

## Epiphany, 7 January 2024

**First Reading: Isaiah 60:1-6** The nations will come to the light

**60** 'Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD rises upon you. <sup>2</sup>See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples, but the LORD rises upon you and his glory appears over you. <sup>3</sup>Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. <sup>4</sup>'Lift up your eyes and look about you: all assemble and come to you; your sons come from afar, and your daughters are carried on the hip. <sup>5</sup>Then you will look and be radiant, your heart will throb and swell with joy; the wealth on the seas will be brought to you, to you the riches of the nations will come. <sup>6</sup>Herds of camels will cover your land, young camels of Midian and Ephah. And all from Sheba will come, bearing gold and incense and proclaiming the praise of the LORD.

### **PSALM 72**

<sup>1</sup>Endow the king with your justice, O God, the royal son with your righteousness. <sup>2</sup>May he judge your people in righteousness, your afflicted ones with justice. <sup>3</sup>May the mountains bring prosperity to the people, the hills the fruit of righteousness. <sup>4</sup>May he defend the afflicted among the people and save the children of the needy; may he crush the oppressor. <sup>5</sup>May he endure as long as the sun, as long as the moon, through all generations. <sup>6</sup>May he be like rain falling on a mown field, like showers watering the earth. <sup>7</sup>In his days may the righteous flourish and prosperity abound till the moon is no more. <sup>10</sup>May the kings of Tarshish and of distant shores bring tribute to him. May the kings of Sheba and Seba present him with gifts. <sup>11</sup>May all kings bow down to him and all nations serve him. <sup>12</sup>For he will deliver the needy who cry out, the afflicted who have no one to help. <sup>13</sup>He will take pity on the weak and the needy and save the needy from death. <sup>14</sup>He will rescue them from oppression and violence, for precious is their blood in his sight.

**Second Reading: Ephesians 3:1-12** God reveals his age-long purpose in Christ

**3** For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles – <sup>2</sup>Surely you have heard about the administration of God's grace that was given to me for you, <sup>3</sup>that is, the mystery made known to me by revelation, as I have already written briefly. <sup>4</sup>In reading this, then, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, <sup>5</sup>which was not made

known to people in other generations as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to God's holy apostles and prophets. <sup>6</sup>This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus. <sup>7</sup>I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God's grace given me through the working of his power. <sup>8</sup>Although I am less than the least of all the Lord's people, this grace was given me: to preach to the Gentiles the boundless riches of Christ, <sup>9</sup>and to make plain to everyone the administration of this mystery, which for ages past was kept hidden in God, who created all things. <sup>10</sup>His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, <sup>11</sup>according to his eternal purpose that he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. <sup>12</sup>In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence.

### **GOSPEL: Matthew 2:1-12** Wise men worship Christ the king

**2** After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem <sup>2</sup>and asked, 'Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.' <sup>3</sup>When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. <sup>4</sup>When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. <sup>5</sup>'In Bethlehem in Judea,' they replied, 'for this is what the prophet has written: <sup>6</sup>“But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.” <sup>7</sup>Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup>He sent them to Bethlehem and said, 'Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him.' <sup>9</sup>After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup>When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. <sup>11</sup>On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshipped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. <sup>12</sup>And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.