

**Sentence of Scripture**

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

Isaiah 60:1

**Prayer of the day**

Eternal God,  
who by a star led Magi to the worship of your Son:  
guide the nations of the earth by your light,  
that the whole world may see your glory;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

**Readings**

**Isaiah 60:1-6**

<sup>1</sup> Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.  
<sup>2</sup> 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. <sup>3</sup> Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

<sup>4</sup> 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. <sup>5</sup> 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. <sup>6</sup> 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. (NRSV)

Hear the word of the Lord, **thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 72:1-7,10-14**

<sup>1</sup> Give the king your judgement, O God:

**and your righteousness to the son of a king,**

<sup>2</sup> That he may judge your people rightly:

**and the poor of the land with equity.**

<sup>3</sup> Let the mountains be laden with peace because of his righteousness:

**and the hills also with prosperity for his people.**

<sup>4</sup> May he give justice to the poor among the people:

**and rescue the children of the needy, and crush the oppressor.**

<sup>5</sup> May he live while the sun endures:

**and while the moon gives light, throughout all generations.**

<sup>6</sup> May he come down like rain upon the new-mown fields:

**and as showers that water the earth.**

<sup>7</sup> In his time shall righteousness flourish:

**and abundance of peace, till the moon shall be no more.**

<sup>10</sup> The kings of Tarshish and of the isles shall bring tribute:

**the kings of Sheba and Seba shall offer gifts.**

<sup>11</sup> All kings shall fall down before him:

**and all nations do him service.**

<sup>12</sup> He will deliver the needy when they cry:

**and the poor that have no helper.**

<sup>13</sup> He will pity the helpless and the needy:

**and save the lives of the poor.**

<sup>14</sup> He will redeem them from oppression and violence:

**and their blood shall be precious in his sight.**

### **Ephesians 3:1-12**

This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles— <sup>2</sup>for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you, <sup>3</sup>and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, <sup>4</sup>a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. <sup>5</sup>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: <sup>6</sup>that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

<sup>7</sup>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. <sup>8</sup>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, <sup>9</sup>and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; <sup>10</sup>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. <sup>11</sup>This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, <sup>12</sup>in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him. <sup>13</sup>I pray therefore that you may not lose heart over my sufferings for you; they are your glory. (NRSV)

Hear the word of the Lord, **thanks be to God.**

### **Matthew 2:1-12**

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to . . .

**Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup>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." <sup>3</sup>When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; <sup>4</sup>and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born.

<sup>5</sup>They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

<sup>6</sup>'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.'

<sup>7</sup>Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup>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." <sup>9</sup>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. <sup>10</sup>When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. <sup>11</sup>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. <sup>12</sup>And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road. (NRSV)

This is the Gospel of our Lord, **praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**