B57	C57
Pentecost 17	A58	B58	C58
Pentecost 18	A59	B59	C59
Pentecost 19	A60	B60	C60
Pentecost 20	A61	B61	C61
Pentecost 21	A62	B62	C62
Pentecost 22	A63	B63	C63
Pentecost 23	A64	B64	C64
Pentecost 24	A67	B66	C65
Reformation	A71	B71	C71
Last Judgment	A68	B68	C68
Saints Triumphant	A72	B72	C72
Christ the King	A69	B69	C69
<i>ILCW/Lutheran Book of Worship (1978)</i>			
Pentecost 23	A64	B64	C64*
Pentecost 24	A66	B65	C65
Pentecost 25	A67	B66	C66
Pentecost 26	A65	B67*	C67
Pentecost 27	A68*	B68*	C68*
Christ the King	A69	B69	C69
<i>Lutheran Worship (1982)</i>			
Pentecost 23	A64	B64	C64*
Pentecost 24	A66	B65	C65
Pentecost 25	A67	B66	C66
Third-Last Sunday	A65	B67*	C67
Second Last Sunday	A66	B68	C68*
Last Sunday	A68	B69*	C69*

Downloading Digital Files

Your purchase of this book also gives you the right and privilege to download digital files. File download packages contain Word (docx), Rich Text (rtf), and Portable Document (pdf) files, along with individual files of each prayer, formatted for cutting and pasting into your own worship materials, or into proprietary worship software (Service Builder).

Go to <https://acollectionofprayers.com/downloads/>, and find the information on this book on the page. There will be a download link, along with directions for finding a password using this book. It will be something like this: “Password is the first word of prayer A36.”

When you purchase print copies and download files, it does *not* give you the rights to share files with those who have not purchased print copies. We have no way of monitoring or policing illegal sharing, other than to remind our dear Christian readers of the Commandment “You shall not steal” and Martin Luther’s explanation, “We should fear and love God that we do not take our neighbor’s money or property, or get it by dishonest dealing, but help him to improve and protect his property and means of income.”

If it seems necessary (that is, if the number of downloads far exceed the number of purchased books) the download passwords may be changed.

First Sunday in Advent (First Option)

[A01]

O Lord, establish your kingdom in this world by the proclamation of your Word that the nations may stream to you. Teach us your ways so that we may walk in your paths.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! **Hosanna in the highest!**

Lift up our heads and prepare our hearts as we prepare to celebrate the birth of Christ, our heavenly King.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! **Hosanna in the highest!**

All around us we see people walking in darkness, unaware of sin in the world or of your Son's coming, which is nearer to us now than when we first believed. Make us shine like lights in this dark world as we live by faith, empowered by your Spirit as he works in us with the Word.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! **Hosanna in the highest!**

We thank you for those authorities, parents in the home, pastors, teachers and elders in the church who watch over our souls, and those in the government who have the responsibility of watching over the safety of our bodies. Keep them faithful in their tasks, bless them, and make them a blessing to us.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! **Hosanna in the highest!**

We pray for those who wait for relief of sicknesses of body or mind, [*especially...*]. Give them patience as they hear the word of promise about your good purpose even in suffering. Heal, restore and relieve all pain and sorrow as it fits your gracious will and plan.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! **Hosanna in the highest!**

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer.

O Lord, purify our consciences by your daily presence, that when your Son, our Lord comes, he may find in us a place prepared for himself; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Notes:

Response is from Matthew 21:9.

Closing collect is from *The New Ancient Collects*, #41 (Old edition, p. 16.3, Gelasian)

First Sunday in Advent (Second Option)

[A02]

O Lord, establish your kingdom in this world by the proclamation of your Word that the nations may stream to you. Teach us your ways so that we may walk in your paths.

Hear us, Shepherd of Israel. **Awaken your might; come and save us.**

Awaken us so that we may understand the present time. Work in us with your Word. Strengthen us so that we grow in the knowledge of your will that we may put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light.

Hear us, Shepherd of Israel. **Awaken your might; come and save us.**

All around us we see people walking in darkness, unaware of sin in the world or of your Son's coming, which is nearer to us now than when we first believed. Make us shine like lights in this dark world as we live by faith, empowered by your Spirit as he works in us with the Word.

Hear us, Shepherd of Israel. **Awaken your might; come and save us.**

We thank you for those authorities, parents in the home, pastors, teachers and elders in the church who watch over our souls, and those in the government who have the responsibility of watching over the safety of our bodies. Keep them faithful in their tasks, bless them, and make them a blessing to us.

Hear us, Shepherd of Israel. **Awaken your might; come and save us.**

We pray for those who wait for relief of sicknesses of body or mind, [*especially...*]. Give them patience as they hear the word of promise about your good purpose even in suffering. Heal, restore and relieve all pain and sorrow as it fits your gracious will and plan.

Hear us, Shepherd of Israel. **Awaken your might; come and save us.**

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer.

O Lord, purify our consciences by your daily presence, that when your Son, our Lord comes, he may find in us a place prepared for himself; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Notes:

Response is shortened from Psalm 80:1.

Closing collect is from *The New Ancient Collects*, #41 (Old edition, p. 16.3, Gelasian)

Second Sunday in Advent

[A03]

Jesus, our Lord Immanuel, you are the shoot from the stump of Jesse. You bring us hope out of hopelessness, life out of death, and power from weakness. Empower us to live holy lives as we look forward to the day of your coming.

We wait for you, O Lord, we wait for you. **In your Word we put our hope.**

Let the earth be full of your knowledge as the waters cover the sea. As your kingdom comes to human hearts, cool the heat of hatred and calm the frenzy of anger. Give us your Spirit of wisdom, understanding, counsel and power.

We wait for you, O Lord, we wait for you. **In your Word we put our hope.**

John the Baptist called out, "Repent for the kingdom of heaven is near." Fill the world with the sound of your gospel that more people may enjoy your forgiveness and peace.

We wait for you, O Lord, we wait for you. **In your Word we put our hope.**

We pray for those who watch over us for your sake, pastors, teachers, elders and others who teach and lead us in your church, so that through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. Fill their hearts with your Word that they take to heart what they also teach.

We wait for you, O Lord, we wait for you. **In your Word we put our hope.**

Bring your holy comfort to your people, especially those who suffer sickness and hardships of all kind, [*especially...*]. Remind them that you came to bear our griefs and carry our sorrows, and that their sins have been paid for by your blood.

We wait for you, O Lord, we wait for you. **In your Word we put our hope.**

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer.

O Lord, move our hearts to constant repentance, and turn our hearts from every temptation and evil, that at your coming we may be ready to receive what you have promised; you live and reign, now and forever.

Amen.

Notes:

Refrain is from Psalm 130:5

Closing collect modified from *The New Ancient Collects*, #49, (Old edition, p. 18.3, Gelasian)

Third Sunday in Advent

[A04]

O God, you are the Holy One of Israel. You can make the desert blossom. Drive out our fear with your promise of power.

Strengthen our feeble hands. **Steady our weak knees.**

With the hearing of your Word and the work of your Spirit you give us faith. Give us hope as we wait for our Lord's second coming, patience as we deal with hardship, and compassion as we deal with those who suffer.

Strengthen our feeble hands. **Steady our weak knees.**

Open the eyes of the spiritually blind with your message about Christ. Lead us all in the way of repentance and make straight your way to us.

Strengthen our feeble hands. **Steady our weak knees.**

Guide those you have established as authorities over us. Give them wisdom, mercy and eagerness to serve the people in their care.

Strengthen our feeble hands. **Steady our weak knees.**

All healing of body and soul comes from you. We pray for all who are sick or suffering or enduring losses, [*especially...*]. Heal their diseases, relieve their pain, restore their strength if it is your will.

Strengthen our feeble hands. **Steady our weak knees.**

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer.

Dear Lord God, awaken us, that we may be ready when your dear Son comes, that we may receive him with joy and serve you with pure hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Notes:

Response is from Isaiah 35:3

Closing collect is from *Prayers from the Evangelical-Lutheran Heritage*, #71, *Die Pommersche Kirchen Ordnung und Agenda*.

Fourth Sunday in Advent

[A05]

O Lord Jesus, Lord almighty, you are strong and mighty in battle. We lift up our heads and open our hearts to you, our King of glory.

You are our glory and strength. **You are the Holy One of Israel.**

Jesus, you are Immanuel, God with us. Drive away our doubts and fears with your gospel that tells us you became flesh, dwelled among us, and that you know our needs and our weakness.

You are our glory and strength. **You are the Holy One of Israel.**

Your gospel was promised beforehand through the prophets in the Holy Scripture. Let this same Word call the nations near and far to your obedience that comes from faith, that people everywhere might believe in you, the Word made flesh.

You are our glory and strength. **You are the Holy One of Israel.**

Just as Gabriel was sent to announce your coming birth to Joseph, you also send your messengers to us with your Word. Bless all pastors and teachers, and those who are preparing for the public ministry in your church. Keep your Word in their hearts and on their lips.

You are our glory and strength. **You are the Holy One of Israel.**

When we are afraid, lead us to trust that nothing is impossible with you. We pray for all who deal with hardships, illnesses and losses [especially...]. Show them your favor. Uphold them in all their troubles, supply what they need for wholeness or healing, and strengthen their faith in your goodness with your Word of peace.

You are our glory and strength. **You are the Holy One of Israel.**

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer.

O Lord, stir up your power and come. Mercifully fulfill all you have promised your Church to the end of the world; you live and reign, now and forever.

Amen.

Notes:

Response is from Psalm 89:7-8, adapted

Closing collect is from *The New Ancient Collects*, #39, Gelasian, (Old edition, p. 16.1).

The Nativity of Our Lord, Christmas Eve

[A06]

Gracious Father, when the time had fully come, you sent your Son, born of a woman, born under law, that we might receive full adoption as your children. You have given us blessed hope in the birth of our Savior, Christ the Lord.

“Glory to God in the highest, **and peace to his people on earth.**”

Your Christmas gospel, proclaimed by angels, gives us your gift: “To you is born a Savior.” Cheer our hearts with the good news of a Savior born for us, who lived for us, who died and rose again for us.

“Glory to God in the highest, **and peace to his people on earth.**”

When the shepherds heard the good news and saw their Savior, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about the child. Help us to treasure this good news of great joy, and to remember that it is for all people.

“Glory to God in the highest, **and peace to his people on earth.**”

The emperor and governor served your purpose in bringing Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem when the set time had fully come. We pray for our leaders, the President of the United States, the governor of this state, and for all who work for safety and the common good. Work also in them to serve your greater purpose. Guide them with your message of peace.

“Glory to God in the highest, **and peace to his people on earth.**”

Your Son entered this world in poverty, born in a stable with a manger as his crib, and he was first visited by poor shepherds. We remember the poor, the homeless, the sick and the lonely. Fill our hearts with your goodwill and move us to provide for their needs.

“Glory to God in the highest, **and peace to his people on earth.**”

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer.

O Lord, strengthen the faith of your people, that as we confess the birth of your glorious and eternal Son in human flesh, born of his virgin mother, we may be delivered from all earthly troubles and receive your eternal joys; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Notes:

This prayer uses some of the phraseology of the King James Version and Christmas carols because of their familiarity.

Closing collect is from *The New Ancient Collects*, #72, (Old edition p. 28.3, Leonine)

The Nativity of Our Lord, Christmas Day

[A07]

Beloved Immanuel, Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the Most High and Son of the virgin, we give you thanks for your compassion. You came to us from the Father's throne and took on yourself our flesh and blood that we might share your own divine nature.

Lord, you are great and worthy of praise. **Let all creation sing for joy!**

Now has the heavenly Father shared his loving heart with us. Boundless joy is ours, and in you God's anger is stilled forever. By your holy birth, we are born again for heaven, and you have become the true gateway to heaven for us. By you we have access to the Father and open entrance into your kingdom.

Lord, you are great and worthy of praise. **Let all creation sing for joy!**

Dear Lord, gracious Immanuel, help us rightly know the depth of your holy love. Help us remember your tender mercy to us, your poverty and distress, that we may always rejoice in your gracious birth, confident of your mighty power.

Lord, you are great and worthy of praise. **Let all creation sing for joy!**

Lift up our hearts. Open our lips. Loosen our tongues that with all the angels we may worship, praise and magnify you, and finally sing your praise in the everlasting joys of heaven.

Lord, you are great and worthy of praise. **Let all creation sing for joy!**

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer.

Blessed be the Lord God of Israel. Blessed be his holy name. All the earth is full of his glory.
Alleluia!

Amen.

Notes:

Modified from a prayer by Johann Gottfried Olearius, 1635–1711, in *Prayers from the Evangelical-Lutheran Heritage*, #83

Response is modified from Psalm 96:4, 12

First Sunday after Christmas

[A08]

We praise you for your deeds, O Lord. In your love and mercy you redeemed us.

For to us a Child is born. **To us a Son is given.**

Send your Holy Spirit to our hearts. Strengthen our love for you. Strengthen our confidence in you.

For to us a Child is born. **To us a Son is given.**

Rule over the nations of the earth. Govern and guide all rulers. Let your kingdom come with the spread of your holy Word, that good tidings of great joy may come to all people.

For to us a Child is born. **To us a Son is given.**

All wise and mighty Father, you arranged all things for the coming of your Son, and you sent him at your set time. Work all things for the good of your people, that we may be faithful and ready at the set time when he comes again.

For to us a Child is born. **To us a Son is given.**

Look with mercy and give your special blessing to those who weep during this season. Comfort those who mourn losses, heal those who are sick, and give the anxious patience that comes from faith in your promises. [*We pray especially for...*] Cheer them with your peace and good will in Christ.

For to us a Child is born. **To us a Son is given.**

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer.

O God, when Herod killed the children of Bethlehem, you saved your only Son from death so that later, he might redeem the world by his death, and give us full rights as your children. Help us live as your people day by day, that we reflect your love and mercy always; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Notes:

Response is from Isaiah 9:6

Closing collect is modified from *Now and Forever...*

Second Sunday after Christmas

[A09]

We praise you, O Lord, for the riches of your grace which you accomplished by sending your Son, Jesus Christ, to be our Savior.

Your name is exalted, O Lord. **Your splendor is above the earth and the heavens.**

Enlighten the eyes of our hearts that we may know the hope and the riches you have given us.

Your name is exalted, O Lord. **Your splendor is above the earth and the heavens.**

Let your glory reach to the nations of the earth, to those far and near who have not heard the gospel of your salvation. Through our missions and witness, make known to them the mystery of your will.

Your name is exalted, O Lord. **Your splendor is above the earth and the heavens.**

Give your protection to those who look out for our safety at the risk of their own: police, fire and rescue workers, and those who clear and maintain roads.

Your name is exalted, O Lord. **Your splendor is above the earth and the heavens.**

Guide parents with your love, and may they reflect your love as they work and care for their children. Move children to honor their parents, and to give them love and respect, moved by the love and obedience of Jesus.

Your name is exalted, O Lord. **Your splendor is above the earth and the heavens.**

We remember in our prayers those who suffer, those who wait for your deliverance, and those who deal with pains of mind or body [*especially...*]. Give relief as it fits your purpose and will, and move your people to praise you for your deliverance.

Your name is exalted, O Lord. **Your splendor is above the earth and the heavens.**

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

Listen, Lord, to the thoughts and cares of our hearts.

Silent prayer.

O God of hope, you are the true light of the faithful, the perfect brightness of the blessed, and the true light of your Church. Grant that our hearts may humbly pray to you and always offer you our praise; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Notes:

Response is modified from Psalm 148:13.

Closing collect is from the Gelasian Sacramentary.

The Epiphany of Our Lord

[A10]

Lord Jesus Christ, light of the Gentiles and glory of Israel, as you once revealed yourself as the light of the world to the Wise Men with a star, enlighten our hearts with your holy Word.

We pray to you always, **and bless your name all day long.**

People near and far live in the darkness of sin, fear, anger and shame. Reveal your glory also to them, and call them out of the darkness into the light of your grace, love, peace and forgiveness.

We pray to you always, **and bless your name all day long.**

Bless missionaries who proclaim your gospel near and far. Give them courage to speak your Word boldly. Give them a spirit of love and compassion as they speak your Word of grace and bring healing to the nations.

We pray to you always, **and bless your name all day long.**

King of all, govern and guide the rulers of all nations, that people everywhere may enjoy peace and safety, and that your gospel may spread and bring your spiritual kingdom to the hearts of many.

We pray to you always, **and bless your name all day long.**

Let your healing light shine on the hearts of those who are hurting, who are troubled, or who are waiting for healing of mind or body [*especially...*]. Relieve pain, give peace, heal and restore as it fits your plan and will.

We pray to you always, **and bless your name all day long.**

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

Hear us, Lord, as we bring you the thoughts and cares from the depths of our hearts.

Silent prayer.

Lord Jesus Christ, you are the brightness of your faithful people, and you have let your light shine to all nations. Fill the world with your glory, and let your light, love and peace enlighten and warm the hearts of all. You live and reign with your Father and the Holy Spirit, truly God and truly human, now and forever.

Amen.

Notes:

“Wise Men” may be replaced with “Magi” if desired.

Response is adapted from Psalm 72:15b.

Closing collect is adapted from a Gregorian collect.