

# Epiphany Liturgies

These liturgies were inspired and based, in part, on the work and writing of Archbishop Desmond Tutu who died Dec. 26, 2021.

## **Proclamation** *used prior to processional hymn*

*Celebrant* Arise, Shine for your light has come.

*People* **The glory of the Lord has shone upon us.**

## **Epiphany Litany for the Way of Love**

*Intercessor* O God of Love you showed us how to love in Jesus your Son, we give you thanks for all the ways we have known love, in our families, friends, parishioners, and strangers. For smiles, a word of care, an act of sacrifice and all the ways we see your love in action.

*People* **Awaken us to love as you love.**

*Intercessor* We hold in your Light all the ministries of our community as we re-engage in the many activities that provide the foundation of our common life and outreach.

*People* **Awaken us to have hearts open to love as you love, with hands ready to serve.**

*Intercessor* We hold in your light all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world and we pray for people who are poor, oppressed, victims of crime, prisoners, and refugees.

*People* **Awaken us to love and strive for justice for all peoples to bring peace on earth.**

*Intercessor* We give thanks for and hold in your light all the health care professionals who put their lives at risk caring for us in the midst of disease and suffering in the world.

*People* **Awaken us to love and an awareness of our collective responsibility for one another.**

*Intercessor* We hold in the Light that has come into the world people in need of healing and people on our hearts this day (*The names of those in need of healing will be read followed by a moment of silence to add those on your hearts*) and we pray:

*People* **Awaken us to love as you command; to be your healing presence for people in distress.**

*Intercessor* We hold in the Light that has come into the world people who have died (*The names of the deceased will be read followed by a moment of silence for you to remember the people on your hearts.*) and we pray for all who grieve the loss of loved ones.

*People* **Awaken us to love as you love, to weep with those who weep, and to comfort those who mourn.**

*Intercessor* We pray that in the light of this season of epiphany we would courageously do justice, show kindness, and walk humbly with our God.

*People* **Awaken us to love as you love that at the end of our days we would all hear the heavens proclaim, "Well done, my beloved!"**

*Intercessor* As we confront the darkness of our day, help us to remember

*People* **Goodness is stronger than evil;  
Love is stronger than hate;  
Light is stronger than darkness;  
Life is stronger than death;  
Victory is ours through Him who loves us. Amen**

## Alternative Epiphany Litany

*Intercessor* O God, in this season of Epiphany we give thanks for all the saints who have manifested your light in the world. As we pray for the church and the world help us to remember that:

**People** **Goodness is stronger than evil;**  
**Love is stronger than hate;**  
**Light is stronger than darkness;**  
**Life is stronger than death;**  
**Victory is ours through Him who loves us.**

*Intercessor* Disturb us, O God

**People** **when we are too well-pleased with ourselves**  
**when our dreams have come true because we dreamed too little,**  
**because we sailed too close to the shore.**

*Intercessor* Disturb us, O God

**People** **when with the abundance of things we possess,**  
**we have lost our thirst for the water of life**  
**when, having fallen in love with time,**  
**we have ceased to dream of eternity**  
**and in our efforts to build a new earth,**  
**we have allowed our vision of Heaven to grow dim.**

*Intercessor* Stir us, O God

**People** **to dare more boldly, to venture into wider seas**  
**where storms show your mastery,**  
**where losing sight of land, we shall find the stars.**  
**In the name of Him who pushed back the horizons of our hopes**  
**and invited the brave to follow.**

*Intercessor* We hold in the light of your kindness O God, people in need of healing especially: *(the names on our prayer list will be read followed by a moment of silence to add the people on your hearts.)* In your infinite mercy:

**People** **Enfold them in your healing love.**

*Intercessor* And we remember in your presence O God, people who have died: *(the names on our prayer list will be read followed by a moment of silence to add the people on your hearts.)* In your infinite mercy:

**People** **Enfold them in your eternal light.**

*Intercessor* Let us pray also for our own needs.

*Silence is kept*

*Celebrant* Now to God who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to God be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever.

**People** **Amen.**

## Confession and Absolution

*Celebrant* God of Light, you have pierced the darkness of our world by the coming of your son Jesus, and making us your children of light. Help us recognize and transform our failure to share your love with people in need, the powerless, the oppressed, and the least among us.

*The people kneel and silence is kept.*

*Celebrant* Let us remember and confess the times when we have missed the mark and failed to be the people God created us to be.

*People* **Forgive us, O God for all that remains standing between you and us:  
our fears and anxieties, our hatreds and bitterness,  
our despair and lack of faith in you.**

**Deliver us, O God from our cowardice that dares not face new truths,  
from our laziness that is contented with half-truths,  
and from our arrogance that thinks it knows all the truth.**

**Restore us, O God to be your people, joyfully sowing seeds of love, justice, and  
peace, wherever we may go.**

*Celebrant* Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive and set you free from all your sins through Jesus Christ who restores you in all goodness and kindness by the power of the Holy Spirit working within you. Know that you are forgiven and approach your God in peace.

*People* **Amen.**

## Post Communion Prayer

*Celebrant* Having seen the true light that has come into the world, let us pray.

*People* **Almighty God, we thank you that in your great love you have fed us with the spiritual food of the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ and have given us a foretaste of your heavenly banquet.**

**Grant that this sacrament will continue to enlighten our hearts and minds and inspire us to go forth into the world with kindness, humility, and a passion for justice; until at the end of our journey we know the joy of our homecoming and the welcome of your embrace. Amen.**

## Epiphany Blessing

*Celebrant* Arise, shine; for your light has come.

*People* **We will call upon the name of our God.**

*Celebrant* Arise, shine; for your light has come.

*People* **We will walk in the presence of our God.**

*Celebrant* Arise, shine; for your light has come.

*People* **We will act justly and love mercy all the days of our lives.**

*Celebrant* Arise, shine, and live in the radiance of God's goodness and glory as joyful incarnations of the Gospel.

And the blessing of God Almighty, Creator, Redeemer and Life-Giving Spirit be upon you and within you and all those whom you love and struggle to love now and forever.

*People* **Amen.**

## The Dismissal

*Celebrant* Go in peace to love and enjoy the Christ. Alleluia, Alleluia!

*People* **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia!**