

SUNDAY, January 4
The Epiphany of the Lord

Prayer for the Morning

Come, let us adore him!

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen. Alleluia!

Hymn **Meter: 77 77 77**

As, with gladness, men of old
Did the guiding star behold;
As with joy they hailed its light
Leading onward, beaming bright;
So, most glorious Lord, may we
Evermore be led to thee.
As with joyful steps they sped
To that lowly manger bed
There to bend the knee before
Him whom heaven and earth adore;
So may we with willing feet
Ever seek thy mercy seat.
As they offered gifts most rare
At that manger rude and bare;
So may we with holy joy,
Pure and free from sin's alloy,
All our costliest treasures bring,
Christ, to thee, our heavenly King.

Psalm **48 2-6a, 7, 9-11**

Our God is for ever and always./ It is he who leads us.
(cf. Ps 48:15)

God dwells among his people in the flesh of Jesus Christ, born in Bethlehem of old, present in the Eucharist in our day. Like the Magi, let us bring the gifts of our worship before him in praise, adoration, and thanksgiving.

The Lord is great and worthy to be praised
in the city of our God.

His holy mountain rises in beauty,
the joy of all the earth.

Mount Zion, true pole of the earth,
the Great King's city!

God, in the midst of its citadels,
has shown himself its stronghold.

For the kings assembled together,
together they advanced.

They saw; at once they were astounded.

A trembling seized them there,
like the pangs of birth.

As we have heard, so we have seen
in the city of our God,

in the city of the Lord of hosts
which God upholds for ever.

O God, we ponder your love
within your temple.

Your praise, O God, like your name
reaches to the ends of the earth.

Glory to the Father.

Word of God **Isaiah 66:22-23**

As the new heavens and the new earth/ which I will make/ Shall endure before me, says the Lord,/ so shall your race and your name endure./ From one new moon to another,/ and from one sabbath to another,/ All mankind shall come to worship/ before me, says the Lord.

You must fear the Lord and worship him faithfully with your whole heart; keep in mind the great things he has done among you. (1 Sm 12:24)

Canticle of Zechariah

All the nations will come/ and worship before you.
(Rv 15:4)

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; he has come to his people and set them free. He has raised up for us a mighty savior, born of the house of his servant David.

Through his holy prophets he promised of old that he would save us from our enemies, from the hands of all who hate us. He promised to show mercy to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant.

This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham: to set us free from the hands of our enemies, free to worship him without fear, holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life.

You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way, to give his people knowledge of salvation by the forgiveness of their sins.

In the tender compassion of our God the dawn from on high shall break upon us, to shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Glory to the Father...

Intercessions

Following the Magi, we adore our Savior and sing his praise:

R/We adore you, O Christ, and we worship you!
Christ manifested in the flesh, – sanctify us through the Gospel and through prayer. **R/**
Christ proclaimed to the nations, – open our hearts to the power of the Spirit. **R/**
Christ exalted in glory, – kindle in us the desire for your kingdom. **R/**

Personal intentions

Our Father....

O Lord, our God, a star led the Magi to your Son. May the sound of your Word and the light of your Spirit lead us today to worship before him in Spirit and in truth, bringing the gift of our lives to him, who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.

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Reading 1 **Isaiah 60:1-6**

Rise up in splendor, Jeru-salem! 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,/ dromedaries from Midian and Ephah;/ all from Sheba shall come/ bearing gold and frankincense,/ and proclaiming the praises of the Lord.

Reading 2 **Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6**

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 coheirs, members of the same body, and copartners in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

Gospel **Matthew 2:1-12**

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 they 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. They 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.

Men of St. Joseph Prayer

St. Joseph, help me to be like you. Help me to be obedient to the teachings of the Church and faithful to God's commands. Help me to patiently endure my cross each day. Let me be a model of holiness and a pillar of virtue. I solemnly promise to embrace God's will and I accept the challenge to work tirelessly for my family's salvation. Be my guide and companion on this journey. St. Joseph, terror of demons, pray for us!

Prayer for the Morning text used with permission of Magnificat.