



Liturgy Cycle C

Epiphany

Introduction

The wise men came searching for Christ. They found him, worshipped him and offered him gifts. Since then millions of people have followed in their footsteps and come to Christ. We are doing just that this morning. We come to Christ to worship him and offer him our gifts.

But Christ is no longer a helpless baby. He is our Lord and Saviour who enriches us.

Lord Jesus, you bring healing to the sick.
Lord, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you bring forgiveness to sinners.
Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you give us yourself to heal us and bring us strength.
Lord, have mercy.

First Reading (Isaiah 60:1-6)

The exiles returned from Babylon to find their beloved Jerusalem in ruins. The prophet cheers them up with a vision of a restored city.

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

Paul reveals the fact that God invites all, Jews and Gentiles alike, to share on an equal footing the salvation won by Christ.

Gospel (Matt 2:1-12)

This relates 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

The Father made known the birth of the Saviour by the light of a star. We pray that he may continue to guide us with his light.

R: Lord, hear us in your love.

For the Church: that she may continue to help people discover Christ as their Lord and Saviour. We pray in faith.

R: Lord, hear us in your love.

For all of mankind: that Christ may be a beacon of faith and hope to all men and women of good will who are searching for truth and goodness. We pray in faith.

R: Lord, hear us in your love.



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For all those who are lost and who have no one to advise or guide them; for all those who have given up the search and who have settled for a life of material comfort and pleasure. We pray in faith.

R: Lord, hear us in your love.

That we who have found Christ may try to live according to his teachings, so that we may help others find him. We pray in faith.

R: Lord, hear us in your love.

Let us pray:

Lord our God, on this day you revealed your Son to all the people of the world. Lead us from the faith by which we know you now to the radiant vision of your glory where we shall see you face to face. We ask this through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sign Of Peace

Lord, of what use is it to extend our hand to our neighbour if at the same time we exclude him from our heart. It is like talking to a person at the doorstep on a cold day but not allowing him to enter into the warmth of the interior. Grant us a warm and accepting heart, so that we may enjoy the peace and unity of your kingdom where you live for ever and ever.

Communion Reflection

Helen Keller, who went blind and deaf at nineteen months, wrote the following:

**'I am often conscious
of beautiful flowers and birds and laughing children
where to my seeing friends there is nothing.
They skeptically declare that I see
"a light that never was on sea or land".
But I know that their mystic sense is dormant,
and that is why there are so many barren places in their lives;
they prefer "facts" to vision.'**

**Through her blindness Helen Keller became a very wise woman,
and 'saw' more than many who have perfect eyesight.**

The Magi were wise men, not however in a worldly sense. They were wise because they recognised the Christ-child as their Saviour, whereas some saw him as just another child, and others, such as Herod, saw him as a threat.

**Lord, help us to recognise you as our Saviour,
not merely here in church, but out there in the world.
Thus we will never walk in darkness but will always have a 'star' to guide us.**