

**FIRST READING: Isaiah 60:1-6** The nations will come to the light *(HCSB)*

<sup>1</sup> Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD shines over you. <sup>2</sup> For look, darkness covers the earth, and total darkness the peoples; but the LORD will shine over you, and His glory will appear over you. <sup>3</sup> Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your radiance. <sup>4</sup> Raise your eyes and look around: they all gather and come to you; your sons will come from far away, and your daughters will be carried on the hip. <sup>5</sup> Then you will see and be radiant, and your heart will tremble and rejoice, because the riches of the sea will become yours and the wealth of the nations will come to you. <sup>6</sup> Caravans of camels will cover your land— young camels of Midian and Ephah— all of them will come from Sheba. They will carry gold and frankincense and proclaim the praises of the LORD.

**PSALM: Psalm 72:1-7,10-14** *(ESV)*

<sup>1</sup> Give the king Your justice, O God, and Your righteousness to the royal son! <sup>2</sup> May he judge Your people with righteousness, and Your poor with justice! <sup>3</sup> Let the mountains bear prosperity for the people, and the hills, in righteousness! <sup>4</sup> May he defend the cause of the poor of the people, give deliverance to the children of the needy, and crush the oppressor! <sup>5</sup> May they fear You while the sun endures, and as long as the moon, throughout all generations! <sup>6</sup> May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass, like showers that water the earth! <sup>7</sup> In his days may the righteous flourish, and peace abound, till the moon be no more! <sup>10</sup> May the kings of Tarshish and of the coastlands render him tribute; may the kings of Sheba and Seba bring gifts! <sup>11</sup> May all kings fall down before him, all nations serve him! <sup>12</sup> For he delivers the needy when he calls, the poor and him who has no helper. <sup>13</sup> He has pity on the weak and the needy, and saves the lives of the needy. <sup>14</sup> From oppression and violence he redeems their life, and precious is their blood in his sight.

**SECOND READING: Ephesians 3:1-12** God reveals His age-long purpose in Christ *(NCB)*

<sup>1</sup> This is the reason why I, Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles — <sup>2</sup> For you surely must have heard of the mystery of God's grace that was entrusted to me on your behalf, <sup>3</sup> and how the mystery was made known to me by a revelation, as I have briefly written. <sup>4</sup> Reading this, you will be able to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. <sup>5</sup> It was not disclosed

to human beings in previous generations, but now it has been revealed to His holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit, <sup>6</sup> namely that the Gentiles have become coheirs, members of the same body, and sharers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. <sup>7</sup> I became its minister by God's grace bestowed on me through the working of his power. <sup>8</sup> Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given me: to proclaim to the Gentiles the unfathomable riches of Christ <sup>9</sup> and to enlighten all concerning the administration of the mystery that had been kept hidden throughout the ages in God, the creator of all things. <sup>10</sup> In this way, the wisdom of God in its infinite variety might be made known through the Church to the principalities and powers in the heavens. <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 free access to God in boldness and confidence because of our faith in Him.

**GOSPEL: Matthew 2:1-12** The Magi worship Christ the king (NASB)

<sup>1</sup> Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, <sup>2</sup> "Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we saw His star in the east and have come to worship Him." <sup>3</sup> When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. <sup>4</sup> Gathering 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 said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for this is what has been written by the prophet: <sup>6</sup> 'And you, Bethlehem, land of Judah, are by no means least among the leaders of Judah; for out of you shall come forth a ruler who will shepherd My people Israel.' <sup>7</sup> Then Herod secretly called the magi and determined from them the exact time the star appeared. <sup>8</sup> And he sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the Child; and when you have found Him, report to me, so that I too may come and worship Him." <sup>9</sup> After hearing the king, they went their way; and the star, which they had seen in the east, went on before them until it came and stood over the place where the Child was. <sup>10</sup> When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. <sup>11</sup> After coming into the house they saw the Child with Mary His mother; and they fell to the ground and worshiped Him. Then, opening their treasures, they presented to Him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. <sup>12</sup> And having been warned by God in a dream not to return to Herod, the magi left for their own country by another way.