



LECTIONARY

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 right-
eousness.

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 upon the mown field, *
like showers that water the
earth.

7 In his time shall the right-
eous 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
before 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 wis-
dom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the
rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was in accord-
ance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Je-
sus 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

Priest: *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.



Priest: *The Gospel of the Lord.*

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

Prayers of the People

After the lay leader has said the first prayer, please feel free, as the spirit moves you, to say the next prayer. If two or more start together please continue together

Please respond to each of these prayers with the
The Phrase in Bold

As we see the glory of our Lord revealed, we pray with fellow Christians everywhere, welcoming the Lord in our hearts.

(Silence) Saying together: **WELCOME LORD JESUS!**

God of the Magi, give your church the inspiration to leave home to find you among the poor.

(Silence) Saying together: **GOD OF THE MAGI, HEAR US!**

God of the Holy Innocents, give your church the power to stand against violence and to protect the powerless.

(Silence) Saying together:

GOD OF THE VICTIMS, HEAR OUR PRAYER!

We pray to you God of Truth, inspire with your wisdom all leaders of nations as they make decisions affecting the lives of us all.

(Silence) Saying together: **LORD JESUS, LEAD US IN THE WAY OF JUSTICE AND PEACE!**

Healing God, we pray for those who are alone, suffering in mind, body or spirit. Please say the names of those for whom you wish to pray, either aloud or silently.

(Pause for people to say names.)

Saying together: **LORD, HEAL YOUR PEOPLE!**

Compassionate God, we remember those who died in the faith of Christ and those whose faith is known only to you. Please say either aloud or silently the names of those in your hearts today. *(Pause for people to say names.)* Saying together:

LOVING GOD, HEAR OUR PRAYERS!