

## COLLECT

O God,  
 who by the leading of a star  
 manifested your only Son to the  
 peoples of the earth:  
 mercifully grant that we,  
 who know you now by faith,  
 may at last behold your glory face  
 to face;  
 through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
 who is alive and reigns with you,  
 in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
 one God, now and for ever.

## FIRST READING Isaiah 60:1-6

*A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.*

Arise, shine; for your light has come,  
 and the glory of the LORD has risen  
 upon you. 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. Nations  
 shall come to your light, and kings to  
 the brightness of your dawn. 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. 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. 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.

## PSALM Psalm 72:1-9. 10-15

**R** *Kings bow down before him;  
 all the nations do him service.*

Give the king your justice, O God,  
 and your righteousness to the king's  
 son;  
 that he may rule your people  
 righteously  
 and the poor with justice;  
 that the mountains may bring  
 prosperity to the people,  
 and the little hills bring righteousness. **R**

He shall defend the needy among  
 the people;  
 he shall rescue the poor and crush the  
 oppressor.  
 He shall live as long as the sun and  
 moon endure,  
 from one generation to another. **R**

He shall come down like rain upon the  
 mown field,  
 like showers that water the earth.  
 In his time shall the righteous flourish;  
 there shall be abundance of peace  
 till the moon shall be no more. **R**

The kings of Tarshish and of the isles  
 shall pay tribute,  
 and the kings of Arabia and Saba  
 offer gifts.  
 All kings shall bow down before him,  
 and all the nations do him service. **R**

For he shall deliver the poor who cries  
 out in distress,  
 and the oppressed who has no helper.  
 He shall have pity on the lowly and poor;  
 he shall preserve the lives of the needy.  
 He shall redeem their lives from  
 oppression and violence,  
 and dear shall their blood be in his  
 sight. **R**

## SECOND READING Ephesians 3:1-12

*A reading from the letter of Paul to the Ephesians.*

I, Paul, am a prisoner for Christ Jesus  
 for the sake of you Gentiles – for  
 surely you have already heard of  
 the commission of God's grace that  
 was given me for you, and how the  
 mystery was made known to me by  
 revelation, as I wrote above in a few  
 words, a reading of which will enable  
 you to perceive my understanding  
 of the mystery of Christ. 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: that is, the  
 Gentiles have become fellow-heirs,  
 members of the same body, and  
 sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus  
 through the gospel. 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.  
 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, and to  
 make everyone see what is the plan  
 of the mystery hidden for ages in  
 God who created all things; 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. This was in  
 accordance with the eternal purpose  
 that he has carried out in Christ Jesus  
 our Lord, in whom we have access

to God in boldness and confidence  
 through faith in him.

## GOSPEL Matthew 2:1-12

*Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.*

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus  
 was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise  
 men from the East came to Jerusalem,  
 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." When King  
 Herod heard this, he was frightened,  
 and all Jerusalem with him; and calling  
 together all the chief priests and  
 scribes of the people, he inquired of  
 them where the Messiah was to be  
 born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of  
 Judea; for so it has been written by  
 the prophet: '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.'" Then  
 Herod secretly called for the wise men  
 and learned from them the exact time  
 when the star had appeared. 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." 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. When they saw that the star  
 had stopped, they were overwhelmed  
 with joy. 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. And having  
 been warned in a dream not to return  
 to Herod, they left for their own  
 country by another road.

## POST COMMUNION

Lord God,  
 the bright splendour whom the nations  
 seek:  
 may we who with the wise men  
 have been drawn by your light  
 discern the glory of your presence in  
 your Son,  
 the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our  
 Lord.