

**COLLECT**

O God,  
 who by the leading of a star  
 manifested your only Son to the  
 peoples of the earth:  
 mercifully grant that we,  
 who know you now by faith,  
 may at last behold your glory face  
 to face;  
 through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
 who is alive and reigns with you,  
 in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
 one God, now and for ever.

**FIRST READING Isaiah 60:1-6**

*A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.*

Arise, shine; for your light has come,  
 and the glory of the LORD has risen  
 upon you. For darkness shall cover the  
 earth, and thick darkness the peoples;  
 but the LORD will arise upon you, and  
 his glory will appear over you. Nations  
 shall come to your light, and kings to  
 the brightness of your dawn. Lift up  
 your eyes and look around; they all  
 gather together, they come to you;  
 your sons shall come from far away,  
 and your daughters shall be carried on  
 their nurses' arms. Then you shall see  
 and be radiant; your heart shall thrill  
 and rejoice, because the abundance  
 of the sea shall be brought to you,  
 the wealth of the nations shall come  
 to you. A multitude of camels shall  
 cover you, the young camels of Midian  
 and Ephah; all those from Sheba  
 shall come. They shall bring gold and  
 frankincense, and shall proclaim the  
 praise of the LORD.

**PSALM Psalm 72:1-9. 10-15**

**R** *Kings bow down before him;  
 all the nations do him service.*

Give the king your justice, O God,  
 and your righteousness to the king's  
 son;  
 that he may rule your people  
 righteously  
 and the poor with justice;  
 that the mountains may bring  
 prosperity to the people,  
 and the little hills bring righteousness. **R**

He shall defend the needy among  
 the people;  
 he shall rescue the poor and crush the  
 oppressor.  
 He shall live as long as the sun and  
 moon endure,  
 from one generation to another. **R**

He shall come down like rain upon the  
 mown field,  
 like showers that water the earth.  
 In his time shall the righteous flourish;  
 there shall be abundance of peace  
 till the moon shall be no more. **R**

The kings of Tarshish and of the isles  
 shall pay tribute,  
 and the kings of Arabia and Saba  
 offer gifts.  
 All kings shall bow down before him,  
 and all the nations do him service. **R**

For he shall deliver the poor who cries  
 out in distress,  
 and the oppressed who has no helper.  
 He shall have pity on the lowly and poor;  
 he shall preserve the lives of the needy.  
 He shall redeem their lives from  
 oppression and violence,  
 and dear shall their blood be in his  
 sight. **R**

**SECOND READING Ephesians 3:1-12**

*A reading from the letter of Paul to the Ephesians.*

I, Paul, am a prisoner for Christ Jesus  
 for the sake of you Gentiles – for  
 surely you have already heard of  
 the commission of God's grace that  
 was given me for you, and how the  
 mystery was made known to me by  
 revelation, as I wrote above in a few  
 words, a reading of which will enable  
 you to perceive my understanding  
 of the mystery of Christ. In former  
 generations this mystery was not made  
 known to humankind, as it has now  
 been revealed to his holy apostles  
 and prophets by the Spirit: that is,  
 the Gentiles have become fellow-  
 heirs, members of the same body, and  
 sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus  
 through the gospel. Of this gospel  
 I have become a servant according  
 to the gift of God's grace that was  
 given me by the working of his power.  
 Although I am the very least of all  
 the saints, this grace was given to me  
 to bring to the Gentiles the news of  
 the boundless riches of Christ, and  
 to make everyone see what is the  
 plan of the mystery hidden for ages  
 in God who created all things; so that  
 through the church the wisdom of God  
 in its rich variety might now be made  
 known to the rulers and authorities  
 in the heavenly places. This was in  
 accordance with the eternal purpose  
 that he has carried out in Christ Jesus  
 our Lord, in whom we have access

to God in boldness and confidence  
 through faith in him.

**GOSPEL Matthew 2:1-12**

*Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.*

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus  
 was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise  
 men from the East came to Jerusalem,  
 asking, "Where is the child who has  
 been born king of the Jews? For we  
 observed his star at its rising, and  
 have come to pay him homage."  
 When King Herod heard this, he was  
 frightened, and all Jerusalem with  
 him; and calling together all the chief  
 priests and scribes of the people, he  
 inquired of them where the Messiah  
 was to be born. They told him, "In  
 Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been  
 written by the prophet: 'And you,  
 Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are  
 by no means least among the rulers  
 of Judah; for from you shall come a  
 ruler who is to shepherd my people  
 Israel.'" Then Herod secretly called  
 for the wise men and learned from  
 them the exact time when the star  
 had appeared. Then he sent them to  
 Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search  
 diligently for the child; and when you  
 have found him, bring me word so that  
 I may also go and pay him homage."  
 When they had heard the king, they  
 set out; and there, ahead of them,  
 went the star that they had seen at its  
 rising, until it stopped over the place  
 where the child was. When they saw  
 that the star had stopped, they were  
 overwhelmed with joy. On entering the  
 house, they saw the child with Mary  
 his mother; and they knelt down and  
 paid him homage. Then, opening their  
 treasure-chests, they offered him gifts  
 of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And  
 having been warned in a dream not to  
 return to Herod, they left for their own  
 country by another road.

**POST COMMUNION**

Lord God,  
 the bright splendour whom the nations  
 seek:  
 may we who with the wise men  
 have been drawn by your light  
 discern the glory of your presence in  
 your Son,  
 the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our  
 Lord.