



## **A Service in the Methodist Tradition**

### **The Preparation**

This is the day the Lord has made.  
**We will rejoice and be glad in it!**

### **Prayer of Approach**

Lord our God,  
**eternal and wonderful,  
wholly to be trusted:  
you give life to all;  
you help those who come to you  
and give hope to those who call on you.  
Set our hearts and minds at peace,  
that we may bring our prayers to you  
with confidence and joy;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.**

### **Prayer of Adoration**

Eternal God and Father,  
you are the source of all life,  
the fount of all wisdom,  
the well-spring all grace.  
Your days are without end,  
your loving mercies without number.  
We depend on you:  
and we remember your goodness to us  
and to those who have gone before us.  
We tell your story in every generation:

You are our God, ahead  
of us, leading us,  
guiding us and calling us;  
you are the Lord God,  
the all-wise, the all-compassionate.  
**To you we lift up our hearts  
and we worship you,  
one God  
for ever and ever.  
Amen.**

## **The Collect of the Day**

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Epiphany**

Eternal Lord,  
our beginning and our end:  
bring us with the whole creation to your glory,  
hidden through past ages and made known  
in Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

## **The Ministry of the Word**

### **First Reading**

*Isaiah 49, verses 1-7*

Listen to me, O coastlands,  
pay attention, you peoples from far away!  
The Lord called me before I was born,  
while I was in my mother's womb he named me.  
He made my mouth like a sharp sword,  
in the shadow of his hand he hid me;  
he made me a polished arrow,  
in his quiver he hid me away.  
And he said to me, 'You are my servant,  
Israel, in whom I will be glorified.'  
But I said, 'I have laboured in vain,  
I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity;  
yet surely my cause is with the Lord,  
and my reward with my God.'

And now the Lord says,  
who formed me in the womb to be his servant,  
to bring Jacob back to him,

and that Israel might be gathered to him,  
for I am honoured in the sight of the Lord,  
and my God has become my strength —  
he says,  
'It is too light a thing that you should be my servant  
to raise up the tribes of Jacob  
and to restore the survivors of Israel;  
I will give you as a light to the nations,  
that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.'

Thus says the Lord,  
the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One,  
to one deeply despised, abhorred by the nations,  
the slave of rulers,  
'Kings shall see and stand up,  
princes, and they shall prostrate themselves,  
because of the Lord, who is faithful,  
the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you.'

## **Second Reading** John 1, 29-42

The next day he saw Jesus coming towards him and declared, 'Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! This is he of whom I said, "After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me." I myself did not know him; but I came baptising with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel.' And John testified, 'I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptise with water said to me, "He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptises with the Holy Spirit." And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Son of God.'

The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, and as he watched Jesus walk by he exclaimed, "Look, here is the Lamb of God!" The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, "What are you looking for?" They said to him, "Rabbi" (which translated means Teacher), "where are you staying?" He said to them, "Come and see." They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o'clock in the afternoon. One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. He first found his brother Simon and said to him, "We have found the

Messiah” (which is translated Anointed). He brought Simon<sup>[c]</sup> to Jesus, who looked at him and said, “You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas” (which is translated Peter).

## Reflection

## The Response

### Prayer of Confession

Let us make our confession to God.

Holy God

**we confess that we have rebelled against you  
and broken you law of love;  
we have not loved our neighbours  
nor heard the cry of the needy.  
Forgive us, we pray,  
and free us for joyful obedience;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.**

*Pause*

In Christ we are set free.  
Through Christ we are forgiven.  
**Amen.**  
**Thanks be to God.**

### Prayer of Thanksgiving

Blessed are you, Holy God,  
creator, redeemer and life-giver;  
you have spoken the world into being  
and filled it with wonder and beauty.

For every blessing we have received  
**we give you thanks and praise.**

Blessed are you, Holy God,  
for people of every language and culture  
and for the rich variety you give to life.

For every blessing we have received  
**we give you thanks and praise.**

Blessed are you, Holy God,  
for Jesus Christ our Saviour,  
truly divine and truly human,  
living and dying for us,  
and going before us into heaven.

For every blessing we have received  
**we give you thanks and praise.**

Blessed are you, Holy  
God, for your Spirit,  
the fire of love burning in our hearts,  
bringing us to faith,  
and calling us to holiness  
in the Church and in the world.

For every blessing we have received  
**we give you thanks and praise.**

Therefore, Holy God,  
all glory be given to you,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

### **Prayers of Intercession**

*Prayers are offered concluding with*

#### ***The Lord's Prayer***

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your Name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom,  
the power and the glory are yours,  
now and for ever.  
Amen.**

## **The Dismissal**

The Lord give strength to his people.  
The Lord bless his people with peace.  
**Amen.**

**We go into the world  
to walk in God's light,  
to rejoice in God's love  
and to reflect God's glory.  
Amen.**

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