

The Epiphany of Our Lord

1 January 2017

These readings are provided, first, so you can re-read and reflect on them during the week, and second, if you wish, to follow the readings during the service.

Isaiah 60:1-6

- ¹ Arise, shine; for your light has come,
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.
- ² 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.
- ³ Nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.
- ⁴ 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.
- ⁵ 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.
- ⁶ 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.

Psalms 72:1-7, 10-14

- ¹ Give the king your judgement, O God:
and your righteousness to the son of a king,
- ² That he may judge your people rightly:
and the poor of the land with equity.
- ³ Let the mountains be laden with peace
because of his righteousness:
and the hills also with prosperity for his people.
- ⁴ May he give justice to the poor among the
people:
and rescue the children of the needy,
and crush the oppressor.
- ⁵ May he live while the sun endures:
and while the moon gives light,
throughout all generations.
- ⁶ May he come down like rain upon the new-
mown fields:
and as showers that water the earth.

⁷ In his time shall righteousness flourish:
and abundance of peace, till the moon shall be
no more.

¹⁰ The kings of Tarshish and of the isles
shall bring tribute:
the kings of Sheba and Seba shall offer gifts.

¹¹ All kings shall fall down before him:
and all nations do him service.

¹² He will deliver the needy when they cry:
and the poor that have no helper.

¹³ He will pity the helpless and the needy:
and save the lives of the poor.

¹⁴ He will redeem them from oppression and
violence:
and their blood shall be precious in his sight.

Ephesians 3:1-12

¹ This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for
Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles— ² for
surely you have already heard of the
commission of God's grace that was given to me
for you, ³ and how the mystery was made
known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in
a few words, ⁴ a reading of which will enable
you to perceive my understanding of the
mystery of Christ. ⁵ 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: ⁶ that is, the
Gentiles have become fellow-heirs, members of
the same body, and sharers in the promise in
Christ Jesus through the gospel. ⁷ Of this gospel
I have become a servant according to the gift of
God's grace that was given to me by the
working of his power. ⁸ 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, ⁹ and to make
everyone see what is the plan of the mystery
hidden for ages in God who created all things;
¹⁰ 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. ¹¹ This was in accordance with
the eternal purpose that he has carried out in
Christ Jesus our Lord, ¹² in whom we have
access to God in boldness and confidence
through faith in him.

Matthew 2:1-12

¹ In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was
born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the
East came to Jerusalem,

² 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.'

³ When King Herod heard this, he was
frightened, and all Jerusalem with him;

⁴ and calling together all the chief priests and
scribes of the people, he inquired of them
where the Messiah was to be born.

⁵ They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it
has been written by the prophet:

⁶ "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." '

⁷ Then Herod secretly called for the wise men
and learned from them the exact time when the
star had appeared.

⁸ 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.'

⁹ 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.

¹⁰ When they saw that the star had stopped,
they were overwhelmed with joy.

¹¹ 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.

¹² And having been warned in a dream not to
return to Herod, they left for their own country
by another road.