

**COLLECT**

O God,  
 who by the leading of a star  
 manifested your only Son to the peoples  
 of the earth:  
 mercifully grant that we,  
 who know you now by faith,  
 may at last behold your glory face to face;  
 through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
 who is alive and reigns with you,  
 in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
 one God, now and for ever.

**FIRST READING Isaiah 60:1-6**

*A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.*

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.

**PSALM Psalm 72:[1-9] 10-15**

*R The Lord is king; let the earth rejoice.*

Give the king your judgements, O God,  
 and your righteousness to the son of a  
 king.  
 Then shall he judge your people  
 righteously  
 and your poor with justice. **R**

May the mountains bring forth peace,  
 and the little hills righteousness for the  
 people.  
 May he defend the poor among the  
 people,  
 deliver the children of the needy and  
 crush the oppressor. **R**

May he live as long as the sun and moon  
 endure,  
 from one generation to another.  
 May he come down like rain upon the  
 mown grass,  
 like the showers that water the earth.

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

May his dominion extend from sea to sea  
 and from the River to the ends of the  
 earth.

May his foes kneel before him  
 and his enemies lick the dust. **R**

The kings of Tarshish and of the isles  
 shall pay tribute;  
 the kings of Sheba and Seba shall bring  
 gifts.

All kings shall fall down before him;  
 all nations shall do him service. **R**

For he shall deliver the poor that cry out,  
 the needy and those who have no helper.  
 He shall have pity on the weak and poor;  
 he shall preserve the lives of the needy. **R**

He shall redeem their lives from  
 oppression and violence,  
 and dear shall their blood be in his sight.  
 Long may he live;  
 unto him may be given gold from Sheba;  
 may prayer be made for him continually  
 and may they bless him all the day  
 long. **R**

**SECOND READING Ephesians 3:1-12**

*A reading from the letter of Paul to the Ephesians.*

This is the reason that I Paul am a  
 prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake  
 of you Gentiles – for surely 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.

**GOSPEL Matthew 2:1-12**

*Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.*

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.

**POST COMMUNION**

Lord God,  
 the bright splendour whom the nations  
 seek:  
 may we who with the wise men  
 have been drawn by your light  
 discern the glory of your presence in  
 your Son,  
 the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our  
 Lord.



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