



Liturgy Cycle A

Epiphany

Breaking Down The Barriers

Introduction

Today we hear once again the story of the wise men who embarked on a long and hazardous journey in the search of the Christ-child. What then wise? It was the fact that, whereas his own people didn't want to know him, they recognized this Child as the Saviour of the world. What led us here this morning? What does Christ mean to us?

First Reading (Isaiah 60: 1-6)

The exiles returned from Babylon to find Jerusalem in ruins. The prophet cheers them up with a vision of a restored city. Her scattered children will return, and numerous strangers will come there to worship the true God.

Second Reading (Ephesians 3:2-3. 5-6)

Paul reveals the truth that God invites all, both Jews and Gentile, to share on an equal footing the salvation brought by Christ.

Gospel (Matthew 2: 1-12)

This tells how three strangers came from a far country to pay homage to the Christ-child, while the Jewish leaders rejected him.

Prayer Of The Faithful

Let us pray that, from now on, Christ may be the star we follow.

R: Lord, hear us in your love.

For the church: that it may never become narrow and inward looking, but remember it is meant to be a light for all nations. We pray in faith.

R: Lord, hear us in your love.

For our temporal leaders: that they may work to bring about a society in which everyone will have their rights and dignity respected. We pray in faith.

R: Lord, hear us in your love.



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For those who right now are going through a time of doubt and darkness: that the light of Christ may shine on them. We pray in faith.

R: Lord, hear us in your love.

That we ourselves may preserve in following Christ even when times are dark and no star is to be seen. We pray in faith.

R: Lord, hear us in your love.

Communion Reflection

We are told that the Magi were led to Christ by the light of a bright star.

Often, however, it is not through an experience of light, but of darkness, that people discover Christ.

**This should not really surprise us.
The fact is, we cannot see the stars
in the bright light of the day,
but only in the darkness of night,
and darker the night, the brighter they shine.
Just as the stars continue to shine
even when we cannot see them,
so the Lord's light is always there,
though it is sometimes hidden from us by the clouds,
clouds of confusion, distraction and unbelief.**

**Everyone needs a star to follow,
just as ships at a sea need a lighthouse beacon
to guide them to port.
From now on we have a star that will not deceive us,
we have a compass that will not lie to us.**

**You, Lord, are the star that will guide us
until the lights of the eternal port
appear on the horizon.**