



7 January 2018

SOLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHANY

Year B

Homage to the Savior of All Nations

EpiphanY is the manifestation/revelation of Jesus as the King/Savior not only of the Jews, but of all human beings. Today's feast reminds us that God loves all nations and cultures of the earth, and that He communicates with us in many, often unforeseen ways – through internal inspirations, through external events, through people, and through His Word Many times these factors are combined in an interplay that becomes clear

only in hindsight. The challenge is for us to “decipher” God’s message and respond to it with **faith, persevering generosity and courage**, just as the Magi did.

As we are about to start the Eucharistic celebration, let us include in our intention all the peoples of the world and all those who are working hard to bring about harmony and cooperation among all human beings.



INTRODUCTORY RITES



Entrance Antiphon

(To be recited only when no Entrance Hymn is sung.)

Behold, the Lord, the Mighty One, has come; and kingship is in his grasp, and power and dominion.

Greeting

P –Blessed be God who sent His Son to save all peoples. May His grace and peace be with you all!

All –**And with your spirit!**

Penitential Act

P –Coming together as God’s family on this Feast of the Epiphany, with confidence let us ask the Lord’s forgive-

ness, that we may worship him with a purified heart. *(Pause)*

P –Lord Jesus, you came to gather the nations into the peace of God’s Kingdom. Lord, have mercy!

All –**Lord, have mercy!**

P –Lord Jesus, your presence filled the hearts of the Magi with great joy. Christ, have mercy!

All –**Christ, have mercy!**

P –Lord Jesus, you come to bring light to our darkened world with the splendor of your grace. Lord, have mercy!

All –**Lord, have mercy!**

P –May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our

sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

All –**Amen!**

Gloria

All –Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will. We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory, Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us; you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; you are seated at the right hand of the Fa-

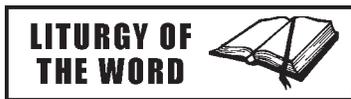
ther, have mercy on us. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen!

Collect (Opening Prayer)

P –O God, who on this day revealed your Only Begotten Son to the nations by the guidance of a star, grant in your mercy that we, who know you already by faith, may be brought to behold the beauty of your sublime glory.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

All–Amen!



1st Reading *Is 60:1-6*

The prophet Isaiah spoke poetically of the glorious future which God had in store for Jerusalem. The Church applies this eschatological vision to herself, the “New Jerusalem,” blessed by the special presence of the incarnate Son of God, and to which all peoples of the world are invited to belong.

R –A proclamation from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah

Rise up in splendor, Jerusalem! Your light has come, the glory of the Lord shines upon you. See, darkness covers the earth, and thick clouds cover the peoples; but upon you the Lord shines, and over you appears his glory. Nations shall walk by your light, and kings by your shining radiance.

Raise your eyes and look about; they all gather and come to you: your sons come from afar, and your daughters in the arms of their nurses. Then you shall be radiant at what you see, your heart shall throb and overflow, for the riches of the sea shall be emptied out before you, the wealth of nations shall be brought to you. Caravans of camels shall fill you, dromedar-

ies from Midian and Ephah; all from Sheba shall come bearing gold and frankincense, and proclaiming the praises of the Lord.

The Word of the Lord!
All–Thanks be to God!

Responsorial Psalm *Ps 72*

R –Lord, every nation on earth will adore you!

R. M. Velez



* **O God, with your judgment endow the king, and with your justice, the king’s son. He shall govern your people with justice and your afflicted ones with judgment.** **R.**

* **Justice shall flower in his days, and profound peace, till the moon be no more. May he rule from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth.** **R.**

* **The kings of Tarshish and the Isles shall offer gifts; the kings of Arabia and Seba shall bring tribute. All kings shall pay him homage, all nations shall serve him.** **R.**

* **For he shall rescue the poor when he cries out, and the afflicted when he has no one to help him. He shall have pity for the lowly and the poor; the lives of the poor he shall save.** **R.**

2nd Reading *Eph 3:2-3.5-6*

Today St. Paul reminds us that, with the coming of Christ, the barrier of estrangement between the Jews and the Gentiles was shattered. Both were and are invited to form one single “People of God” under the headship of Jesus, the Savior of all.

R –A proclamation from the Letter of Paul to the Ephesians

Brothers and sisters:
You have heard of the stewardship of God’s grace

that was given to me for your benefit, namely, that the mystery was made known to me by revelation. It was not made known to people in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: that the Gentiles are co-heirs, members of the same body, and copartners in the promise in Christ Jesus, through the Gospel.

The Word of the Lord!
All–Thanks be to God!

Gospel Acclamation *Mt 2:2*

All–Alleluia! Alleluia!
We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

Gospel *Mt 2:1-12*

The Magi are champions of faith and perseverance in a good enterprise. They are our models in following the star of God’s inspiration and the guidance contained in His Word.

P –The Lord be with you!
All–And with your spirit!

P –A proclamation from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

All–Glory to you, O Lord!

When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of King Herod, behold, Magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, “Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage.”

When King Herod heard this, he was greatly troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. Assembling all the chief priests and the scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They said to him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it has been written through the prophet: ‘And you, Bethlehem, land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah, since from you shall come a ruler, who is to shepherd my people Israel.’”

Then Herod called the Magi secretly and ascertained

from them the time of the star's appearance. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search diligently for the child. When you have found him, bring me word, that I too may go and do him homage."

After their audience with the king, the Magi set out. And behold, the star that they had seen at its rising preceded them, until it came and stopped over the place where the child was. The Magi were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed for their country by another way.

The Gospel of the Lord!
All—Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Homily

Profession of Faith (Nicene Creed)

All —I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, (bow)* and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.* For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the

living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen!

Prayer of the Faithful

P —Encouraged by the example of the Magi, we present our gifts and petitions to the Lord saying:

All—Lord, lead us by your light!

C —For the Church, the new Jerusalem to which the Lord calls all the peoples of the world: May she always be a resplendent sign of God's universal love. Let us pray! **R.**

C —For the Holy Father and all other spiritual leaders: May their teaching and example be like bright stars that lead people to Jesus. Let us pray! **R.**

C —For our missionaries who endeavor to bring the light of the Christian faith to those who do not know it: May they succeed in integrating the Gospel values with the local cultures. Let us pray! **R.**

C —For the members of the BECs and charismatic communities: May they be the leaven that leads to the renewal of our parishes and the nation. Let us pray! **R.**

C —For each one of us gathered here: May we always follow the guidance of God's Word as presented by the Church. Let us pray! **R.**

C —Let us pray in silence for our personal intentions.
(Pause) Let us pray! **R.**

P —Lord Jesus, like Jerusalem, we rise up in splendor because your light has come. May our behavior become

like a star that leads others to you who live and reign for ever and ever.

All—Amen!



Preparation of the Gifts

P —Pray, brethren . . .

All—May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands, for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.

Prayer over the Offerings

P —Look with favor, Lord, we pray, on these gifts of your Church, in which are offered now not gold or frankincense or myrrh, but he who by them is proclaimed, sacrificed and received, Jesus Christ.

Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

All—Amen!

Preface of Epiphany

P —It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

For today you have revealed the mystery of our salvation in Christ as a light for the nations, and, when he appeared in our mortal nature, you made us new by the glory of his immortal nature.

And so, with Angels and Archangels, with thrones and Dominions, and with all the hosts and Powers of heaven, we sing the hymn of your glory, as without end we acclaim:

All—Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of hosts. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest!

Memorial Acclamation

P —The mystery of faith!

All—When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim your Death,

O Lord, until you come again!



All—Our Father . . .

P —Deliver us, Lord . . .

All—For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever.

Sign of Peace

Breaking of the Bread

All—Lamb of God . . .

Communion

P —This is the Lord Jesus, the light of all peoples, the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those who are invited to the Banquet of the Kingdom. All—Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

Communion Antiphon

(To be recited only when no Communion Hymn is sung.)

We have seen his star in the East, and have come with gifts to adore the Lord.

Prayer after Communion

P —Go before us with heavenly light, O Lord, always and everywhere, that we may perceive with clear sight and revere with true affection the mystery in which you have willed us to participate.

Through Christ our Lord.

All—Amen!



P —The Lord be with you.

All—And with your spirit!

P —Bow your heads and pray for God's blessing. (Pause)

God has called you out of

darkness, into His wonderful light. May you experience His kindness, and be strong in faith, hope, and love.

All—Amen!

P —The Wise Men followed the star, and found Christ who is light from light. As followers of Christ, may He make you a light to everyone.

All—Amen!

P —May you have the persevering faith and generosity of the Wise Men and be rewarded with the Lord's presence.

All—Amen!

P —May almighty God bless you: the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

All—Amen!

P —Go in peace to share the Lord's light with love.

All—Thanks be to God!

LIGHT UP OUR STAR AGAIN!

In the dark night of human problems and tragedies, blessed are those who can direct the course of their life by the God-lit star of vision, courage, and faith. It shines brightly in their sky even when all else shakes, or crumbles, or vanishes into nothing.

But even stars do disappear some nights, behind the black curtain of stormy clouds. And so, for us, one day (one night!) may come when all the sky grows dark, and we feel lost, wandering aimlessly in an aimless life. Nor can we say how far down we shall keep tumbling from fall to fall — from sin to sin . . . So far from the pearly sky

lighting the peaks that used to be our home . . .

Who can remove for us the dark cloud that hides our star? Or who can light for us a brand new star to lead us safe to our eternal home? We surely can't. Lighting a star is not for us to do. But He who made the sun to shine and out of the dark chaos order, and light brought forth, He can fill our sky and lives with countless stars. "The Lord" is His name. "Love" is His badge. And out of love, He can dispel the dark that chokes us. He alone is our light. He's our salvation. He can re-light in us the star of our vision, courage, and faith,

and draw us out again from death to life.

This, He alone can do. This will He do, for sure, For He loves us. And then shall we, frail, bruised children, lost in the desert of a star-less world, feel the wounds heal, under the soothing radiance of our new-found star. Then, shall we be like the Wise Men of old who, for a while, had lost sight of their bright guide. Then will our hearts throb with joy like theirs, upon seeing again, bright in the sky, the friendly light leading us with them to the brightest star of all — Jesus, the Sun of life.

— Jess P. Balon



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