



# THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD

January 10, 2021

Along with Christmas and Easter, Epiphany is one of three oldest festivals celebrated in the Christian Church. It closes out the Christmas season and was long remembered as the “Gentile Christmas.” It commemorates the visit by the Gentile Magi to the infant Jesus. Jesus showed himself to be not just a Savior for Israel but for the world. These magi were a picture of all the Gentiles who come to faith in Christ: Gentiles who were not of the patriarchs, the promised land, or the prophets, - but Gentiles called by the Gospel, converted by the Spirit and worshipping the true King of the Jews and Savior of the Nations.

## ✠ The Order of Service ✠

**M:** In the name of the Father and of the Son **+** and of the Holy Spirit.

**C:** Amen.

### **THE CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION** (Psalm 51:1-4, 1 Peter 2:9-10)

**M:** Trusting in the mercy of God, let us confess our sins.

**C:** **Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions. Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin. For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me. Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight.**

**M:** Jesus invites you to look away from yourself and to Him. He lived for you and he died for you. Your sins are forgiven, in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. You are holy and righteous, blameless and pure, children of God without fault, His precious saints.

**C:** **Thanks be to God! Amen.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

**M:** Lord God, by the leading of a star you once made known to the nations your one and only Son. Guide us, also, who know him now by faith, to come at last to the perfect joy of your heavenly glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C:** Amen.

## ✠ The Word ✠

### OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Isaiah 60:1-6

<sup>1</sup>"Arise, shine, for your light has come,  
and the glory of the LORD rises upon you.

<sup>2</sup>See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples,  
but the LORD rises upon you and his glory appears over you.

<sup>3</sup>Nations will come to your light,  
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

<sup>4</sup>"Lift up your eyes and look about you:  
All assemble and come to you;  
your sons come from afar,  
and your daughters are carried on the arm.

<sup>5</sup>Then you will look and be radiant,  
your heart will throb and swell with joy;  
the wealth on the seas will be brought to you,  
to you the riches of the nations will come.

<sup>6</sup>Herds of camels will cover your land,  
young camels of Midian and Ephah.

And all from Sheba will come,  
bearing gold and incense and proclaiming the praise of the LORD.

## **GOSPEL LESSON:** Matthew 2:1-12

<sup>1</sup> After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem <sup>2</sup> and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him."

<sup>3</sup> When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. <sup>4</sup> When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. <sup>5</sup> "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written:

<sup>6</sup> "But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,  
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;  
for out of you will come a ruler  
who will shepherd my people Israel."

<sup>7</sup> Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup> He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him."

<sup>9</sup> After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup> When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. <sup>11</sup> On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. <sup>12</sup> And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

## **SECOND LESSON:** Ephesians 3:2-12

<sup>2</sup> Surely you have heard about the administration of God's grace that was given to me for you, <sup>3</sup> that is, the mystery made known to me by revelation, as I have already written briefly. <sup>4</sup> In reading this, then, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, <sup>5</sup> which was not made known to people in other generations as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to God's holy apostles and prophets. <sup>6</sup> This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus.

<sup>7</sup> I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God's grace given me through the working of his power. <sup>8</sup> Although I am less than the least of all the Lord's people, this grace was given me: to preach to the Gentiles the boundless riches of Christ, <sup>9</sup> and to make plain to everyone the administration of this mystery, which for ages past was kept hidden in God, who created all things. <sup>10</sup> His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, <sup>11</sup> according to his eternal purpose that he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. <sup>12</sup> In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence.

## **SERMON:** Ephesians 3:2-12

"The Mystery is Revealed"

## **NICENE CREED**

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became fully human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

## **PRAYER**

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

**C: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.**

### **BLESSING**

**M:** The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look on you with favor and ✝ give you peace.

**C: Amen.**