

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.