**PRAYERS, READINGS AND HYMNS FOR THE EPIPHANY**

**Sunday January 3rd 2021**

**Hymn: O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness**

**O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness,  
bow down before him, his glory proclaim;  
with gold of obedience, and incense of lowliness,  
kneel and adore him: the Lord is his name.**

**Low at his feet lay thy burden of carefulness:  
high on his heart he will bear it for thee,  
comfort thy sorrows and answer thy prayerfulness,  
guiding thy steps as may best for thee be.**

**Fear not to enter his courts in the slenderness  
of the poor wealth thou wouldst reckon as thine:  
truth in its beauty, and love in its tenderness,  
these are the off’rings to bring to lay on his shrine.**

**These, though we bring them in trembling and fearfulness,  
he will accept for the name that is dear;  
mornings of joy give for evenings of tearfulness,  
trust for our trembling and hope for our fear.**

**O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness;  
bow down before him, his glory proclaim;  
with gold of obedience and incense of lowliness,  
kneel and adore him: the Lord is his name.**

**Prayer of the Day**

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. **Amen**

or

Creator of the heavens, who led the Magi by a star

to worship the Christ-child: guide and sustain us,

that we may find our journey's end

in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**1st Reading: Isaiah 60:1-6 The Ingathering of the Dispersed**

*A reading from the prophecy of 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.

This is the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

## 2nd Reading: Ephesians 3:1-12 Paul’s Ministry to the Gentiles

*A reading from Paul’s letter to the Ephesians*

This is the reason that 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 to 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 to 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.

This is the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

**Song: Father Abraham**

**Father Abraham had many sons  
Many sons had Father Abraham  
I am one of them and so are you  
So let's all praise the Lord.  
Right arm!**

**Father Abraham had many sons  
Many sons had Father Abraham  
I am one of them and so are you  
So let's all praise the Lord.  
Right arm, left arm!**

**Father Abraham had many sons  
Many sons had Father Abraham  
I am one of them and so are you  
So let's all praise the Lord.  
Right arm, left arm, right foot!**

**Father Abraham had many sons  
Many sons had Father Abraham  
I am one of them and so are you  
So let's all praise the Lord.  
Right arm, left arm, right foot, left foot!**

**Father Abraham had many sons  
Many sons had Father Abraham  
I am one of them and so are you  
So let's all praise the Lord.  
Right arm, left arm, right foot, left foot,  
Chin up!**

**Father Abraham had many sons  
Many sons had Father Abraham  
I am one of them and so are you  
So let's all praise the Lord.  
Right arm, left arm, right foot, left foot,  
Chin up, Turn Around!**

**Father Abraham had many sons  
Many sons had Father Abraham  
I am one of them and so are you  
So let's all praise the Lord.  
Right arm, left arm, right foot, left foot,  
Chin up, turn around, sit down!**

**Gospel Reading: Matthew 2:1-12 Visitors from the East**

Alleluia, alleluia.

We have seen his star at its rising and we have come to pay him homage.

**Alleluia**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to N

**Glory to you, O Lord**

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.

This is the Gospel of the Lord

**Praise to you, O Christ**

**Hymn: Brightest and best are the suns of the morning**

**Brightest and best of the suns of the morning,  
dawn on our darkness, and lend us thine aid;  
star of the east, the horizon adorning,  
guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.**

**Cold on his cradle the dew-drops are shining;  
low lies his head with the beasts of the stall;  
angels adore him in slumber reclining,  
Maker and Monarch and Saviour of all.**

**Say, shall we yield him, in costly devotion,  
odours of Edom, and off’rings divine,  
gems of the mountain, and pearls of the ocean,  
myrrh from the forest, or gold from the mine?**

**Vainly we offer each ample oblation,  
vainly with gifts would his favour secure:  
richer by far is the heart's adoration,  
dearer to God are the prayers of the poor.**

**Post-Communion Prayer**

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. **Amen.**

**Hymn: We three kings**

**We three kings of Orient are;**

**bearing gifts we traverse afar;  
field and fountain, moor and mountain,  
following yonder star.***O star of wonder, star of night,  
star with royal beauty bright,  
westward leading, still proceeding  
guide us to thy perfect light.* **Born a King on Bethlehem plain,  
gold I bring, to crown him again,  
King for ever, ceasing never  
over us all to reign.** *Refrain*

**Frankincense to offer have I,  
incense owns a Deity nigh,  
prayer and praising, gladly raising  
worship him, God most high.** *Refrain*

**Myrrh is mine, its bitter perfume  
breathes of life of gathering gloom;  
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying  
sealed in the stone-cold tomb.** *Refrain*

**Glorious now behold him arise  
King and God and sacrifice;  
alleluia, alleluia  
earth to heav'n replies.** *Refrain*