

Sentence of Scripture

They saw the child with Mary his mother;
and they knelt down and worshipped him.

Matthew 2.11

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

¹ Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.
² 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. ³ Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.
⁴ 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.
⁵ 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. ⁶ 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.**

Psalms 72:1-7, 10-14

¹ Give the king your judgement, O God:
and your righteousness to the son of a king,
² That he may judge your people rightly:
and the poor of the land with equity.
³ Let the mountains be laden with peace because of his righteousness:
and the hills also with prosperity for his people.
⁴ May he give justice to the poor among the people:
and rescue the children of the needy, and crush the oppressor.
⁵ May he live while the sun endures:
and while the moon gives light, throughout all generations.
⁶ May he come down like rain upon the new-mown fields:
and as showers that water the earth.
⁷ In his time shall righteousness flourish:
and abundance of peace, till the moon shall be no more.
¹⁰ The kings of Tarshish and of the isles shall bring tribute:
the kings of Sheba and Seba shall offer gifts.
¹¹ All kings shall fall down before him:
and all nations do him service.
¹² He will deliver the needy when they cry:
and the poor that have no helper.

¹³ He will pity the helpless and the needy:

and save the lives of the poor.

¹⁴ 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— ² for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you, ³ and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, ⁴ a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. ⁵ 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: ⁶ that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

⁷ 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. ⁸ 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, ⁹ and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; ¹⁰ 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.

¹¹ This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, ¹² in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him. (NRSV)

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

Matthew 2:1–12

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ **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, ² 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." ³ When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴ and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵ They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

⁶ '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.' "

⁷ Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸ 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." ⁹ 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. ¹⁰ When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹ 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. ¹² 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.**