

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 *Kings bow down before him;
all the nations do him service.*

Give the king your justice, O God,
and your righteousness to the king's
son;
that he may rule your people righteously
and the poor with justice;
that the mountains may bring prosperity
to the people,
and the little hills bring righteousness. **R**
He shall defend the needy among
the people;
he shall rescue the poor and crush the
oppressor.
He shall live as long as the sun and
moon endure,
from one generation to another. **R**

He shall come down like rain upon the
mown field,
like showers that water the earth.
In his time shall the righteous flourish;
there shall be abundance of peace
till the moon shall be no more. **R**

The kings of Tarshish and of the isles
shall pay tribute,
and the kings of Arabia and Saba
offer gifts.

All kings shall bow down before him,
and all the nations do him service. **R**

For he shall deliver the poor who cries
out in distress,
and the oppressed who has no helper.
He shall have pity on the lowly
and poor;
he shall preserve the lives of the needy.
He shall redeem their lives from
oppression and violence,
and dear shall their blood be in his
sight. **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.