

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD - SOLEMNITY

ENTRANCE HYMN

The First Noel the angels did say
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay
In fields where they
lay a-keeping their sheep
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Noel (4) Born is the King of Israel

They looked up and saw a star,
shining in the east, beyond them far,
and to the earth it gave great light,
and so it continued both day and night

GLORIA

Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to people of good will.

We praise you, we bless you,
we adore you, we glorify you,
we give you thanks for your great glory,
Lord God, heavenly King,
O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
you take away the sins of the world:
have mercy on us;
you take away the sins of the world,
receive our prayer;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One,
You alone are the Lord,
You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen

FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Isaiah 60:1-6
Above you the glory of the Lord appears.

Arise, shine out Jerusalem, for your light has come,
the glory of the Lord is rising on you,
though night still covers the earth
and darkness the peoples.

Above you the Lord now rises
and above you his glory appears.
The nations come to your light
and kings to your dawning brightness.

Lift up your eyes and look round:
all are assembling and coming towards you,
your sons from far away
and daughters being tenderly carried.

At this sight you will grow radiant,
your heart throbbing and full;
since the riches of the sea will flow to you;
the wealth of the nations come to you;

camels in throngs will cover you,
and dromedaries of Midian and Ephah;
everyone in Sheba will come,
bringing gold and incense
and singing the praise of the Lord.

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 71:1-2.7-8.10-13.R) cf. v.11

R. All nations shall fall prostrate before you, O Lord.

1. O God, give your judgement to the king,
to a king's son your justice,
that he may judge your people in justice
and your poor in right judgement. (R.)

2. In his days justice shall flourish
and peace till the moon fails.
He shall rule from sea to sea,
from the Great River to earth's bounds. (R.)

3. The kings of Tarshish and the sea coasts
shall pay him tribute.
The kings of Sheba and Seba
shall bring him gifts.
Before him all kings shall fall prostrate,
all nations shall serve him. (R.)

4. For he shall save the poor when they cry
and the needy who are helpless.
He will have pity on the weak
and save the lives of the poor. (R.)

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St. Paul to the
Ephesians 3:2-3. 5-6
It has now been revealed that pagans share the same inheritance.

You have probably heard how I have been entrusted by God with the grace he meant for you, and that it was by a revelation that I was given the knowledge of the mystery. This mystery that has now been revealed through the Spirit to his holy apostles and prophets was unknown to any men in past generations; it means that pagans now share the same inheritance, that they are parts of the same body, and that the same promise has been made to them, in Christ Jesus, through the gospel.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Mt 2:2
Alleluia, alleluia!

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to
Matthew 2:1-12
We saw his star and have come to do the king homage.

After Jesus had been born at Bethlehem in Judaea during the reign of King Herod, some wise men came to Jerusalem from the east. 'Where is the



infant king of the Jews?' they asked. 'We saw his star as it rose and have come to do him homage.' When King Herod heard this he was perturbed, and so was the whole of Jerusalem. He called together all the chief priests and the scribes of the people, and enquired of them where the Christ was to be born. 'At Bethlehem in Judaea,' they told him 'for this is what the prophet wrote:

And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah
 you are by no means least among the leaders
 of Judah,
 for out of you will come a leader
 who will shepherd my people Israel.'

Then Herod summoned the wise men to see him privately. He asked them the exact date on which the star had appeared, and sent them on to Bethlehem. 'Go and find out all about the child,' he said 'and when you have found him, let me know, so that I too may go and do him homage.' Having listened to what the king had to say, they set out. And there in front of them was the star they had seen rising; it went forward and halted over the place where the child was. The sight of the star filled them with delight, and going into the house they saw the child with his mother Mary, and falling to their knees they did him homage. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts of gold and frankincense and myrrh. But they were warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, and returned to their own country by a different way.

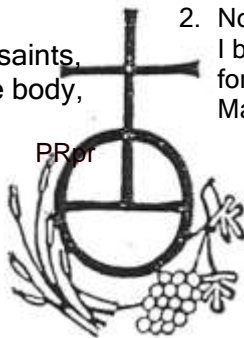
The Gospel of the Lord.

APOSTLE'S CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
 Creator of heaven and earth,
 and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
 (All bow)

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit
 born of the Virgin Mary,
 suffered under Pontius Pilate,
 was crucified, died and was buried;
 he descended into hell;
 on the third day he rose again from the dead;
 he ascended into heaven,
 and is seated at the right hand of God the Father
 almighty;
 from there he will come to judge the living and the
 dead,

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
 the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints,
 the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,
 and life everlasting. Amen.



OFFERTORY HYMN

1. Blest are you, Lord, God of all creation,
 thanks to your goodness this bread we offer:
 fruit of the earth, work of our hands,
 it will become the bread of life.

*Blessed be God, Blessed be God,
 Blessed be God, forever! Amen! (2)*

2. Blest are you, Lord, God of all creation,
 thanks to your goodness this wine we offer:
 fruit of the earth, work of our hands,
 it will become the cup of life.

COMMUNION HYMN

1. We three kings of Orient are;
 bearing gifts we traverse afar;
 field and fountain, moor and mountain,
 following yonder star.

*O Star of wonder, star of night,
 star with royal beauty bright;
 Westward leading, still proceeding,
 guide us to thy perfect light.*

2. Born a King on Bethlehem plain,
 gold I bring, to crown him again,
 King for ever, ceasing never,
 over us all to reign.

3. Frankincense to offer have I,
 incense owns a Deity nigh.
 Prayer and praising, all men raising,
 worship him, God most high.

4. Myrrh is mine, its bitter perfume
 breathes a life of gathering gloom;
 sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,
 sealed in the stone-cold tomb.

5. Glorious now behold him arise,
 King and God and sacrifice;
 alleluia, alleluia,
 earth to heaven replies.

RECESSIONAL HYMN

1. Long time ago in Bethlehem
 In a manger, poor and small
 Mary's boy child Jesus Christ
 Was born to die for all.

*Hark, now hear the angels sing
 A saviour's born today
 *(That we may live for ever more
 because of Christmas Day).
 Trumpets sound and angels sing
 Listen to what they say**

2. Now shepherds heard the angels say
 I bring good news of great joy
 for unto you a child is born
 Mary's little baby boy.