**A Service for Use at Home**

**in the Season of Epiphany**

**Praise**

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.

**Penitence**

Because God was merciful,
he saved us through the water of rebirth
and the renewing power of the Holy Spirit.
But through sin we have fallen away from our baptism.
Let us return to the Lord

and renew our faith in his promises
by confessing our sins in penitence. *after Titus 3.5*

*Spend a moment in quiet reflection…*

Lord Jesus, illuminate the darkness in our hearts:
*Lord, have mercy.*

Lord Jesus, open our eyes to your saving love:
*Christ, have mercy.*

Lord Jesus, unstop our ears to hear your living word:
*Lord, have mercy.*

Almighty God,
you forgive all who truly repent:
have mercy upon me,
pardon and deliver mefrom all my sins,
confirm and strengthen mein all goodness,
and keep mein life eternal;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Praise**

All honour and praise be yours

always and everywhere,
mighty creator, ever-living God,
through Jesus Christ your only Son our Lord:
for in this Season of Epiphany

we celebrate your glory
made present in our midst.
In the coming of the magi
the King of all the world was revealed to the nations.
In the waters of baptism
Jesus was revealed as the Christ,
the Saviour sent to redeem us.
In the water made wine
the new creation was revealed at the wedding feast.
Poverty was turned to riches, sorrow into joy.
Therefore with all the angels of heaven
we lift our voices to proclaim the glory of your name
and sing our joyful hymn of praise:

*Holy, Holy, Holy Lord,*

*God of power and might.*

*Heaven and earth are full of your glory*

*Hosanna in the highest!*

**The Collect of the Day** (please see separate sheet)

**Bible Readings** (please see separate sheet)

 *For the word of the Lord*

*Thanks be to God.*

**Intercessions**

The Lord’s Prayer

*Here,* y*ou might like to bring your own prayers and concerns before God in quietness…*

We pray for the coming of God’s kingdom…

You sent your Son to bring good news to the poor,
sight to the blind,
freedom to the captives
and salvation to your people:
anoint us with your Spirit;
rouse us to work in his name.
*Father, by your Spirit
bring in your kingdom.*
Send us to bring help to the poor
and freedom to the oppressed.
*Father, by your Spirit
bring in your kingdom.*
Send us to tell the world
the good news of your healing love.
*Father, by your Spirit
bring in your kingdom.*

Send us to those who mourn,
to bring joy and gladness instead of grief.
*Father, by your Spirit
bring in your kingdom.*
Send us to proclaim that the time is here
for you to save your people.
*Father, by your Spirit
bring in your kingdom.*
Father, use us, unworthy as we are,
to bring in your kingdom

of mercy, justice, love and peace.
Empower us by your Spirit and unite us in your Son,
that all our joy and delight may be to serve you,
now and for ever.
Amen.

**Closing Prayers for God’s Blessing**

May God the Father,
who led the wise men by the shining of a star
to find the Christ, the Light from light,
lead all his people in our pilgrimage to find the Lord.
Amen.

May God the Holy Spirit,
who came upon the beloved Son
at his baptism in the river Jordan,
pour out his gifts on all
who have come to the waters of new birth.
Amen.

May God the Son,
who turned water into wine at the wedding feast at Cana,
transform our lives and make glad our hearts.
Amen.

And may the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among us and remain with us always.

Amen.

**The Collect and Readings appointed for**

**the Festival of the Baptism of Christ**

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.

**The Old Testament Reading is taken from**

**the Book of the Prophet Isaiah, chapter 42 verses 1-9**

“Here is my servant, whom I uphold,
my chosen one in whom I delight;
I will put my Spirit on him
and he will bring justice to the nations.
He will not shout or cry out,
or raise his voice in the streets.
A bruised reed he will not break,
and a smouldering wick he will not snuff out.
In faithfulness he will bring forth justice;
he will not falter or be discouraged
till he establishes justice on earth.
In his law the islands will put their hope.”
This is what God the LORD says –
he who created the heavens and stretched them out,
who spread out the earth and all that comes out of it,
who gives breath to its people,
and life to those who walk on it:
“I, the LORD, have called you in righteousness;
I will take hold of your hand.
I will keep you and will make you
to be a covenant for the people
and a light for the Gentiles,
to open eyes that are blind, *(continued…)*

to free captives from prison

and to release from the dungeon those who sit in darkness.
“I am the LORD; that is my name!
I will not give my glory to another
or my praise to idols.
See, the former things have taken place,
and new things I declare;
before they spring into being
I announce them to you.”

**The New Testament Reading is taken from**

**the Gospel according to St Mark, chapter 1, verses 4-11**

John came, baptising in the desert region

and preaching a baptism of repentance

for the forgiveness of sins.

The whole Judean countryside

and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him.

Confessing their sins,

they were baptised by him in the Jordan River.

John wore clothing made of camel’s hair,

with a leather belt round his waist,

and he ate locusts and wild honey.

And this was his message:

“After me will come one more powerful than I,

the thongs of whose sandals

I am not worthy to stoop down and untie.

I baptise you with water,

but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.”

At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee

and was baptised by John in the Jordan.

As Jesus was coming up out of the water,

he saw heaven being torn open

and the Spirit descending on him like a dove.

And a voice came from heaven:

“You are my Son, whom I love;

with you I am well pleased.”