

January 8, 2017

Solemnity of the Epiphany

Light born of Light shines upon the people!

Isaiah 60:1-6

Psalms 72: 1-2,7-8,10-13

Ephesians 3: 2-3a,5-6

Matthew 2:1-12

The prophecy of Isaiah speaks of the light to come upon Jerusalem. Nations shall be guided by this light and Jerusalem shall be radiant. Many riches of land and sea shall be poured out along with proclaiming the praises of the Lord.

The psalmist petitions that God's judgment be bestowed upon the king and God's justice upon the king's son. In the king's rule there shall then be profound peace as the poor shall be rescued, the afflicted aided, the lowly pitied, and the lives of the disadvantaged shall be saved.

Paul proclaims the mystery hidden for ages was made known to him by revelation while the Holy Spirit reveals it to the holy apostles and the prophets. The Gentiles are now coheirs, members of the same body, and copartners in the promise of salvation in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

The story of the Magi celebrates the call of God to all peoples to share in the grace of Jesus Christ. The magi appear and seek the newborn King of the Jews as they follow the light of his star. When Herod hears of this he is greatly troubled and consults with the chief priests and scribes and is told the birth is to occur in Bethlehem. He asks the Magi to return to him after they have found the child but they are warned in a dream not to do so.

**God, the Father of Light, sent Christ Jesus, his Son,
And this was, is, and continues, to be revealed by the Holy Spirit.**

The Magi made a long and perilous journey full of risks and surprises but safely arrived at Bethlehem to find the Christ child. The deceitful Herod tried in vain to use their effort for an evil purpose but was thwarted. The many threats to our faith continue even today in a hedonistic culture with its unremitting invitations to sin. We too, just as the Magi, cannot let down our guard. Let our gift to Jesus be our resolution, strengthened by the Father, and guided by the Holy Spirit, to reject what is wrong and seek only what is right.



+++

May this holy season be for each of us a time of moving beyond what is "reasonable"
And toward the star of wonder;

Moving beyond grasping tight to what we have to unclenching our hands and letting go,
Following the Light where it leads;

Moving beyond competition toward cooperation, seeing that all humans are sisters and brothers.

Moving beyond the anxiety of small concerns towards the joys of justice and peace.

May the transforming acceptance of Mary and Joseph,

The imagination of the shepherds, and the persistence of the wise men

Guide us as we seek the Truth, always moving toward the Divine promise.

Always aware God can be hidden in the frailest among us,

always open to the unexpected flash of Grace,

To the showing forth of that Love that embraces us all.

(Epiphany Prayer, from Education for Justice)

<http://melkaplance.com>