

JANUARY 6, 2019
EPIPHANY OF
OUR LORD



Jesus' birth is for all the world.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	Matthew 2:1-12	Wise men come to worship Jesus
Monday	Isaiah 60:1-6	Nations will come to the light
Tuesday	Ephesians 3:1-12	Paul's mission to the Gentiles
Wednesday	Daniel 2:17-49	Nebuchadnezzar's dream
Thursday	John 1:1-18	The Word became flesh
Friday	1 John 1:1-10	God is light
Saturday	Psalms 72:1-7	Prayer for a righteous king
Sunday	Luke 3:15-17, 21-22	The baptism of Jesus

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

[T]hat is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

Ephesians 3:6 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

God of justice and strength, may we bring our lives before you with treasures of the heart just as the wise men came before Jesus with gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Like Wise Men three from far away, we come to Christ with joy this day. To our Provider and our King, gifts of thanks and praise we bring! Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God bless you and guide you to Christ today and fill you with joy and peace.



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HYMN OF THE WEEK
The First Noel



CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- What is the furthest you have traveled from home?
- What have you learned by traveling away from home?
- In the story of the wise men from the East coming to pay homage to baby Jesus, God is announcing that in God's Son, salvation is brought to all. How does God's action in Jesus help you look at and appreciate different customs and cultures you have seen?

DEVOTIONS



Read: Ephesians 3:1-12.

This passage lifts up important themes for Epiphany Day. The Apostle Paul expresses humility at being included in God's plan of salvation, a plan that includes the Gentiles, therefore, all people of the earth. Just as the wise men from the East represent those people not from Israel, so God's love reaches far beyond any national boundary. For foreign wise men to follow a star and reach Bethlehem, too, represents the greater mystery of God's work in a little one born to a peasant family to be worshiped by the rulers of the earth. The visit of the wise men changes everything. Strangers become family. Rulers are humbled. The humbled are exalted, and through the birth of Jesus, God's love reaches the ends of the world. Think about ways you have seen God's love reaching the ends of the earth today.

Pray: **God of the nations, you unite all the people of the earth through your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. Help us to recognize in the face of others your saving work for all people. Give us hearts to share the mystery of your will and your love with all that you have made through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

SERVICE



In Matthew 2:9-11, the wise men followed a star and "when they saw the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy" (vv. 9b-10). They entered the house where the star stopped and saw Mary and the child. They knelt, honored, and worshiped Jesus and gave him gifts. God guided the wise men to Jesus with a star. What guides you to Jesus today? Name ways you can be a "star" to guide others to Jesus through your actions and words.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



Epiphany is an older tradition than Christmas for recognizing the birth of Jesus. Many places around the globe have some form of a Three King's Cake, an Epiphany cake or bread that is made to celebrate the visit of the wise men and honor Christ's birth. In the Spanish-speaking world it is called "*Rosca de Reyes*." Buy or make a Three King's Cake or bread and enjoy this treat as part of your Epiphany Day celebrations.



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: www.milestonesministry.org