

**Morning Prayer**  
**12th January - 1st of Epiphany**  
**(Baptism of Christ)**

**(We will be following this in our own homes at 10.30am)**

Please read these words out loud, or in your heart.

**Preparation**

Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the universe.

From the rising of the sun to its setting  
your name is proclaimed in all the world.

The Lord of glory be with us and bless us.

The night has passed, and the day lies open before us;  
let us pray with one heart and mind.

*Silence may be kept, to ask forgiveness of our sins  
and to seek God's strength for our life of service.*

As we rejoice in the gift of this new day,  
so may the light of your presence, O God,  
set our hearts on fire with love for you;  
now and for ever.

Amen.

**The Word of God**

**Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 43:1-7**

But now, this is what the LORD says -

he who created you, Jacob,

he who formed you, Israel:

<sup>1</sup>Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;

I have summoned you by name; you are mine.

<sup>2</sup>When you pass through the waters,

I will be with you;

and when you pass through the rivers,

they will not sweep over you.

When you walk through the fire,

you will not be burned;

the flames will not set you ablaze.

<sup>3</sup>For I am the LORD your God,

the Holy One of Israel, your Saviour;

I give Egypt for your ransom,

Cush and Seba in your stead.

- <sup>4</sup> Since you are precious and honoured in my sight,  
and because I love you,  
I will give people in exchange for you,  
nations in exchange for your life.
- <sup>5</sup> Do not be afraid, for I am with you;  
I will bring your children from the east  
and gather you from the west.
- <sup>6</sup> I will say to the north, "Give them up!"  
and to the south, "Do not hold them back."  
Bring my sons from afar  
and my daughters from the ends of the earth -
- <sup>7</sup> everyone who is called by my name,  
whom I created for my glory,  
whom I formed and made.'

This is the word of the Lord.  
Thanks be to God.

New Testament reading: Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

- <sup>15</sup> The people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their hearts if John might possibly be the Messiah. <sup>16</sup> John answered them all, 'I baptise you with water. But one who is more powerful than I will come, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>17</sup> His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.' ...
- <sup>21</sup> When all the people were being baptised, Jesus was baptised too. And as he was praying, heaven was opened <sup>22</sup> and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: 'You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.'

This is the word of the Lord.  
Thanks be to God.

A Song of the Messiah

- 1 The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;  
those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,  
upon them the light has dawned.
- 2 You have increased their joy and given them great gladness;  
they rejoiced before you as with joy at the harvest.
- 3 For you have shattered the yoke that burdened them;  
the collar that lay heavy on their shoulders.
- 4 For to us a child is born and to us a son is given,  
and the government will be upon his shoulder.

- 5 And his name will be called: Wonderful Counsellor;  
the Mighty God;  
the Everlasting Father; the Prince of Peace.
- 6 Of the increase of his government and of peace  
there will be no end,
- 7 Upon the throne of David and over his kingdom,  
to establish and uphold it with justice and righteousness.
- 8 From this time forth and for evermore;  
the zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

*Isaiah 9.2,3b,4a,6,7*

Glory to the Father  
and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning,  
is now and shall be for ever.  
Amen.

### **Prayers**

*Please offer your own prayers following these suggestions, if you wish, with the response below:*

- ¶ *for the day and its tasks*
- ¶ *for the world and its needs*
- ¶ *for the Church and her life*
- ¶ *for the long process which will select a new Archbishop of Canterbury*

Lord, in your mercy,  
hear our prayer.

*Silence may be kept.*

O good Jesus,  
Word of the Father and brightness of his glory,  
whom angels desire to behold:  
teach me to do your will, that,  
guided by your Spirit,  
I may come to that blessed city of everlasting day  
where all are one in heart and mind,  
where there is safety and eternal peace,  
happiness and delight,  
where you live with the Father and the Holy Spirit,  
world without end.  
Amen.

*after Gregory the Great*

### Collect

Eternal Father,  
who at the baptism of Jesus  
revealed him to be your Son,  
anointing him with the Holy Spirit:  
grant to us, who are born again by water and the Spirit,  
that we may be faithful to our calling as your adopted children;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.  
Amen.

Trusting in the compassion of God,  
let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us  
"Our Father, who art in heaven ..."

*The Lord's Prayer is said*

### The Conclusion

Jesus Christ was born of the virgin Mary,  
revealed in his glory, worshipped by angels,  
proclaimed among the nations, exalted to the highest heavens,  
believed in throughout the world.  
Blessed be God, our strength and our salvation,  
now and for ever.  
Amen.

Let us go in the peace of Christ.  
Thanks be to God.

*Our services today take place at:  
Aldfield (Holy Communion) at 9.00 am;  
Grewelthorpe (Morning Worship) and Sawley (Holy Communion) at 10.30 am;  
Kirkby Malzeard (Plough Service with lunch) at 11.00 am;  
online Compline via Zoom at 8.00 pm.*

***Everyone from across the benefice (and beyond) is welcome at all services.***