

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.

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.



The Lord is king; let the earth rejoice.