**EPIPHANY AND WORLD MISSION**

(Standing)

 TUNE: GAUDEAMUS PARITER

 Songs of thankfulness and praise,

 Jesus, Lord, to you we raise;

 manifested by the star

 to the sages from afar,

 branch of royal David's stem

 in your birth at Bethlehem:

 anthems be to you addressed,

 God in flesh made manifest.

All your creatures, Lord, will praise you, and all your people will give you thanks.

**They will speak of the glory of your royal power and tell of your might.**

Everyone will know your mighty deeds and the glorious majesty of your kingdom.

**Your rule is eternal, and you are king forever.**

You, Lord, are righteous in all you do, merciful in all your acts.

**You are near to those who call to you, who call to you with sincerity.**

You supply the needs of all who honor you; you hear their cries and save them.

**We will ever praise you, Lord; let all creation praise your holy name forever.**

 TUNE: HYFRYDOL

 Worship, honor, glory, blessing,

 Lord, we offer unto you;

 young and old, your praise expressing,

 sing your mercies ever new.

 all the saints in heav'n adore you;

 we would bow before your throne.

 As your angels serve before you,

 so on earth your will be done.

(Kneeling or sitting)

With sincere hearts and open minds, let us now acknowledge the sin that entangles us and prevents us from doing God's will.

**Silent confession**

**Compassionate Lord, you call us to a higher standard than we have achieved. We therefore bow in honest confession of those thoughts, words, and deeds which have missed the mark. Within our families, we have loved imperfectly. Among sisters and brothers in the church, we have not fully walked in the light. Often our congregations have not reflected the rich diversity of people in our communities. In our witness to the world, our lives have not adequately testified to your redeeming power. Forgive us, gracious Lord, for permitting ourselves to be distracted from the goal of our discipleship. Heal the brokenness of our hearts and restore us to you, our first love.**

 TUNE: BATTY (16 A)

 Grant that we may love you truly;

 Lord, our thoughts and actions sway,

 and to every heart more fully

 your atoning power display.

There is no condemnation now for those who live in union with Christ Jesus. Hear the word of our Lord: I do not condemn you. Go, but do not sin again.

(Standing)

God created the heavens and stretched them out, fashioned the earth and all that live there, and gave life and breath to all its people.

**And now the Lord God says to his servant: I, the Lord, have called you and given you power to see that justice is done on earth. Through you I will make a covenant with all peoples.**

Through you I will bring light to the nations. You will open the eyes of the blind,

**And set free those who sit in dark prisons.**

 TUNE: ST. AGNES (14 Cc)

 Light of the world, come near and bless

 your children here below,

 who in your house your name confess,

 on us your grace bestow.

 Light of the world, we worship you;

 our gifts to you we bring;

 accept our sinful hearts, O Lord,

 while praise to you we sing.

God shows no partiality to race or culture. All who have reverence for him and do what is right are acceptable to God.

**Let us give thanks to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! For in our union with Christ he has blessed us by giving us every spiritual blessing in the heavenly world.**

Let us praise God for his glorious grace, for the free gift he gave us in his dear Son!

**How great is the grace of God, which he gave to us in such large measure!**

This is the good news: through Jesus' death and resurrection all people may participate in God's blessings.

**We are members of the same body and share in the promise that God made through Christ Jesus.**

There is no longer rich or poor, black or white, male or female; for we are all one in union with Christ Jesus.

**If we belong to Christ, then we are members of God's family and will receive what God has promised.**

 TUNE: DULCE CARMEN (167 G)

 Church of God, elect and glorious,

 holy nation, chosen race;

 called as God's own special people,

 royal priests and heirs of grace:

 know the purpose of your calling;

 show to all God's mighty deeds;

 tell of love which knows no limits,

 grace which meets all human needs.

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(All may join in the Epiphany Prayer of Intercession, the Traditional Prayer for Our Missionaries, or the service may proceed as the liturgist directs.)

(Sitting)

**EPIPHANY PRAYER OF INTERCESSION**

Let us offer intercessions and petitions for the needs of the world.

**Lord Jesus Christ, as disciples called to your service, we pray for the salvation of all. Lead us to bear witness to friends and neighbors in this community. Fill our words and manner of life with the convincing power of your Spirit. Intensify our love for all people that our discipleship may be confirmed as genuine. Through our obedience to your call, bestow on many the faith to be saved.**

**Give every gift and blessing to your witnesses in all places. May those who suffer because they have named you as Lord be strengthened to endure every temptation. Give courage, insight, and loving patience to those who have left their own people to proclaim the gospel to those yet unreached.**

**Savior, grant that your church may always grow in grace and in numbers. Bring multitudes from every people to bow and confess that you are Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

 ---------(OR)-------

**TRADITIONAL PRAYER FOR OUR MISSIONARIES**

Let us pray for our missionaries.

**Light and Desire of all nations, watch over your messengers by land, sea, and air. Accompany the word of their testimony concerning your atonement with demonstration of the Spirit and of power. You know where they dwell, and where they labor, and that they are running with perseverance the race set before them.**

**Strengthen them in the hour of temptation, and preserve them in times of danger and distress. Let them find comfort in the fellowship and intercessions of the churches, which have sent them forth in obedience to your call.**

**May the fire of your love awaken and preserve among them, and us, the spirit of all those witnesses who did not hold their lives too dear to lay them down. Bless us all, and make of us a blessing. Amen.**

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(Standing)

 TUNE: LUX EOI (167 H)

 Lord, you call us to your service --

 "In my name baptize and teach" --

 That the world may trust your promise:

 life abundant meant for each.

 Give us all new fervor, draw us

 Closer in community;

 with the Spirit's gifts empower us

 for the work of ministry.

 Lord, you bless with words assuring:

 "I am with you to the end."

 Faith and hope and love restoring,

 may we serve as you intend.

 and amid the cares that claim us,

 hold in mind eternity.

 With the Spirit's gifts empower us

 for the work of ministry.

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I looked, and there was a great multitude -- no one could count all the people! They were from every race, tribe, nation, and language, and they stood in front of the throne and of the Lamb, holding palm branches in their hands. They called out in a loud voice: "Salvation comes from our God, who sits on the throne, and from the Lamb!"

**Praise, glory, wisdom, thanksgiving, honor, power, and might belong to our God forever and ever! Amen!**

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