

# THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

✧ YEAR B ✧



THESE  
THREE KINGS

PRAYER JOURNAL

## OPENING PRAYER

Lord, give us the grace to see your light  
in our lives and follow it with courageous faith;  
grant us the humility to follow that light  
to find you in unexpected places.  
Shine your light on our path as we journey to you.  
Amen.

# READINGS FOR THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

## FIRST READING

~Isaiah 60:1-6~

**R**ise up in splendor, Jerusalem! Your light has come, / the glory  
of the Lord shines upon you. / See, darkness covers the earth, / and  
thick clouds cover the peoples; / but upon you the LORD shines, / and  
over you appears his glory. / Nations shall walk by your light, / and kings by  
your shining radiance. / Raise your eyes and look about; / they all gather and  
come to you: / your sons come from afar, / and your daughters in the arms of  
their nurses.

Then you shall be radiant at what you see, / your heart shall throb and  
overflow, / for the riches of the sea shall be emptied out before you, / the  
wealth of nations shall be brought to you. / Caravans of camels shall fill you,  
/ dromedaries from Midian and Ephah; / all from Sheba shall come / bearing  
gold and frankincense, / and proclaiming the praises of the LORD.

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

~Psalm 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13~

**R/ Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.**

O God, with your judgment endow the king,  
and with your justice, the king's son;  
he shall govern your people with justice  
and your afflicted ones with judgment.

**R/**

Justice shall flower in his days,  
and profound peace, till the moon be no more.  
May he rule from sea to sea,  
and from the River to the ends of the earth.

**R/**

The kings of Tarshish and the Isles shall offer gifts;  
the kings of Arabia and Seba shall bring tribute.  
All kings shall pay him homage,  
all nations shall serve him.

**R/**

For he shall rescue the poor when he cries out,  
and the afflicted when he has no one to help him.  
He shall have pity for the lowly and the poor;  
the lives of the poor he shall save.

**R/**

## SECOND READING

~Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6~

**B**rothers and sisters: You have heard of the stewardship of God's grace that was given to me for your benefit, namely, that the mystery was made known to me by revelation. It was not made known to people in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: that the Gentiles are coheirs, members of the same body, and copartners in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

## GOSPEL

~Matthew 2:1-12~

**W**hen Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of King Herod, behold, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was greatly troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. Assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it has been written through the prophet: / *And you, Bethlehem, land of Judah, / are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; / since from you shall come a ruler, / who is to shepherd my people Israel.*" / Then Herod called the magi secretly and ascertained from them the time of the star's appearance. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search diligently for the child. When you have found him, bring me word, that I too may go and do him homage." After their audience with the king they set out. And behold, the star that they had seen at its rising preceded them, until it came and stopped over the place where the child was. They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed for their country by another way.

## *Sunday*



### LECTIO DIVINA – SACRED READING OF SCRIPTURE

*Feel free to jot down your notes or reflections on the video in the space below.*

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### LECTIO DIVINA – MEDITATION

#### SMALL GROUP QUESTION #1

**In today's Second Reading, St. Paul tells the Ephesians that the mystery of salvation is being revealed to them in a way unlike ever before. Salvation had been proclaimed for ages to the Jewish people, but it was never known *how* salvation would come to them. When have you been surprised by the way something worked out? Is it hard to trust that everything will “work out” in the end? Do you remain hopeful and place your trust in the Lord when situations arise that you don't have control over?**

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## **SMALL GROUP QUESTION #2**

**In today's Gospel, we hear of the journey of the Magi to meet the Christ Child. Their journey is one of great faith—though they are not Jewish, they have studied enough to recognize the star that leads them to the coming of the Savior as a newborn boy. As we can imagine, this is probably not what they expected to see. However, the wise Magi were able to recognize the King of Kings in a tiny infant. Finally, they disobey a powerful ruler and change their route home because of a dream. What provoked the Magi to begin this journey in the first place? Where in your life do you need to trust God as the Magi did?**

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## **LECTIO DIVINA – PRAYER & RESOLUTION**

### **PRAYER**

When the Magi arrived at the place where Jesus was born, they immediately recognized him as their Savior and “prostrated themselves and did him homage” (Matthew 2:11). They saw this innocent child, their Lord, and offered him their best gifts—gold, frankincense, and myrrh. What gifts do you have to offer to Christ? Do you offer to him from your excess or do you offer him all that you are?

As you heard Jim Beckman explain, the best you can give to Jesus is your very self—your heart. Have you offered it to him? What is holding you back from giving the infant Jesus your heart today?

Take some time to re-read through today's Gospel. If a word or phrase jumps out at you, pause and take time to pray and reflect. Listen to the words God wants to speak to you.

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## RESOLUTION

The story of the Magi's journey is truly remarkable. They are an example of a profound humility and trust in God. What area, of the four Jim spoke of, do you need to focus on this week? To refresh your memory, the first way we can model the example of the Magi is to do our part in studying and learning the Faith. The second is by practicing humility and being open to what God wants to show us, especially when it isn't part of our own plan. The third is to detach from the busyness of our daily lives and follow Christ. And finally, offer your heart to Christ. Don't hold back from giving him your best. He longs for you, just as you are. Make a commitment to choose one of the four attributes of the Wise Men to live out this week.

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## CLOSING PRAYER

Let's close in prayer together with this quote from St. Faustina about the importance of confidence in God:

"A humble soul does not trust itself but places all confidence in God"

—St. Faustina, *Diary of Divine Mercy*, 593

*"If you are humble, nothing will touch you,  
neither praise nor disgrace,  
because you know what you are."*

—St. Teresa of Calcutta,  
*No Greater Love*

## Monday

In the First Reading from Isaiah, we read, “See, darkness covers the earth, / and thick clouds cover the peoples; / but upon you the LORD shines” (Isaiah 60:2). Are you a light in the world of darkness? How can you be a beacon pointing people to Christ?

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***“The light shines in the darkness,  
and the darkness has not overcome it.”  
—John 1:5***

## Tuesday

When the Magi came face to face with God in Sunday’s Gospel, “they prostrated themselves and did him homage” (Matthew 2:11). How do you come before the Lord? Do you come to him with reverence and veneration, or a laundry list of things you need done in your life? Commit to finding a time today to *adore* the infant Jesus.

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***“O Sacrament most Holy, O Sacrament Divine,  
all praise and all thanksgiving, be every moment Thine.”***



## Wednesday

In the Second Reading to the Ephesians, St. Paul emphasizes that in the New Covenant, the Gentiles are of the same importance as the Chosen People. How do you reach out to people of other faiths? When was the last time you invited someone to Mass or welcomed them to the Catholic Church?

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***“You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do men light a lamp and put it under a bushel, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. Let your light shine before men, that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.”***

**—Matthew 5:14–16(RSV)**

## Thursday

The Responsorial Psalm on Sunday read, “For he shall rescue the poor when he cries out, / and the afflicted when he has no one to help him” (Psalm 72:12). The Magi recognized Christ, even in the state of poverty. What is your attitude towards the poor? Do you stop and take the time to meet Christ in them? How do you reach out and extend the hand of God to them?

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***“Above all hold unfailing your love for one another, since love covers a multitude of sins.”***

**—1 Peter 4:8(RSV)**

## Friday

At the beginning of Sunday's Gospel, the Magi seek a deeper understanding of the truth. They ask about the star and where they can find the King of the Jews. When you come across a teaching of the Faith you struggle with or don't understand, do you ask for guidance before dismissing it? Do you seek a deeper understanding of our Faith or do you take it at face value?

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*"We become what we love and who we love  
shapes what we become."*

—St. Clare of Assisi

## Saturday

Isaiah tells us that when we meet Christ, "You shall be radiant at what you see, / your heart shall throb and overflow" (Isaiah 60:5). When you encounter Christ at Mass each Sunday or throughout the week, what is your response to him? Make a commitment to be focused in Mass this Sunday.

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*"If the people of the world  
could only see the beauty of one's soul when it is in the grace of God,  
all sinners and unbelievers of this world  
would be instantly converted."*

—St. Padre Pio, Novena Prayer