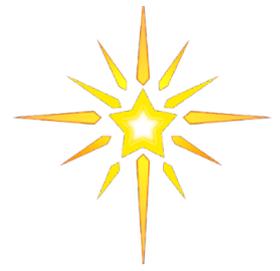




## SUNDAY TABLE SERVICE

**Epiphany of our Lord**  
**Let us watch Songs of Praise together**  
**on the ABC and then set the table**  
**for our shared meal.**



- **Setting our table for our Sunday lunch service.**

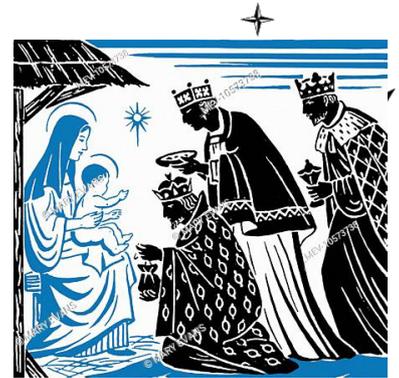
Sometimes we eat, in front of the TV either together or alone; we eat on the run; we eat out in restaurants or even in our car; but today we sit at a table that we have set for our Sunday lunch meal. It is our everyday altar of life-giving food.



Today we are celebrating Epiphany of our Lord . So, as we worship at home today let us define the occasion Let us prepare our tables with thanksgiving and prayer adding those special gifts or items to remind us of God's precious gift to mankind. If you are celebrating this meal without people physically present, please be aware that **God Is With You.**

### FINDING JESUS

Can you imagine Joseph and Mary two years after Jesus is born and suddenly three very wealthy Magi turn up with all their traveling entourage? In seeking this new King of Judah they did not quite know what or where to look for, except from what they had read and to follow a significant sign. Along the way they sought advice; some of it was good and some of it was bad. The main thing was that they kept on looking until they found Jesus. It must have been strange for this very humble family to see these men in resplendent clothing kneeling on the floor of their humble home before Jesus.



- **opening prayer — consciously drawing together in our mind our Parish community around our table.**

*Be still and silent. Visualise in your mind, those whom you invited to share with you. Pray:*

**In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

**Here, and throughout the world, We adore you O Christ, and we bless you, because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world. Amen**

**Bless this food, both physical and spiritual. Bless all who gather at your table, both seen and unseen, In Jesus' name we pray. Amen**

- **Let us read and reflect on our cycle of readings for Epiphany**

**A reading from the Prophet Isaiah, Chapter 60 beginning at Verse 1**

**ARISE**  
*shine*  
**FOR YOUR**  
**LIGHT**  
**HAS COME**  
ISAIAH 60:1

<sup>1</sup> Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. <sup>2</sup> For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. <sup>3</sup> Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. <sup>4</sup> Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms. <sup>5</sup> Then you shall see and be

radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. <sup>6</sup> A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord. [NRSV Isaiah 60:1-6]

Hear the word of the Lord, ***thanks be to God***

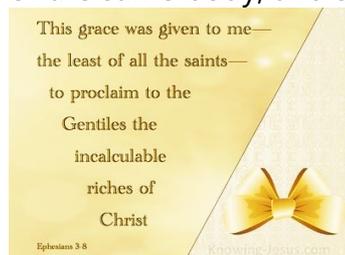
**Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14**

1 Give the king your judgement, O God: and your righteousness to the son of a king,  
2 That he may judge your people rightly: and the poor of the land with equity.  
3 Let the mountains be laden with peace because of his righteousness:  
and the hills also with prosperity for his people.  
4 May he give justice to the poor among the people: and rescue the children of the needy,  
and crush the oppressor.  
5 May he live while the sun endures: and while the moon gives light,  
throughout all generations.  
6 May he come down like rain upon the new-mown fields:  
and as showers that water the earth.  
7 In his time shall righteousness flourish:  
and abundance of peace, till the moon shall be no more.  
10 The kings of Tarshish and of the isles  
shall bring tribute: the kings of Sheba and Seba shall offer gifts.  
11 All kings shall fall down before him: and all nations do him service.  
12 He will deliver the needy when they cry: and the poor that have no helper.  
13 He will pity the helpless and the needy :and save the lives of the poor.  
14 He will redeem them from oppression and violence: and their blood shall be precious in his sight.



**A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Ephesians,** *Chapter 3 beginning at Verse 1*

<sup>1</sup> This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles – <sup>2</sup> for surely you have already heard of the commission of God’s grace that was given me for you, <sup>3</sup> and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, <sup>4</sup> a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. <sup>5</sup> In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: <sup>6</sup> that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.



<sup>7</sup> Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God’s grace that was given me by the working of his power. <sup>8</sup> Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, <sup>9</sup> and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; <sup>10</sup> so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. <sup>11</sup> This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, <sup>12</sup> in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him. [NRSV Ephesians 3:1-12] Hear the word of the Lord, ***thanks be to God.***

## The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew, Chapter 2 beginning at Verse 1

### **Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

<sup>1</sup> In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup> asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." <sup>3</sup> When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; <sup>4</sup> and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. <sup>5</sup> They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: <sup>6</sup> 'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.' "

<sup>7</sup> Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup> Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." <sup>9</sup> When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup> When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. <sup>11</sup> On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. <sup>12</sup> And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.



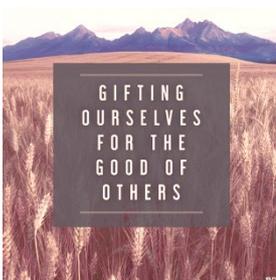
[NRSV Matthew 2:1-12] This is the Gospel of the Lord, **praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

Sentence

**They saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and worshipped him.**

*Let us now engage in some quiet reflection, or conversation and sharing, responding to the Gospel passage. We may like to write down some key thoughts for further reflection.*

**Arise Shine; for your light has come, and the Glory of the Lord has risen upon you.  
In Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in Him.**



We too are on a journey discovering Jesus within our souls. Along the Journey there will be some who will give good directions and other that will seek to deceive, even with the truth. What matters is that we keep our eyes fixed on His word and His promise and stay true to the journey we are on. Now the King, not just of Judah, but of Heaven and Earth has made a place within our hearts and if we seek Him we will find Him there and He will make Himself known. The Maggi brought Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh to honour Him.

Knowing that He reigns within our souls, what is it that we bring to honour our King of Kings?

- **prayer-time** Now let us continue to offer our prayers for healing of the world; for those affected by coronavirus; for family; for members of the parish and wider community, for the life and ministry of the Church, for encouragement in our journey of faith.

- **Please pray alongside those in our parish asking for prayer.** We continue to pray alongside, Melissa and Sam, Ted & Joyce and Miriam; Ann W, Ruth , Lynn Joannie, Matthew, Kym and Bob, Izabelle; Peta; Mariette; Joanne; Peter G, Peter C; Samantha; Fiona; Brenton; Sue; Pat; Brendon; Bill; David H; Diane; Jean; Carolyn; Allison; Angela; Carol; Shirley; Lucy Ann; Margaret, Lyn; Irene; Linda; Tina; Wendy; Chris; Trevor; Liz; Tristan & Trish S; Carole and family; Peter, Eleni and Nicholas; Jac Bishop, Joanie; Andrew; Kerrie; David Jones; Claire; Jean; Dan Thomas; Trish; Claire; Fr Graham & Catherine; & Blair; Aileen; Ann; Tom & Nick; Stephen, Bill, Eileen Cook; Tessa; Yvonne Scrutton; Sylvia; Gabrielle, Brenda; Judith: Gabrielle; and *any others we wish to remember.*



**Let us say the Lord's Prayer Together.**

**Our Father .....**

**Prayer of the Day**

Lord God of the nations,  
 we have seen the star of your glory rising in splendour:  
 may the brightness of your incarnate Word  
 pierce the night that covers the earth,  
 signal the dawn of justice and peace,  
 and beckon all nations to walk as one in your light.  
 We ask this through Jesus Christ, your Word made flesh,  
 who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
 in the splendour of eternal light,  
 God for ever and ever.                      Amen.



**Conclude the meal with the following prayer together.**

***May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
 the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit  
 be amongst us and remain with us always. Amen.***

- **Intentional connection beyond your home** After our Table Service, make contact with others who may be alone or missing seeing their families and loved ones during the Christmas Season. Wish them a Blessed and Safe New Year, remind them of the Joy of Christmas and the promise of a brighter and better future in 2022. Let God guide you to the person or persons with whom you should connect. Contact them. Start a conversation: How have you been keeping, what about this changing weather or hope you are keeping well, or I was just thinking of you and decided to call.

