

Prayer Service

The Epiphany of Our Lord

Grades: K-2nd

Prepare the prayer space with a candle, a bible, a nativity set or something else representative of the Christmas season. Play or sing the song with your students.

We Three Kings

We three kings of Orient are
Bearing gifts we traverse afar.
Field and fountain, moor and mountain,
Following yonder star.

Born a king on Bethlehem's plain,
Gold I bring to crown Him again,
King forever, ceasing never
Over us all to reign.

O star of wonder, star of night,
Star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding,
Guide us to thy perfect Light.

Frankincense to offer have I.
Incense owns a Deity nigh.
Prayer and praising all men raising,
Worship Him, God on high.

O star of wonder, star of night,
Star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding,
Guide us to thy perfect Light.

Myrrh is mine: Its bitter perfume
Breaths a life of gathering gloom.
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding dying,
Sealed in the stone-cold tomb.

Glorious now behold Him arise,
King and God and Sacrifice.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Sounds through the earth and skies.

O star of wonder, star of night,
Star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding,
Guide us to thy perfect Light

Christmas Carols - We Three Kings Lyrics | MetroLyrics <http://www.metrolyrics.com/we-three-kings-lyrics-christmas-carols.html>



In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

(Matthew 2: 9-12) And behold, the star that they had seen at its rising preceded them, until it came and stopped over the place where the child was. They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed for their country by another way.

Reflection: (*You can say this or something similar*)

The feast of the Epiphany of the Lord reminds us that we must seek God. Like the three wise men who came from very far away to pay homage to the King of Kings. We too are called to find Him in our lives and present our gifts to Him.

Using the gifts that God has given us and following the light of Christ. We are then called to share what we know with others. So they may also know him.

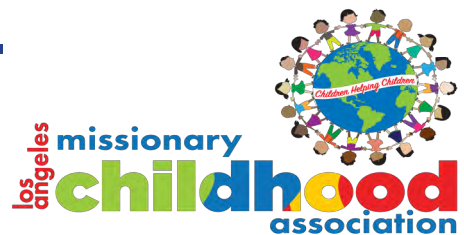
Prayer:

Dear Heavenly Father.
Guide and shine your light on us.
As we strive to put our faith into
practice to develop a better
relationship with your Son,
Jesus Christ.
Help us find our way
like the three wise men did
following the light of the star.
May we follow your light
to help us find you in our lives.
Sharing the joy of knowing who
You are with others.
Presenting our gifts to You.
Gifts that allow us to live our faith
and share it with others.
Amen

Prayer Service

Seeking God

Grades: 3rd– 5th



Prepare the prayer space with a candle, a bible and a Nativity set or anything else representing the Christmas season. Play a song such as "We Three Kings" at the beginning or the end of the service.

In the Name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen

(Matthew 2: 1-12) A reading from the Gospel of Matthew: When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of King Herod, behold, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star at its rising and have come to do homage." When King Herod heard this, he was greatly troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. Assembling all the chief priests and the scribes of the people, He inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it has been written through the prophet: *And you, Bethlehem, land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; since from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.*" Then Herod called the magi secretly and ascertained from them the time of the star's appearance. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search diligently for the child. When you have found him, bring me word, that I too may go and do him homage." After their audience with the king they set out. And behold, the star that they had seen at its rising preceded them, until it came and stopped over the place where the child was. They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary, his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed for their country by another way.

(Allow for a silence of one or two minutes and have another student read the reading one more time.)

Reflection: (Say this or something similar). In the reading we just heard we are reminded of the promise made by God to his people in the Old Testament to send a ruler to shepherd his people into salvation.

The word epiphany means: 'to manifest or to reveal'. God manifested himself in the world as both human and divine in Jesus Christ. He came to bring unity to all. The three wise men followed the light of a star to guide them to Jesus. They came bearing gifts for the King of Kings representing all nations, coming to adore their king. They also represent us and how we too can seek and find God in our lives offering him valuable gifts from our hearts.

Responsorial Psalm 72: 1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13

R./ Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

O God, with your judgment endow the King, and with your justice, the king's son; He shall govern your people with justice and your afflicted ones with judgment. **R./ Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.**

Justice shall flower in his days, and profound peace, till the moon be no more. May he rule from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth. **R./ Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.**

The kings of Tarshish and the Isles shall offer gifts; the kings of Arabia and Seba shall bring tribute. All kings shall pay him homage, all nations shall serve him. **R./ Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.**

For he shall rescue the poor when he cries out, and the afflicted when he has no one to help him. He shall have pity for the lowly and the poor; the lives of the poor he shall save. **R./ Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.**

Prayer:

Heavenly Father,
As the three wise men travel great
distances to pay homage to your Son,
Jesus Christ.
I, too, seek to follow your word.
As the wise men gave you their finest gifts.
I, too, offer you my best— I give you
my heart full of love.
Love for my community, my family, and all
of my brothers and sisters in Christ.
Help me Lord, and guide me on my
faith journey.
Giving me the wisdom that comes from
knowing and following your footsteps.
May my words and actions make others
aware of your presence and bring them
closer to you. Amen.

Prayer Service

Seeking and hearing the voice of God

Grades: 6th—8th

Prepare the prayer space with a bible and a candle.

In the Name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

A reading from 1st. Samuel 3: 3-10: The lamp of God was not yet extinguished, and Samuel was sleeping in the temple of the Lord where the ark of God was. The Lord called to Samuel, who answered, "Here I am." He ran to Eli and said, "Here I am. You called me." "I did not call you," Eli answered. "Go back to sleep." So he went back to sleep. Again the Lord called Samuel, who rose and went to Eli. "Here I am," he said. "You called me." But he answered, "I did not call you, my son. Go back to sleep."

Samuel did not yet recognize the Lord, since the word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him. The Lord called Samuel again, for the third time. Getting up and going to Eli, he said, "Her I am. You called me." Then Eli understood that the Lord was calling the youth. So he said to Samuel, "Go to sleep, and if you are called, reply, "Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening." When Samuel went to sleep in his place the Lord came and stood there, calling out as before: Samuel, Samuel! Samuel answered, "Speak, for your servant is listening."

(Allow for a silence of one or two minutes and have another student read the reading one more time.)

Reflection: *(You can say this or something similar to this)*
A lot of the times we find ourselves like Samuel not recognizing the voice of God in our lives when he is calling to us. He could be calling to us in many different ways and through many different people. However, we cannot recognize him if we do not take the time to know him. In knowing Jesus Christ we also come to know ourselves as children of God and our purpose here on earth. Pope Francis spoke of the wisdom that comes from knowing God. He also mentioned how adults in the life of the youth help them understand and receive that wisdom. In the reading we just read Eli understood after a while who was calling Samuel. So he, as the adult, told Samuel what to do and what to answer. Allowing Samuel to have an encounter with God who was calling him. We too have to listen to people speaking to us about our faith and guiding us on our faith journey. It is through them that we come to know and encounter God.



Responsorial Psalm 40: 2, 4, 7-8, 8-9, 10

R./ Here am I, Lord; I come to do your will.

I have waited, waited for the Lord, and he stooped toward me and heard my cry. And he put a new song into my mouth a hymn to our God. **R./ Here am I, Lord; I come to do your will.**

Sacrifice or offering you wished not, but ears open to obedience you gave me. Holocausts or sin-offering you sought not; then said I, "Behold I come" **R./ Here am I, Lord; I come to do your will.**

"In the written scroll it is prescribed for me to do your will, O my God, is my delight, and your law is within my heart!" **R./ Here am I, Lord; I come to do your will.**

I announced your justice in the vast assembly; I did not restrain my lips, as you, O Lord, know. **R./ Here am I, Lord; I come to do your will.**

Prayer:

Heavenly Father,
As we start of this new year,
we ask that you help us to hear your
voice among all the distractions
we have in our lives.
May the Holy Spirit guide us and
give us the strength
we need to follow your footsteps.
May your wisdom always be
present in our lives.
Being passed down from the adults in
our lives to us the young church.
To better prepare us to answer our
missionary call share the Good News of
the Gospel with all we meet.
Here I am, Lord,
I come to do your will.
Guide my footsteps,
may my words glorify you, and
may my actions reflect
your presence in the world.
We ask this is the name of your Son,
Jesus Christ. Amen.