

January 7, 2018
Feast of the Epiphany

Blessings and graces to the poor, the afflicted, and the lowly.

Isaiah 60:1-6

Psalm 72:1-13

Ephesians 3:2-3,5-6

Matthew 2:1-12

In the first reading Isaiah is speaking to the Israelites who are about to return home after a long exile. The Lord's glory, he says, will shine on the new Zion and upon the people. The radiance will be so great as to guide others and they will even come bearing gifts and proclaiming praises of the Lord.

Psalm 72 is a royal psalm praising the king who is graced by the Lord. He will defend the afflicted, save poor and lonely, and crush oppressors. Justice and profound peace shall flower as the Lord rules from sea to sea.

In the second reading Paul reveals the startling revelation to the Jews, namely that the Gentiles are coheirs in the promise in Christ Jesus in the gospel. This revelation comes to the holy apostles and the prophets by the Holy Spirit and was not known to previous generations.

The Gospel tells us of the magi who come seeking the newborn King of the Jews. They bring gifts and the light of a heavenly star leads them to Bethlehem where they see the child with Mary. They are warned in a dream by an angel not to return to Herod who seeks to harm the child and they heed the message.



**The Father's brightness is unimaginable,
The Son's light shines in the darkness of the world,
The Holy Spirit reveals the radiance of these truths.**

God's first spoken words in the Bible are: "Let there be light!" (Genesis 1:3). Light is often the symbol of God's presence and Isaiah speaks of the Lord's glory shining in radiance upon the people. In the New Testament it is the light of the star of Bethlehem that leads the magi to the newborn child. Even the infant Jesus is often shown with a halo surrounding his head. Seek the light of Christ and his enlightenment as part of your New Year's resolutions.

"Father, you have entrusted to us this passing time as a gift of your grace and presence. As you live in eternal time, so we - as long as we live - must exist in transitory time.....You demand of us only to love you as steadfastly as we can. Not you in isolation, but you with your Son and your Spirit in the unity you manifest from the primordial beginning of eternity.....Our love can only be response and requital, because you, triune, eternal love, always love us first; but do not permit this answer to wane in us; rather, let it be so vigorous that you can always perceive it in the reflected brilliance of your light." (Adrienne Von Speyr, 1967)

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