



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

Paul C. Stratman



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

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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, *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.

Holy Father, you have made us and shaped us. As you prepared the hearts of your people for the coming of your Son by the preaching of the prophets, make our hearts ready for his second coming as we listen to your Word.

We lift up our heads to you. **Come to us, King of Glory.**

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

We lift up our heads to you. **Come to us, King of Glory.**

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.

Holy Father, you have made us and shaped us. As you prepared the hearts of your people for the coming of your Son by the preaching of the prophets, make our hearts ready for his second coming as we listen to your Word.

We lift up our heads to you. Come to us, King of Glory.

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

We lift up our heads to you. Come to us, King of Glory.

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.

Holy Father, you have made us and shaped us. As you prepared the hearts of your people for the coming of your Son by the preaching of the prophets, make our hearts ready for his second coming as we listen to your Word.

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:

Holy Father, you have made us and shaped us. As you prepared the hearts of your people for the coming of your Son by the preaching of the prophets, make our hearts ready for his second coming as we listen to your Word.

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:

We lift up our heads to you. **Come to us, King of Glory.**

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., [B03].

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*

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First Sunday in Advent (First Option)

[B01]

Holy Father, you have made us and shaped us. As you prepared the hearts of your people for the coming of your Son by the preaching of the prophets, make our hearts ready for his second coming as we listen to your Word.

We lift up our heads to you. **Come to us, King of Glory.**

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

We lift up our heads to you. **Come to us, King of Glory.**

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.

We lift up our heads to you. **Come to us, King of Glory.**

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.

We lift up our heads to you. **Come to us, King of Glory.**

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.

We lift up our heads to you. **Come to us, King of Glory.**

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 adapted from Psalm 24:7

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

First Sunday in Advent (Second Option)

[B02]

Holy Father, you have made us and shaped us. As you prepared the hearts of your people for the coming of your Son by the preaching of the prophets, make our hearts ready for his second coming as we listen to your Word.

Restore us, God Almighty; **make your face shine on us and save us.**

We are the work of your hands. Restore us. Lead us in the way of repentance, forgive our sins, and enrich our lives with the gifts of your Holy Spirit as we wait for Christ's appearing.

Restore us, God Almighty; **make your face shine on us 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.

Restore us, God Almighty; **make your face shine on us 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.

Restore us, God Almighty; **make your face shine on us 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.

Restore us, God Almighty; **make your face shine on us 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 adapted from Psalm 80:7.

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

Second Sunday in Advent

[B03]

Gracious Lord and Savior, you give all people time to hear your call and repent. Empower us to live holy lives as we look forward to the day of your coming.

Show us your unfailing love, Lord, **and grant us your salvation.**

We are weak, and our strength is like grass and flowers that wither, but your Word stands forever. Lift us up with your good tidings. Gather your people close to your heart.

Show us your unfailing love, Lord, **and grant us your salvation.**

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

Show us your unfailing love, Lord, **and grant us your salvation.**

We pray for pastors, teachers, elders, and others who teach your Word, 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.

Show us your unfailing love, Lord, **and grant us your salvation.**

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

Show us your unfailing love, Lord, **and grant us your salvation.**

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:

Response is from Psalm 85:7

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

Third Sunday in Advent

[B04]

We delight greatly in you, Lord. Our souls delight in you. You have given us beauty instead of ashes, praise instead of despair.

You have done great things for us, **and we are filled with joy.**

You have enlightened our darkness with your message about Christ. You have led us in the way of repentance and made straight your way to us. Give us humility and joy as we live in your love.

You have done great things for us, **and we are filled with joy.**

Bind up the brokenhearted, proclaim freedom to the captives, release prisoners from darkness with your powerful gospel, and bring the joy of your salvation to those who do not know Christ.

You have done great things for us, **and we are filled with joy.**

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

You have done great things for us, **and we are filled with joy.**

Your Word tells us to be joyful always. Move us to share our joy with those who suffer in body or soul, [*especially...*]. Heal their diseases, relieve their pain, restore their strength if it is your will.

You have done great things for us, **and we are filled with joy.**

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

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

Silent prayer.

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

Amen.

Notes:

Response is adapted from Psalm 126:3

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

Fourth Sunday in Advent

[B05]

Lord, your love stands firm forever. You have revealed the mystery of your plans and established your gospel in our hearts.

You are our glory and strength. **You are our Rock and Savior.**

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 weakness.

You are our glory and strength. **You are our Rock and Savior.**

You have made your will known through the writings of your prophets. Let this same Word be made known to the nations near and far, that people everywhere might believe in you, the Word made flesh.

You are our glory and strength. **You are our Rock and Savior.**

Just as Gabriel was sent to announce your coming birth to Mary, you 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 minds and on their lips.

You are our glory and strength. **You are our Rock and Savior.**

When we are greatly troubled, lead us to turn to you, to ask, and to trust that nothing is impossible with you. We pray for all who deal with hardships, illnesses, and losses [*especially...*]. Show them your favor. 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 our Rock and Savior.**

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 adapted from Psalm 89:17, 26.

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

The Nativity of Our Lord, Christmas Eve

[B06]

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

[B07]

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

[B08]

In you alone, O Lord, are righteousness and strength. You are God and there is no other. A righteous God and Savior, there is none but you.

Glorious and majestic are your deeds. **Your righteousness endures forever.**

Clothe your people with your righteousness, compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. Bind us in the perfect unity of your love.

Glorious and majestic are your deeds. **Your righteousness endures forever.**

Let the people who walk in darkness see the light of your glory in the face of Christ. Open our lips to speak your praise.

Glorious and majestic are your deeds. **Your righteousness endures forever.**

We pray for those who serve us, who look out for our safety at the risk of their own: police, fire, and rescue workers, and those who clear and maintain roads. Give them strength as they work for the protection and good of all.

Glorious and majestic are your deeds. **Your righteousness endures forever.**

The angel proclaimed the message, "To you is born a Savior, Christ the Lord." He is ours, whether we are poor or rich, young or old, healthy or sick. We pray for those who suffer from illness, weakness, or pain, [*especially...*]. Give them peace, faith, confidence, and patience as they trust your faithful Word.

Glorious and majestic are your deeds. **Your righteousness endures forever.**

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

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

Silent prayer.

Almighty and eternal God, you willed that the beginning and end of all religion should depend on the nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son. May we also be counted as members of his body, on whom is built the whole salvation of humanity; with you and the Holy Spirit he lives and reigns, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Notes:

Response is adapted from Psalm 111:3

Closing collect is Leonine, *The New Ancient Collects*, #68, Old edition, p. 22.3.

Second Sunday after Christmas

[B09]

Lord God, you are our sun and shield. Blessed are those who dwell in your house.

Hear our prayers, Lord God Almighty; **listen to us, O God of Jacob.**

We look to your Anointed One who came to be our brother and substitute. Just as he broke the power of the devil, give us the victory when we are tempted. Strengthen our hearts in obedience. Turn our hearts and minds to you.

Hear our prayers, Lord God Almighty; **listen to us, O God of Jacob.**

Bring many sons and daughters to your glory. Expand your rule in our hearts, and expand your kingdom throughout the world. Let your Word have free course, and bring more children into your household.

Hear our prayers, Lord God Almighty; **listen to us, O God of Jacob.**

Your Son, Jesus, was obedient to his earthly parents and obedient to your will, heavenly Father. Guide parents with your love, and may they reflect your love, work, and care for their children. Move children to honor their parents, empowered by the obedience of Jesus.

Hear our prayers, Lord God Almighty; **listen to us, O God of Jacob.**

As you gave the Sabbath rest to your ancient people, give rest, healing, and comfort to those who are weary and burdened, [*especially...*]. Give them strength of spirit when the flesh is weak. Give them healing when it is your will.

Hear our prayers, Lord God Almighty; **listen to us, O God of Jacob.**

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

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

Silent prayer.

Almighty and eternal God, your Holy Spirit has taught us to call you our Father, to call Christ our brother, and to be about our Father's business. Give us faithful hearts that we may be obedient children, and after we serve you here, receive us to our promised inheritance; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Notes:

Response is adapted from Psalm 84:8

Closing collect adapted and expanded from *A Century of Collects*, #85.

The Epiphany of Our Lord

[B10]

O Lord, you have made your salvation known to the nations, and to the Wise Men you revealed your Son by leading them with a star. Show us the manifold wisdom of your grace in Christ.

Let the peoples praise you, O God. **Let all the peoples praise you.**

You have reconciled the world to yourself in Christ. Enlighten us with the glory of your grace as we see Jesus on the pages of Scripture.

Let the peoples praise you, O God. **Let all the peoples praise you.**

Many live their lives in disobedience, not knowing your peace or your good will to people on earth. Open our own lips to speak your name to those around us who still live without faith or hope. Open their hearts to receive your mercy, your gifts, and your call.

Let the peoples praise you, O God. **Let all the peoples praise you.**

Your Son Jesus Christ is the true shepherd of his people Israel, and the authority to rule rests upon his shoulders. Guide the leaders of the nations that they govern their people wisely, work for the common good, and open the way for your gospel to spread among nations.

Let the peoples praise you, O God. **Let all the peoples praise you.**

We pray for those who suffer pains of body or mind or who wait for healing from your hand [*especially...*]. Bring healing when it fits your plan for the good of your people.

Let the peoples praise you, O God. **Let all the peoples praise you.**

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.

O God, you enlighten all nations. Give your people constant joy and peace, and pour into our hearts that radiant light you shined into the minds of the Wise Men; the true Light, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Notes:

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

Response is from Psalm 67:3.

Closing collect is a Gelasian Collect, *The New Ancient Collects*, #89, Old edition, p. 28.3.