

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.