

Hebrew Scriptures: A reading from the prophet Isaiah 60:1-6

“Arise, shine, for your light has come!
the glory of God is rising upon you!

Though darkness still covers the earth
and dense clouds enshroud the peoples,
upon you God now dawns,
and God's glory will be seen among you!

The nations will come to your light
and the leaders to your bright dawn!

Lift up your eyes, and look around:
they're all gathering and coming to you—
your daughters and your sons
journey from afar, escorted in safety;
you'll see them and beam with joy,
your heart will swell with pride.

The riches of the sea will flow to you,
and the wealth of the nations will come to you—
camel caravans will cover your roads,
the dromedaries of Midian and Ephah;
everyone in Sheba will come,
bringing gold and incense
and singing the praise of God."

For the promise of salvation

Thanks be to God.

Gospel: A reading from the Gospel of Matthew 2:1-12

After Jesus' birth—which happened in Bethlehem of Judea, during the reign of Herod—astrologers from the East arrived in Jerusalem and asked, “Where is the newborn ruler of the Jews? We observed his star at its rising and have come to pay homage.” At this news Herod became greatly disturbed, as did all of Jerusalem. Summoning all the chief priests and religious scholars of the people, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born.

“In Bethlehem of Judea,” they informed him. “Here is what the prophet has written:

‘And you, Bethlehem, land of Judah,
are by no means least among the leaders of Judah,
since from you will come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel.’ ”

Herod called the astrologers aside and found out from them the exact time of the star's appearance. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, after having instructed them, “Go and get detailed information about the child. When you have found him, report back to me—so that I may go and offer homage, too.”

After their audience with the ruler, they set out. The star which they had observed at its rising went ahead of them until it came to a standstill over the place where the child lay. They were overjoyed at seeing the star and, upon entering the house, found the child with Mary, his mother. They prostrated themselves and paid homage. Then they opened their coffers and presented the child with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

They were warned in a dream not to return to Herod, so they went back to their own country by another route

For the light of God in the story of the Magi

Thanks be to God.