

Sunday

4 January 2026

Epiphany

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.