

January 3, 2021
Feast of the Epiphany

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

Isaiah 60:1-6

Psalms 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.

Psalms 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.

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Light

**"..the light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it."
(John 1:5)**

Out of nothingness appears the Light.
Light! Light! Light!
A call from the realm of darkness
Into the realm of light.

One Light and Three Lights
Illuminate the darkness,
Simple, non-composite,
Timeless, supernal, eternal.

Genesis, chapter One, verse Three
Allows it to glow in our space and time.
Wholly One in Being,
Wholly Threefold in essential Unity.

An effulgence, a brightness seen for chiliads,
The darkness can never overcome it.
Unresting, unhasting, silent light
Not accessible, veiled from prying eyes.

Three hidden Lights
Without known beginnings,
Above all emanated power, wisdom, and understanding.

Of One essence mysteriously perplexing,
The Three splendors continue
Uncreated energy from an infinite Source,
Omnificent, Omnipotent, Omniscient!

Pure Father of Light,
Transfigured Son,
Prismatic Holy Spirit,
creating rainbows in darkness.

I open my eyes and a single light glows in the darkness. The vision lasts only for a moment. I know how many lights I saw and it was a definite number, namely One. The vision continues after some moments as my eyes open again to clearly see Three Lights. This vision concerns the nature of God. If God exists as Trinity the One and Three are Uncreated Light from an unnatural source. If God does not exist as Trinity then other combinations have been seen or the light can be identified with a natural source. For centuries the One and Three Lights have made themselves known exactly as such; not one alone or one and two, or one and four, or one and five, or one and six, or one and seven, or one and eight, or one and nine, but always One and Three. The numbers are definite and clear; ergo, God's nature is Trinitarian!

“When I speak of God, you should feel yourselves bathed in a single light and in three lights...there is undivided division, differentiated unity. One only in the Three: such is the godhead. The Three as One only: they are the three in whom is the godhead, or to, speak more precisely, the three who are the godhead.” Gregory Nazianzen, Oration, 39,11. 4th century

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