

## ~ Great Thanksgiving ~

Epiphany of the Lord

*Isaiah 60:1-6; Psalm 72:1-14; Matthew 2:1-12*

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to our God.

**It is right to give our joyful thanks and praise.**

We thank You, creating God, for the great light of Your love.

When You called forth creation You said, "Let there be light," and You saw that it was good. You divided the light from darkness and created the sun, moon, and stars to light the sky.

It was good, as all Your creation was good.

When Your people suffered in bondage and oppression, You led them out of slavery. You lit the way to freedom with a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. You gave them Your commandments to light their way, as they strove to become a community of justice and righteousness. When Your people turned from Your light, You were still faithful, loving them always. You sent prophets to call them back to the world's true light. And so, with Your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we sing Your praises with this unending hymn...

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might;**

**heaven and earth are full of Your glory. Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is the one who comes in the Name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest!**

You sent Jesus to us, the Light of the world. He promised that those who followed Him would never walk in darkness, but would have the light of life.

The light of His life shone on all the people, revealing the truth of Your love.

Jesus fed the hungry, cured the sick, ate with sinners, and proclaimed Your truth.

Before He was betrayed, He gathered with His friends for a meal.

Taking the bread, He gave thanks to You and broke it. He gave it to His friends saying, "Take and eat. I am with you now and forever. Let this meal feed you.

Remember me as you eat."

Then He took the cup, blessed it, and shared it with His followers saying,  
“This is the cup of the New Covenant, given for the forgiveness of sins.  
It is a gift for you and for all people. It is My love offered for you.  
Drink of this and remember me.”

And so, as we remember Jesus, Light of the world,  
teacher, healer, guide, and friend, we offer ourselves into Christ’s service,  
that we too might radiate God’s light, as we proclaim the mystery of our faith:

**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

Pour out Your Spirit upon these gifts of bread and vine, here and in our homes,  
that they may be for us the living presence of Jesus Christ,  
Light of the world, our Hope for all creation.

Pour out Your Spirit upon us, that we may be the body of Christ,  
redeemed by His blood, as we serve creation and reflect the light of Your love.

Make us one with Jesus, and one with each other,  
as we walk in the light, singing Your praises.

Through Jesus Christ, Light of the world, and through the Holy Spirit,  
radiance divine, all praise is Yours, eternal God,  
now and forever, world without end. Amen.

**Benediction:**

As you wisely and truly seek Him, follow the star of your journey;  
don’t look for the holy in places of power and prestige.  
Instead, pay attention to the ordinary, the quiet, the remote places.  
There, may you be so overcome with joy,  
you readily share your gifts with creation.