

Morning Prayer  
**Epiphany**  
Year C January 9, 2022



*Journey of the Magi - James Tissot*

## Gathering Words

"The Three Wiseman:

*The weather has been awful,  
The countryside is dreary,  
Marsh, jungle, rock; and echoes mock,  
Calling our hope unlawful;  
But a silly song can help along  
Yours ever and sincerely:  
At least we know for certain that we are three old sinners,  
that this journey is much too long, that we want our dinners,  
and miss our wives, our books, our dogs,  
but have only the vaguest idea why we are what we are.  
To discover how to be human now  
Is the reason we follow this star."*

W.H. Auden

## Opening Hymn *Silent Night*

H-111

### Confession

Let us confess our sins to God.

*Minister and People*

**God of all mercy,  
we confess that we have sinned against you,  
opposing your will in our lives.  
We have denied your goodness in each other,  
in ourselves, and in the world you have created.  
We repent of the evil that enslaves us,  
the evil we have done,  
and the evil done on our behalf.  
Forgive, restore, and strengthen us  
through our Savior Jesus Christ,  
that we may abide in your love  
and serve only your will. Amen.**

## **Absolution**

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

## **Lessons**

### **Old Testament**

*Lector: A reading from Isaiah 60:1-6*

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.

*Lector: Here what the Spirit is saying to the people.*

*People: **Thanks be to God.***

## **Psalm 72:1-7,10-14**

Deus, iudicium

*-from a Women's Lectionary for the Whole Church  
Wilda C. Gafney, Church Publishing*

God, give the ruler your justice,  
and your righteousness to the ruler's son.

**May the (next) ruler judge your people with righteousness  
and your afflicted ones with justice.**

May the mountains raise up well-being for the people,  
and the hills, righteousness.

**May the ruler do justice for the poor of the people,  
Grant deliverance to those born in need  
and crush the oppressor.**

The ruler shall live as long as the sun and moon endure,  
from one generation to another.

**The ruler shall come down like rain upon the mown field,  
like showers that water the earth.**

In the ruler's time shall the righteous flourish,  
there shall be abundance of peace till the moon shall be  
no more.

**The rulers of Tarshish and of the isles shall pay tribute,  
and the rulers of Arabia and Saba offer gifts.**

All the rulers shall bow down before him,  
and all the nations do the ruler service.

**For the ruler delivers the needy when they call,  
the oppressed and those who have no helper.**

The ruler has pity on the poor and the needy,  
and saves the lives of the needy.

**From oppression and violence the ruler redeems their life;  
and precious is their blood in the sight of their ruler.**

## **New Testament**

*Lector:* A reading from Ephesians 3:1-12

This is the reason that 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.

*Lector:* Hear what the Spirit is saying to the People.

*People:* **Thanks be to God.**

### **Gradual Hymn** *Some Children See Him*

*Priest:* A reading from the Gospel of Matthew.

Matthew 2:1-12

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.

*Lector:* Hear what the Spirit is saying to the People.

*People:* **Thanks be to God.**

## Homily

### Prayers of the People for the Epiphany Season

*-Adapted from prayers found at: [www.bibleclaret.org](http://www.bibleclaret.org)*

On this day when peoples come from near and far to worship Jesus Emmanuel, let our prayer be as wide as the world. Pray to the Creator: **Let the light of Christ shine on all people.**

That the light of Christ may shine on all nations far and near and that the Church may welcome them in all the diversity of their being, pray to the Creator:

**Let the light of Christ shine on all people.**

That in our day justice may flourish and peace may come to all the world, pray to the Creator:

**Let the light of Christ shine on all people.**

That God's people may hear the poor when they cry, pity the weak, and open their hearts and hands in solidarity with the sick and needy, pray to the Creator:

**Let the light of Christ shine on all people.**

That those who persecute our Savior through his followers may see Christ's light and be converted, pray to the Creator:

**Let the light of Christ shine on all people.**

That all who look for the light of a star to guide them may discover that light in neighbor and stranger alike, pray to the Creator: **Let the light of Christ shine on all people.**

That in our Christian communities we may learn, like the wise men, to discern the truth, let go of evil, and to share our treasures and our deepest humanity, pray to the Creator:

**Let the light of Christ shine on all people.**

God of all that is, we rejoice that you have come near to us in Jesus your Son. May Christ be the light of eternal life for all, now and for ever. **Amen.**

### **Closing Collect**

Heavenly Father, in you we live and move and have our being: We humbly pray you so to guide and govern us by your Holy Spirit, that in all the cares and occupations of our life we may not forget you, but may remember that we are ever walking in your sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### **Closing Hymn**      Where the Promise Shines

### **Concluding Sentence**

Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine: Glory to God from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever. **Amen.**

*Ephesians 3:20,21*

Postlude: *Still, Still, Still*

arr. Sharon Wilson