

SUNDAY, Jan. 2, 2022
The Epiphany of the Lord

Readings: 1) Isaiah 60:1-6 2) Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6 3) Matthew 2:1-12

FOCUS: *Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.*

Today's feast celebrates the revelation of the Messiah to those outside the Jewish covenant. The three Magi were among the first to recognize Jesus as King, and Tradition holds that their encounter transformed them from outsiders (Gentiles) to faithful believers who proclaimed this Good News. God desires salvation for the whole world, and we are commissioned by our baptism to bring others to encounter Christ, so that they, too, might be transformed.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Isaiah prophesies a time when Jerusalem is radiant with God's glory and people from afar will come to bask in the light of the Lord. Paul writes that Gentiles are *coheirs* in the *promise in Christ Jesus*. In the Gospel, the Magi inquire about the newborn Jewish king. Feeling threatened, Herod asks about the child's whereabouts. The Magi follow the star and pay homage to the child in Bethlehem.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Gathered as one, let us bring to light the needs and concerns of our community this day.

- 1) For the Church, may the Holy Spirit continue to uphold her as a place of refuge for all, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all nations, may peace and prosperity be upon them, and the Lord deliver them from any oppression, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who are burdened by hatred or violence, may Christ open their hearts to compassion and forgiveness, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For new parents in this faith community, may the Holy Spirit bless them with wisdom, patience, and love as they begin their parenting journey, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they soon offer homage to the Lord while gazing upon his holy face, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God of all nations, you sent your Son to save us from sin and death. Hear and answer our prayers this day, we ask through Jesus, our Lord.