

Blofield Church

# A Service for the Season of Epiphany



## Preparation

Give thanks to the Lord, call on his name;  
make known his deeds among the nations;  
proclaim that his name is exalted.

*Isaiah 12.4*

*All* The Lord of Glory be with you  
**The Lord bless you**

## Opening prayer

Lord God, you sent the Lord Jesus Christ to be  
the light of our world.

As he shines in our hearts  
may he banish everything that obscures your goodness  
and darkens our lives.

Illuminate our worship, with the light of your presence  
and reveal your glory, here among us.

*All* **Amen**

- 1 Jesus shall reign where'er the sun  
does his successive journeys run;  
his kingdom stretch from shore to shore  
till moons shall rise and set no more.
- 2 Blessings abound where Jesus reigns -  
the prisoner leaps to lose his chains,  
the weary find eternal rest,  
and all who suffer want are blessed.
- 3 Let all creation rise and bring  
distinctive honours to our King;  
angels descend with songs again  
and earth repeat the loud 'Amen!'

Jubilate Hymns version of *Jesus shall reign where'er  
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## **Prayers of Confession**

By the mercies of God,  
let us confess our sins and present our bodies as a living  
sacrifice,  
holy and acceptable to him,  
which is our spiritual worship.

*Romans 12.1*

**All**

**Lord God,  
we have sinned against you;  
we have done evil in your sight.  
We are sorry and repent.  
Have mercy on us according to your love.  
Wash away our wrongdoing and cleanse us from  
our sin.  
Renew a right spirit within us  
and restore to us the joy of your salvation;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.**

May the God of all healing and forgiveness  
draw us to himself,  
that we may behold the glory of his Son,  
the Word made flesh,  
and be cleansed from all our sins  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## **The Collect**

## The First Reading

*After the reading this response is used*

This is the word of the Lord.

**All Thanks be to God.**

## The Psalm – Psalm 72.1-11;18-19

- <sup>1</sup> Endow the king with your justice, O God,  
the royal son with your righteousness.
- <sup>2</sup> May he judge your people in righteousness,  
your afflicted ones with justice.
- <sup>3</sup> May the mountains bring prosperity to the people,  
the hills the fruit of righteousness.
- <sup>4</sup> May he defend the afflicted among the people  
and save the children of the needy;  
may he crush the oppressor.
- <sup>5</sup> May he endure as long as the sun,  
as long as the moon, through all generations.
- <sup>6</sup> May he be like rain falling on a mown field,  
like showers watering the earth.
- <sup>7</sup> In his days may the righteous flourish  
and prosperity abound till the moon is no more.
- <sup>8</sup> May he rule from sea to sea  
and from the River to the ends of the earth.
- <sup>9</sup> May the desert tribes bow before him  
and his enemies lick the dust.
- <sup>10</sup> May the kings of Tarshish and of distant shores  
bring tribute to him.  
May the kings of Sheba and Seba  
present him with gifts.

<sup>11</sup> May all kings bow down to him  
and all nations serve him.

<sup>18</sup> **Praise be to the Lord God, the God of Israel,  
who alone does marvellous deeds.**

<sup>19</sup> **Praise be to his glorious name for ever;  
may the whole earth be filled with his glory.  
Amen and Amen.**

A hymn is sung

- 1 Brightest and best of the sons of the morning,  
dawn on our darkness and come to our aid;  
star of the east, the horizon adorning,  
guide where our infant redeemer is laid!
- 2 What shall we give him, in costly devotion?  
Shall we bring incense and offerings divine,  
gems of the mountain and pearls of the ocean,  
myrrh from the forest or gold from the mine?
- 3 Vainly we offer each lavish oblation,  
vainly with gifts would his favour secure;  
richer by far is the heart's adoration,  
dearer to God are the prayers of the poor.

Jubilate Hymns version of *Brightest and best of the sons of the morning* Reginald Heber (1783-1826)  
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## **The Second Reading**

*After the reading this response is us*

This is the word of the Lord.

**All Thanks be to God.**

## The Sermon

### Affirmation of Faith

Do you believe and trust in God the Father,  
source of all being and life,  
the one for whom we exist?

*All* **We believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Son,  
who took our human nature,  
died for us and rose again?

*All* **We believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit,  
who gives life to the people of God  
and makes Christ known in the world?

*All* **We believe and trust in him.**

This is the faith of the Church.

*All* **This is our faith.  
We believe and trust in one God,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.  
Amen.**

### The Intercessions

*All* Light of Christ  
**shine in our lives; shine in the world.**

*All* *And at the conclusion*  
**Amen**

## **The Lord's Prayer**

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

**All** **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,**  
**the power and the glory,**  
**for ever and ever. Amen**

A hymn is sung

- 1 As with gladness men of old  
did the guiding star behold,  
as with joy they hailed its light,  
leading onward, beaming bright;  
so, most gracious Lord, may we  
evermore your glory see.
  
- 2 As they offered gifts most rare  
at your cradle rude and bare,  
so may we with holy joy,  
pure and free from sin's alloy,  
all our costliest treasures bring,  
Christ, to you, our heavenly King.

3 In the heavenly country bright  
need they no created light;  
you its light, its joy, its crown,  
you its sun which goes not down;  
there for ever may we sing  
alleluias to our King.

William Chatterton Dix (1837-1898)  
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May God the Father,  
who led the wise men by the shining of a star  
to find the Christ, the Light from Light,  
lead you in your pilgrimage to find the Lord.  
**Amen.**

May God who has brought us out of darkness  
give us a place with the saints in light  
in the kingdom of his Son.  
**Amen.**

May the light of the glorious gospel of Christ  
shine in our hearts and transform our lives,  
to bring his light to others.  
**Amen.**

And God's rich blessing, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, abide  
with you this day and always.  
**Amen**

*cf Colossians 1.13; 2 Corinthians 4.4*