



LECTIONARY

The Collect for Today

O God, by the leading of a star you manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth: Lead us, who know you now by faith, to your presence, where we may see your glory face to face; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

FIRST READING

ISAIAH 60:1-6

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms. Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.

Lector: **Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.**

People: **Thanks be to God**

PSALM 72:1-7, 10-14

1 Give the King your justice, O God, *

and your righteousness to the King's Son;

2 That he may rule your people righteously *

and the poor with justice;

3 That the mountains may bring

prosperity to the people, *
and the little hills bring righteousness.

4 He shall defend the needy among the people; *

he shall rescue the poor and crush the oppressor.

5 He shall live as long as the sun,

and moon endure, *
from one generation to another.
6 He shall come down like rain up-
on the mown field, *
like showers that water the earth.
7 In his time shall the righteous
flourish; *
there shall be abundance of peace
till the moon shall be no more.
10 The kings of Tarshish and of
the isles shall pay tribute, *
and the kings of Arabia and Saba
offer gifts.
11 All kings shall bow down be-
fore him, *

and all the nations do him service.
12 For he shall deliver the poor
who cries out in distress, *
and the oppressed who has no
helper.
13 He shall have pity on the lowly
and poor; *
he shall preserve the lives of the
needy.
14 He shall redeem their lives
from oppression and violence, *
and dear shall their blood be in his
sight.

SECOND READING

EPHESIANS 3:1-12

I Paul, a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles—assume that you have already heard of the commission of God’s grace that was given me for you, and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God’s grace that was given me by the working of his power. Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

Lector: **Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.**

People: **Thanks be to God**

Sequence Hymn: *"We Three Kings"*

#128

Officiant: *The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.*

People: **Glory to you, Lord Christ**



GOSPEL

MATTHEW 2:1-12

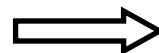
In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: 'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'" Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Officiant: *The Gospel of the Lord.*

People: **Praise to you, Lord Christ**

Prayers of the People

Leader: *God has called us out of darkness into the glorious light of the Son. Let us therefore pray for those who do not yet know the light and for all those in need of our prayers, saying:*
Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.



For the church and its ministry to the world, for all bishops and clergy, for missionaries, and for all those who bring the gospel of Jesus Christ to the nations, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

For the nations of the world and their leaders, for all those in authority, and for an end to war and oppression, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

For those who have not heard the good news of salvation, for those who have heard but have not believed, and for those who have forsaken their faith, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

For the lonely and destitute, for the victims of injustice and discrimination, for the unloved and the forgotten, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

For the sick in body, mind, and spirit, for the hungry and the homeless, for the dying and the bereaved, and for all those in need of our prayers, especially those we name now, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

For the saints who have gone before us in the faith and are now at rest, especially those we name now, and for all the saints on earth who surround us in a great fellowship of love, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

In the Anglican cycle of prayer, we pray for The Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand & Polynesia

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

In the Diocesan cycle of prayer, we pray for Good Shepherd of the Hills in Cave Creek.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We acknowledge and pay respect to the first peoples of this land and their role as custodians of this land given to them by our one and only Creator God. We commit ourselves to work actively alongside indigenous people for reconciliation and justice as we live into our Baptismal Covenant and respect the dignity of every person.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Prayers For the Parish

Teach us, Good Lord, to serve you as you deserve; to give and not to count the cost; to fight and not heed the wounds; to work and not seek to rest; to labor and not ask for any reward; except that by knowing we do your will, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **AMEN**

Transitioning New Life at St. Stephen's

Holy God, make us Holy. Revealing God, make us see. Sending God, make us move. Loving God, make us Love. **AMEN**

Presider: *Loving God, hear the prayers of your faithful people, and guide our thoughts and actions, so that your will may be done and your name glorified, through Jesus Christ our Lord. . Amen.*