

**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.