

EPIPHANY

YEAR B

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

God,
you love all people
and want them
to know Jesus, your Son.
Make us know him better
and, by the way we live,
may others get to know him
through us.
We ask you this
through Jesus
who lives with you
forever and ever.

FOCUS OF THE READINGS:

The birth of the Christ is the manifestation (epiphany) of God in the world. In Christ, salvation has come for everyone, Jew and gentile alike.

Our first reading tells us that the light has come, a light to guide us all. In *this* light, the glory of God shines forth. This light is the Epiphany of God. The Gospel tells us that this light shone in the East and brought visitors from afar to see this manifestation of God's love. Christ is the One to whom all people will come, bringing gifts fit for a king. He is the "newborn King of the Jews" and, indeed, of all the earth. He reveals God's unconditional love for all people.

*God's love is made known
to all the world!
Let all nations rejoice!*

FIRST READING: *Isaiah 60:1-6*

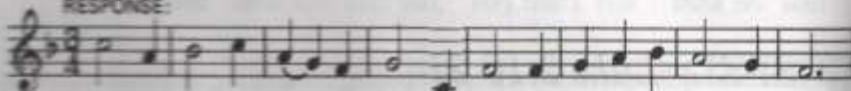
*This is a reading
from the prophet Isaiah.*

People of Jerusalem, arise! Stand up!
Your light has come!
The glory of God shines on you!
And the rulers of nations
will come to your shining light.
Look all around you and see;
people are gathering and coming to you.
They will come from far away,
bringing gifts of gold and frankincense,
and singing the praises of God.

This is the Word of God.

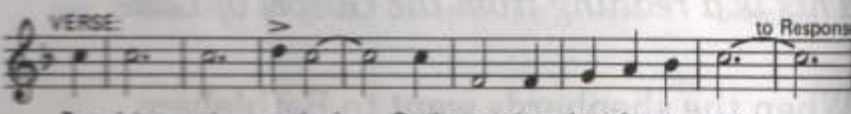
RESPONSE: *Psalm 96*

RESPONSE:



All the na-tions of the earth, re-joice to hear of the Sav-ior's birth!

VERSE:



Pro-claim sal - va-tion! God's won-ders done for the earth.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:



Good news, good news! Al - le - lu - ia!

The world will know of his love!

GOSPEL: Matthew 2:1-12

This is a reading from the Gospel of Matthew.

When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea,
some magi came from the east.

When they arrived in Jerusalem,
they asked the people,

“Where is the newborn King of the Jews?

We have seen his star in the east,
and we have come to worship him.”

When they said this,

Herod and all the people of Jerusalem
became very disturbed.

Herod gathered the leaders
of the Jewish people and asked them
where the Messiah was supposed to be born.

They told him,

“In Bethlehem of Judaea.”

Then Herod asked the magi

to tell him the exact time
they had seen the star in the east.

When they told him, Herod said,

“Go to Bethlehem

and find out all you can about this child.

When you have found him,

come back and tell me,

so that I may go too, and worship him.”

And so they left for Bethlehem.

The star, which they had seen in the east,

went ahead of them,

and it stopped over the place where Jesus was.

When they went in,

they found the child with Mary, his mother.

And they were filled with joy.

They knelt down and worshipped Jesus,

and they gave him gifts of gold,

frankincense and myrrh.

That night, God told the magi in a dream

not to go back to Herod.

So they went back to their own country

by another way.

This is the Good News of the Lord.

REFLECTING ON THE READINGS WITH CHILDREN:

Children will not grasp the profound theological signs in these readings. However, they will experience the joy and wonder at such an event. Again we suggest that, instead of a discussion, have the children participate in a dramatization, (see next page), allowing them to experience the “signs” Matthew presents. You might mention, by way of summary, God’s love for all people, of every race, nationality and belief.