

Twelfth Night: The Eve of the Epiphany of Our Sovereign Jesus Christ

God be with you.

And also with you.

All: Peace be to this house and to all who live, work, and visit here.

The three wise men came to Bethlehem in search of the Christ. They brought with them precious gifts: gold to honor the newborn Sovereign, incense to the incarnate presence of God, and myrrh to anoint that body which one day would die like our own.

Let us pray. O God, you once used a star to guide the Magi to Jesus. May that same light that led those wise ones to honor that birth now also guide us to recognize your birth everywhere and in all people, to know you by faith, and to see you in the epiphanies of the daily experiences of our lives. **Amen.**

Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of God shall be revealed.

And all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of God has spoken it.

All: As the Magi once sought your brilliant light, O God, may we also seek to live and work in your splendor.

O God of Light, bless our house, our family, and our guests. May this be a place of peace, health, and welcome. May each of us cultivate the gifts and graces you have bestowed, dedicating our talents and works for the good of all. Make this house a shelter in the storm and a haven of rest for all in need of your warmth and care. And when we go out from this place, may we never lose sight of that Epiphany star.

As we go about our work, our study, our play, keep us in its light and in your love. Amen.

The Blessing of the Chalk for Marking the Door

Jesus our Sovereign, through your Incarnation and birth in true human form, you have made all the earth holy. We now ask your blessing upon this simple gift of your creation — chalk. We use it as a tool to teach our children, and they use it as a tool in their play and games. Now, with your blessing, may it become a tool for us to mark the doors of our home with the symbols of your wise servants who, so long ago, came to worship and adore you in your first home. **Amen.**

People may in turn mark the doorway with one or more of the symbols:

20 + C + M + B + 06

A reading from Isaiah: "The effect of righteousness is peace, and the result of righteousness, quietness and trust forever. My people will abide in a peaceful habitation, in secure dwellings, and quiet places."

Let us pray: Sovereign God, bless this home and all who live or visit here with your gracious presence, that your love may be our inspiration, your wisdom our guide, your truth our light, and your peace our benediction; we ask this through Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

O God, remember your children and teach us to pray:

***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.***

People may make the sign of the cross in remembrance of their baptism.

May God watch + over our going out and our coming in, from this time forth and forevermore.

Amen.

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