

come to do him homage.' When King Herod heard this he was perturbed, and so was the whole of Jerusalem. He called together all the chief priests and the scribes of the people, and enquired of them where the Christ was to be born. 'At Bethlehem in Judaea', they told him 'for this is what the prophet wrote: And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, you are by no means least among the leaders of Judah, for out of you will come a leader who will shepherd my people Israel.'

Then Herod summoned the wise men to see him privately. He asked them the exact date on which the star had appeared, and sent them on to Bethlehem. 'Go and find out all about the child,' he said 'and when you have found him, let me know, so that I too may go and do him homage.' Having listened to what the king had to say, they set out. And there in front of them was the star they had seen rising; it went forward and halted over the place where the child was. The sight of the star filled them with delight, and going into the house they saw the child with his mother Mary, and falling to their knees they did him homage. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts of gold and frankincense and myrrh. But they were warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, and returned to their own country by a different way.

**The Gospel of the Lord.**  
R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

**HOMILY**  
**PROFESSION OF FAITH APOSTLES' CREED**

*Or the Nicene Creed may be said.*  
I believe in God, / the Father almighty, / Creator of heaven and earth, / and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, / who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, / born of the Virgin Mary, / suffered under Pontius Pilate, / was crucified, died and was buried; / he descended into hell; / on the third day he rose again from the dead; / he ascended into heaven, / and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; / from there he will come to judge the living and the dead. / I believe in the Holy Spirit, / the holy catholic Church, / the communion of saints, / the forgiveness of sins, / the resurrection of the body, / and life everlasting. Amen.

**PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL**

**LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST**  
*After the priest raises the paten with the bread and prays, and then the chalice, we respond to each prayer:*

R. Blessed be God for ever.  
P. Pray, brethren (brothers and sisters), that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

R. May the Lord accept the sacrifice of your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.

**PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS**  
P. Look with favour, Lord, we pray, on these gifts of your Church, in which are offered now not gold or frankincense or myrrh, but he who by them is proclaimed, sacrificed and received, Jesus Christ. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.  
R. Amen.

**THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER**  
P. The Lord be with you.  
R. And with your spirit.  
P. Lift up your hearts.  
R. We lift them up to the Lord.  
P. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
R. It is right and just.

**PREFACE OF EPIPHANY OF THE LORD**  
*After the Preface, we sing or say:*  
All: Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

**THE MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION**  
P. The mystery of faith.  
All: We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again.

**COMMUNION RITE**  
P. At the Saviour's command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say:  
All: Our Father, who art in heaven . . .  
P. Deliver us, Lord, we pray . . .  
All: For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now and for ever.  
P. Lord Jesus Christ, who said . . .  
R. Amen.  
P. The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
R. And with your spirit.  
P. Let us offer each other the sign of peace.  
*All exchange a sign of peace*

**LAMB OF GOD**  
All: Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace.

**INVITATION TO COMMUNION**  
P. Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.  
R. Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON** cf. Mt 2:2  
We have seen his star in the East, and have come with gifts to adore the Lord.

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**  
P. Go before us with heavenly light, O Lord, always and everywhere, that we may perceive with clear sight and reverence with true affection the mystery in which you have willed us to participate. Through Christ our Lord.  
R. Amen.

**THE CONCLUDING RITES**  
P. The Lord be with you.  
R. And with your spirit.  
P. May almighty God bless you, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.  
R. Amen.

**REFLECTIONS ON THE GOSPEL**  
**DAWN OF A NEW ERA**

In the midst of the tribulation of the exile, Isaiah had a vision of the birth of a new time when the nations would no longer be enemies of God's chosen people but would even assist in bringing them back from exile in Babylon. Recognising the God of Israel and expressing their praise by means of treasures offered in tribute, all peoples would now worship the living God.

As the Gentiles responded to the preaching of Paul and others, they knew that the vision of Isaiah was becoming a reality as former enemies were now united by their faith in Jesus. The dividing wall of hostility had been broken down through the death of Jesus (Ephesians 2:14) and a new human family was being born where the Gentiles and Jews were all members of the one body.

Matthew wrote his Gospel sometime after Paul's letter to the Ephesians but shared in the same vision of Isaiah and Paul. He knew that the birth of Jesus meant not only the dawn of the time of the Messiah but also the dawn of a new humanity where Jews and Gentiles would be united in their belief. The Magi were the first of many Gentiles who would come to see Jesus as their Saviour, their King, and their Lord. As they worshipped before Jesus, Isaiah's vision and dream had become a reality, one that is still in the process of being fulfilled.

CHRISTOPHER MONAGHAN CP

**A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL**  
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# OUR SUNDAY CELEBRATION

2 JANUARY 2022

**THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD / C**

THEY OFFERED HIM GIFTS. For some Christians the feast of Epiphany is the day on which gifts are exchanged. As we observe the wise men opening their treasures in today's Gospel and offering gifts to Jesus, we can ask: what precious gifts can we offer to Jesus today? We may not have gold, frankincense and myrrh but we have our love, our fidelity, our time. We can give these to Jesus by giving them to those in need.

**INTRODUCTORY RITES**  
**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON**

cf. Mal 3:1; 1 Chron 19:12  
Behold, the Lord, the Mighty One, has come; and kingship is in his grasp, and power and dominion.

**GREETING**  
P. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.  
R. Amen.

P. Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.  
R. And with your spirit.

**PENITENTIAL ACT**  
P. Brethren (brothers and sisters), let us acknowledge our sins, and so prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries.  
P. Lord Jesus, you came to gather the nations into the peace of God's kingdom: Lord have mercy.  
R. Lord, have mercy.

P. You come in word and in sacrament to strengthen us and make us holy: Christ have mercy.  
R. Christ, have mercy.  
P. You will come again in glory with salvation for your people: Lord have mercy.  
R. Lord, have mercy.

P. May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.  
R. Amen.

**GLORIA**  
Glory to God in the highest, / and on earth peace to people of good will. / We praise you, / we bless you, / we adore you, / we glorify you, / we give you thanks for your great glory, / Lord God, heavenly King, / O God, almighty Father. / Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, / Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, / you take away the sins of the world, / have mercy on us; / you take away the sins of the world, / receive our prayer; / you are seated at the right hand of the Father, / have mercy on us. / For you alone are the Holy One, / you alone are the Lord, / you alone are the Most High, / Jesus Christ, / with the Holy Spirit, / in the glory of God the Father. / Amen.

**COLLECT**  
P. O God, who on this day revealed your Only Begotten Son to the nations by the guidance of a star, grant in your mercy, that we, who know you already by faith, may be brought to behold the beauty of your sublime glory. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.  
R. Amen.

**LITURGY OF THE WORD**  
**FIRST READING** Isa 60:1-6

**A reading from the prophet Isaiah.**  
*The glory of the Lord shines upon you.*  
Arise, shine out Jerusalem, for your light has come, the glory of the Lord is rising on you, though night still covers the earth and darkness the peoples. Above you the Lord now rises and above you his glory appears. The nations come to your light and kings to your dawning brightness. Lift up your eyes and look round: all are assembling and coming towards you, your sons from far away and daughters being tenderly carried. At this sight you will grow radiant, your heart throbbing and full; since the riches of the sea will flow to you; the wealth of the nations come to you; camels in throngs will cover you, and dromedaries of Midian and Ephah; everyone in Sheba will come, bringing gold and incense and singing the praise of the Lord.

The word of the Lord.  
R. Thanks be to God.

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM** Ps 71:1-2, 7-13  
R. Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

1. 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.  
2. 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.  
3. 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.



4. 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** Eph 3:2-3, 5-6  
**A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians.**  
*The revelation means that pagans now share the same inheritance, that they are parts of the same body.*

You have probably heard how I have been entrusted by God with the grace he meant for you, and that it was by a revelation that I was given the knowledge of the mystery. This mystery that has now been revealed through the Spirit to his holy apostles and prophets was unknown to any men in past generations; it means that pagans now share the same inheritance, that they are parts of the same body, and that the same promise has been made to them, in Christ Jesus, through the gospel.

The word of the Lord.  
R. Thanks be to God

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** Mt 2:2  
Alleluia, alleluia! We have seen his star in the East; and have come to adore the Lord. Alleluia!

**GOSPEL** Mt 2:1-12  
P. The Lord be with you.  
R. And with your spirit.  
P. A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.  
R. Glory to you, O Lord.

*We have come from the East to worship the King.*  
After Jesus had been born at Bethlehem in Judaea during the reign of King Herod, some wise men came to Jerusalem from the east. 'Where is the infant king of the Jews?' they asked. 'We saw his star as it rose and have