



January 3RD, 2010

Epiphany of Our Lord

OPENING PRAYER

Let us pray: Father, you revealed your Son to the nations by the guidance of a star. Lead us to your glory in heaven by the light of faith. We ask this...

FIRST READING

(Isaiah prophesies the coming of the Lord in splendour and glory as a light that shines on the people. His radiance will bring joy in every heart.)

A reading from the Book of Isaiah (60:1-6)

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you. And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising. Lift up your eyes round about, and see; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far, and your daughters shall be carried in the arms. Then you shall see and be radiant, your heart shall thrill and rejoice; because the abundance of the sea shall be turned 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.

This is the Word of the Lord

PSALM (71)

Response: All nations shall fall prostrate before you, O Lord.

O God, give your judgement to the king, to a king's son your justice, that he may judge your people in justice and your poor in right judgement. R./

In his days justice shall flourish and peace till the moon fails. He shall rule from sea to sea, from the Great River to earth's bounds. R./

The kings of Tarshish and the sea coasts shall pay him tribute. The kings of Sheba and Seba shall bring him gifts. Before him all kings shall fall prostrate, all nations shall serve him. R./

For he shall save the poor when they cry and the needy who are helpless. He will have pity on the weak and save the lives of the poor. R./

SECOND READING

(Paul writes of the universality of Christ's salvation, offered to Jews and Gentiles. All are members of the same body, and co-partners in the promise in Christ through the Gospel.)

A reading from the Letter of St Paul to the Ephesians (3:2-3,5-6)

Assuming that you have heard of the stewardship of God's grace that was given to me for you, how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I have written briefly. This mystery was not made known to the sons of men in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit; that is, how the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

This is the Word of the Lord

ACCLAMATION (Mt 2:2)

Alleluia, alleluia! We have seen his star in the East and have come to worship the Lord.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

(The Magi from the East come searching for the new-born king of the Jews. Led by a star, they find the baby Jesus and pay him homage and offer him gifts.)

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to St Matthew (2:1-12)

Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we have seen his star in the East, and have come to worship him." When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it is written by the prophet: 'And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judaea, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will govern my people Israel'."

Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star appeared; and he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him bring me word, that I too may come and worship him." When they had heard the king they went their way; and lo, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came to rest over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy; and going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshipped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by a different way.

This is the Gospel of the Lord