

## The Epiphany of the Lord Year A-B-C

Reading 1

*Citation:* Isaiah, Chap. 60, verses 1—6  
Isaiah 60:1—6

Isaiah peers into the future and sees evidence of God's Love and Providence for the Israelites. He reminds them of their longstanding commitment to their God and urges them to stay the course despite their present plight. His is a message delivered in his trust in God. He is convinced that God will be with them and that that circumstances will change for the better. Can you be as convinced of joy as he is? That's your challenge with this proclamation.

### A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah

Rise up in splendor, Jerusalem! (be as excited as Isaiah must have been!) (short pause)  
Your light has come,  
the glory of the LORD shines upon you. (Pause)

See,  
darkness covers the earth, (a bit of foreboding) (short pause)  
and thick clouds cover the peoples; (very short pause)  
but upon you the Lord shines, (be happy!)  
and over you appears his glory. (Pause)

Nations shall walk by your light, (pride)  
and kings by your shining radiance.

Raise your eyes and look about; (urging) (Pause)  
they all gather and come to you: (very short pause)  
your sons come from afar,  
and your daughters in the arms of their nurses. (again, pride) (Pause)

Then (very short pause)  
you shall be radiant at what you see, (be glad!)  
your heart shall throb and overflow,  
for the riches of the sea shall be emptied out before you,  
the wealth of nations shall be brought to you. (short pause)

Caravans of camels shall fill you,  
dromedaries from Midian and Ephah; (short pause)

all from Sheba shall come  
bearing gold and frankincense,  
and proclaiming the praises of the LORD. (proud!)

### The Word of the Lord.

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Reading 2

*Citation:* Ephesians, Chap. 3, Verses 2-3a, 5-6  
Ephesians 3: 2-3a, 5-6

Paul echoes Isaiah's conviction of the message of the Gospel for all of humanity, not just for the Jews. His encounter with Jesus outside Damascus has caused him to re-think his religious ideas, attitudes, and values. Think these through in your own understanding of what Christianity means to you. Bring that conviction to the authority you feel to proclaim this passage to your modern day Ephesians – brother and sister disciples on the journey toward fuller maturity.

### A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Ephesians

Brothers and sisters:

You have heard of the stewardship of God's grace  
that was given to me for your benefit,  
namely,  
that the mystery was made known to me by revelation.

(declaring as true)  
(short pause)  
(very short pause)  
(Pause)

It was not made known to people  
in other generations  
as it has now been revealed  
to his holy apostles and prophets  
by the Spirit:

(declaring truth)  
[almost parenthetical?]  
(affirmation)  
(very short pause)  
(Pause)

that the Gentiles are co-heirs,  
members of the same body,  
and co-partners in the promise  
in Christ Jesus  
through the gospel.

(raise voice volume, insisting!)  
(still insisting)  
(insisting; voice goes down slightly)

**The word of the Lord.**

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### GOSPEL

Citation: Matthew, Chap. 2, Verses 1-12  
Matthew 2: 1-12

**Political intrigue! Herod becomes afraid! An impoverished, nothing family receives gifts beyond belief from very mysterious foreigners! These are the emotions and feelings running throughout this story. Let your listeners hear them and feel them. Take your time!**

#### A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea  
in the days of King Herod,  
behold,

(parenthetical)

magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem,  
saying,

"Where is the newborn king of the Jews?

(excited curiosity)

We saw his star at its rising

(their "evidence")

and have come to do him homage."

(explains their presence)

When King Herod heard this,

(change tone; some alarm?)

he was greatly troubled,

and all Jerusalem with him.

(short pause)

Assembling all the chief priests and the scribes of the people,  
he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born.

They said to him,

"In Bethlehem of Judea,

(a "priestly" tone)

for thus it has been written through the prophet:

(serious)

*And you, Bethlehem, land of Judah,  
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;  
since from you shall come a ruler,  
who is to shepherd my people Israel. "*

(slower pace)

(deliberate)

(insistent)

(firm)

Then Herod called the magi secretly

and ascertained from them the time of the star's appearance.

He sent them to Bethlehem and said,

"Go

and search diligently for the child.

(commanding)

When you have found him,

bring me word,

that I too may go and do him homage."

(false sincerity of the schemer)

After their audience with the king

they set out. And behold,

the star that they had seen at its rising preceded them,

(amazing!)

until it came and stopped over the place where the child was.

"

## Proclamation Format

They were overjoyed at seeing the star,  
and on entering the house  
they saw the child with Mary his mother.  
They prostrated themselves  
and did him homage.

(short pause)  
(a reverent tone?)  
"

Then they opened their treasures  
and offered him gifts of gold,  
frankincense,  
and myrrh.

(Wow!)  
(more Wow!)  
(unbelievable!) (short pause)

And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod,  
they departed for their country by another way.

(voice to goes up)  
(voice goes down; quietly)

**The Gospel of the Lord.**