

EPIPHANY OF THE LORD - Epiphany, Year B

The daily Word of God convinces us that Jesus is the Son of God; on him, the words of the prophets were fulfilled; His birth was announced by the angels. John the Baptist pointed out to Jesus, saying: "**I have seen it and bear witness that He is the Son of God**"; The Father in heaven testified to Jesus, calling him "**the beloved Son**" at his baptism. Jesus' disciples testified by saying, "**We have found the Messiah.**" Today, following the lead of the star, God has revealed the only-begotten Son of his to the Gentiles. Today the Church prays that having come to know the Son of God by faith, we may be led, like the Magi from the Far East, to see God "**face to face**". The liturgy begins with the Antiphon: "**Behold, the Lord and Ruler has come, and in his hand royal power and power and government.**" Isaiah's prophecy comes true: "**Nations will come to your light ... kings will come from Sheba, offering gold and incense, joyfully singing hymns to the Lord.**" Amazed by the fulfillment of the prophecies, the Church confesses: "**All peoples of the earth will glorify the Lord.**" They will know that the Father has sent the Son who is the Savior of all. St. Paul announces the revelation of a Mystery which people did not know, that "the Gentiles are already joint heirs and fellow members of the Body and sharers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the Gospel." **Jesus is the savior of all. Those who "saw His star in the East and came to worship the Lord"** were called the Magi. Why were they called Sages? Because they had the courage to set off from the Far East and came to worship the newborn King of the Ages. "**When King Herod heard this, he was terrified, and all Jerusalem with him.**" Herod gathers the high priests and scholars of the people, asks: Where is the Messiah to be born? Bethlehem was indicated as the birthplace of "**the shepherd of ... Israel.**" Herod immediately acts in secret, inquiring carefully and thoroughly. Moreover, he says: When you find the Child, "**report to me that I may go and worship Him.**" The wise men went on their way, and the star "**went ahead of them ... until it stopped at the place where the Child was.**" They came in and saw ... they bowed their faces and worshiped him. Opening their treasurers, they "**offered him gifts: gold, frankincense and myrrh.**" And today we pray, *God, look kindly at the gifts of your Church; they are no longer gold, incense and myrrh, but Jesus Christ, whom these gifts signify. We sacrifice Him and take him as food. And we ask: God, our Father, may Your light accompany us always and everywhere, that we may allow ourselves to be led by You with love and confess in Jesus Christ.* By faith in the Son of God, we can be led to see God "**as You are**" "**face to face**". Today in Jesus Christ, God is revealing to all nations the mystery of our salvation, when the Son of God appeared on earth as a mortal man. We ask God, who called us out of darkness, to strengthen our hearts in faith, hope and love, when Christ appeared to the world as a light shining in the darkness. Let us follow Him and with Him confidently. The wise men followed the star and joyfully found Christ. May we come to Jesus our Lord and God, who is Light from Light. May He lead us to see the splendor of His majesty face to face, since today we "**worship the Lord with the people of the whole earth**".

Jan. 01, 2021. HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

The Church celebrates the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God, and the World Day of Peace. Honoring the Mother of the Prince of Peace by offering prayers for harmony and reconciliation is a powerful, positive way to begin the New Year and a wonderful way to end the Octave of Christmas. Mary and Joseph have come into Bethlehem but there was no place at the inn so they found a place in a shelter predestined for animals. The Evangelist stressed, that there was no one who could help Mary, therefore she alone wrapped Him in swaddling clothes, and laid Him in a manger. She had to lay Him in a crib, because she was afraid that animals could trample Him. Unusual sadness surrounded the Nativity of the Lord. In this way, the Evangelist turned our attention to poverty, which Jesus would proclaim. The poverty characterized Jesus' teaching from the beginning. In this sad fortune Mary participated. The humble Incarnation of the Lord, had an image in the heart of Mary. She knew that the newborn Saviour

was not welcomed in a responsible way. This is why the Good News reached first to the shepherds in the fields of Bethlehem. St Luke, the Evangelist, saw the poverty in the shepherds and they were unusually priceless for him. They really were the worst in the eyes of the Scribes, who rejected the shepherds as people who distanced themselves from the synagogues and they did not respect the Law, but they were so ordinary that they needed the Lord more than others and they were open to Him. The Creator wanted to reveal his mystery, **“When profound silence covered all things and night was in the middle of its course”**, The Angel of the Lord announces: **“Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to people of good will”**. This Angelic Hymn was a triumphant announcement of the Good News. The Glory of God is revealed in His acts full of mercy. God grants peace in abundance, and this peace was predicted by the prophets as a gift of the Time of salvation. This was not a Roman peace, which the world tasted in the time of Caesar Augustus; the peace which bears the Roman Legions. This peace was granted only to a handful of chosen people, but the rest suffered oppression. The angel predicted peace which will be a fullness of supernatural life, but this can be granted only by The Lord. Only The Lord is God, the spring of true freedom and salvation. God does not turn down this gift for anyone. Jesus grants him those in whom God takes a fancy to. This means for all, because His love rests on all, not only for the chosen. This, what happened, raised the amazement of all who heard it. With this amazement is contrasting Mary's posture, **“She treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart”**. Treasured and plundered it was in the eyes of people oddly, surprising and incomprehensible. Mary undertakes to understand the mystery of God. She understood all of what happened around Her. She knew early that she experienced an extraordinary grace from God as the humble servant of the Lord , who chose Her as the mother of his only Son. But now she hears that the Lord looked graciously on all people. She understood that the ways of God's action are surprising. Who better to help us on that journey than Mary, Mother of God, who, Pope Francis observed, “goes before us in faith, in our vocation and in our mission”. By her example of humility and openness to God's will she helps us to transmit our faith in a joyful proclamation of the Gospel to all, without reservation. In this way our mission will be fruitful, because it is modeled on the motherhood of Mary”.
O God, grant, that we may experience the intercession of the Blessed Virgin and Holy Mother of God, through whom we were found worthy to receive the author of life. “Jesus Christ, who is the same yesterday, today, and for ever.”