

SUNDAY MASS

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

Behold, the Lord, the Mighty One, has come; and kingship is in his grasp, and power and dominion.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 60:1-6.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Psalm 72.

RESPONSE:

All nations on earth 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 shall justice flourish, and great peace fill the moon is no more. He shall rule from sea to sea, from the River to the bounds of the earth. **R**
- The kings of Tarshish and the islands 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 needy when they cry, the poor, and those who are helpless. He will have pity on the weak and the needy, and save the lives of the needy. **R**

SECOND READING: Ephesians 3:2-3, 5-6.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

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

GOSPEL: Matthew 2:1-12.

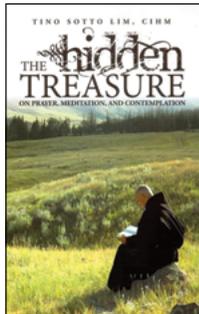
COMMUNION ANTIPHON:

We have seen his star in the East, and have come with gifts to adore the Lord.

This book on the principles and practices of prayer, meditation and contemplation is written both for the searchers and for those who have discovered the hidden treasure of the eternal kingdom.

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THE WEEK AHEAD

Live the Word

Mon 3 Jan (The Most Holy Name of Jesus)

1 John 3:22-4:6; Psalm 2; Matthew 4:12-17.23-25
Having walked with Jesus on this earth for three years, experiencing his miracles, parables and deep truths, the apostle John's summary of the gospel message was simply: "Little children, love one another!"

Tue 4 Jan Liturgy of the Day

1 John 4:7-10; Psalm 72; Mark 6:34-44
If we do only one thing right this year, let us put God first in our lives. Commit yourself first thing each day to sit before God with an open heart in stillness and silence for five minutes... and then let God do the rest.

Wed 5 Jan Liturgy of the Day

1 John 4:11-18; Psalm 72; Mark 6:45-52
Know that when we believe in the Light, regardless of how dark and fearful things sometimes seem, God will come to us, our eyes will be opened wider, and we will be consoled.

Thu 6 Jan Liturgy of the Day

1 John 4:19-5:4; Psalm 72; Luke 4:14-22
With the Incarnation we have a God we can see, touch and hear. Something of this touchable God is present in all people, made in God's image. The challenge is in recognizing his image right before our eyes.

Fri 7 Jan (St Raymond of Penyafort, Pr)

1 John 5:5-13; Psalm 147; Luke 5:12-16
The exchange between Jesus and the leper in today's gospel makes it clear that it is Christ's choice and desire to heal the leper. In your prayer today ask, "Lord, if you wish, you can make me clean."

Sat 8 Jan Liturgy of the Day

1 John 5:14-21; Psalm 149; John 3:22-30
Suffering is real for everyone – no-one can escape it. Jesus does not remove our suffering, but infuses it with love. We find our joy in the presence of God, permanently joined to our humanity, never letting go.

Sun 9 Jan BAPTISM OF THE LORD

Isaiah 40:1-5.9-11; Psalm 104; Luke 3:15-16.21-22
In a society where there is so much loudness, anger and aggression, let us reflect today on the loving kindness and quiet gentleness of our Messiah, in whom his Father was "well pleased."

(KEY: **SOLEMNITY**; FEAST; Memorial; (Optional Memorial) Pr=Priest

Catholic Link

EPIPHANY

Epiphany of the Lord • Year C
Divine Office: Week II • 2 January 2022

Leading all to Christ

Epiphany is a Greek word meaning manifestation or revelation. The feast that we celebrate today, the Epiphany of our Lord, is the manifestation of the infant Jesus to the Gentiles, represented by the Magi (Matthew 2:1-12). The Epiphany of the Lord is the fulfilment of God's promise to Abraham: "I will make you the Father of all nations. I will bless you, and your descendants shall be like the stars in the heavens and as the sand on the seashore" (Genesis 22:17).

The realization of this promise began when God chose Jacob and named him Israel (Genesis 32:29). Later God reveals himself to Moses through the burning bush (Exodus 3:1-6). At this point God's self-revelation is to the Israelites. However, God's promise to Abraham of having many children was ultimately to be fulfilled by bringing salvation to all peoples and making them His children by adoption through Jesus Christ (cf. Ephesians 1:5).

What does all this mean for us?

Pope Saint Leo the Great (400-461) provides the answer. In his sermon on the Epiphany, he says: "The loving providence of God determined that in the last days he would aid the world, set on its course to destruction. He decreed that all nations should be saved in Christ. A promise had been made to the holy patriarch Abraham. He was to have countless progeny, born not from his body but from the seed of faith."

We are God's children born from the seed of faith. We today are part of the promise given to Abraham which has expanded beyond

Israel to include the Gentiles. We today are the beneficiaries of the prophecy of Isaiah, "The people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who dwelt in the region of the shadow of death a light has dawned" (9:2). Isaiah also prayed, "The Gentiles, who do not know you, will invoke you..." (55:5).



What we discern from these texts and indeed all of salvation history is that God's self-manifestation ("epiphany") is never a once off. What began with Abraham and is fulfilled in Christ continues and expands to embrace all of humanity, beginning with the first gentiles, the Magi, who saw Jesus in the stable at Bethlehem and continuing through the ages.

After two thousand and twenty-two years the light of the star that enlightened the Magi still enlightens the world. God knows we need its bright guidance to lead us to Christ as we stumble through the shadow of Covid, the darkness of growing economic hardship for many, the dimness of faith, the night of fear and anxiety. What is that star today? Where does it shine? It shines in every act of genuine charity and compassion. It radiates wherever love overcomes hate, forgiveness defeats division, and gratitude breaks through negativity. The Epiphany star is now no longer a celestial body for astronomers to study. It is the radiance of new life in Christ, loving others as he did and bringing Good News to others, as we follow the words of a hymn we may have learned as children: Brighten the corner where you are!

Picture: Adoration of the Magi by Fra Angelico and Fra Filippo Lippi, c. 1450