



The Epiphany of the Lord

Isaiah 60:1-6
Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-13
Eph 3:2-3, 5-6
Matt 2:1-12

Monday Jan. 4
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

1 John 3:22-4:6
Ps 2:7bc-8, 10-12a
Matt 4:12-17, 23-25

Tuesday Jan. 5
St. John Neumann

1 John 4:7-10
Ps 72:1-4, 7-8
Mark 6:34-44

Wednesday Jan. 6

1 John 4:11-18
Ps 72:1-2, 10, 12-13
Mark 6:45-52

Thursday Jan. 7

1 John 4:19-5:4
Ps 72:1-2, 14, 15bc, 17
Luke 4:14-22

Friday Jan. 8

1 John 5:5-13
Ps 147:12-15, 19-20
Luke 5:12-16

Saturday Jan. 9

1 John 5:14-21
Ps 149:1-6a, 9b
John 3:22-30

The Season of Christmas ends with the celebration of the arrival of the magi from the East.

The Greek word "magi" meant oriental scientists. Despite sometimes being translated as "astrologers", their appearance at the manger does not validate astrology. Matthew included the magi in his Gospel to show that Jesus was born to bring salvation to all, Gentiles as well as Jews. No one who humbles himself before Jesus, paying homage to his divine-human presence, is excluded from the kingdom of God. No one.

Contrary to popular legends, the magi were not kings, even though post-biblical writings often referred to

them as kings because of the royal gifts they brought. It's not their kingship that the gifts represent; it's the Messianic kingship of Jesus. The magi prophetically testified with these gifts that Jesus was a divine king who would die: Gold honored Jesus as king, incense as divine, and myrrh as a preparation for his death. Eventually, the gifts also came to symbolize our Christian response: gold represents our righteousness, incense our prayers, and myrrh our sufferings for Christ.

The word "epiphany" means a moment of discovery, a revelation that changes our lives. Did the magi recognize the baby Jesus as the world's savior? It was a common belief at the time that all kings were divine – they were gods living among us until they died. Did the magi have an epiphany about the permanent kingship of Jesus when they came into his presence?

Surely after this pilgrimage they never forgot about him and they kept their ears open for news from Jerusalem about him. Surely they learned about the King of the Jews who was crucified. At some point, they became very saintly Christians; their relics still exist and have been venerated since very early times.

Without a doubt, the magi worshiped Jesus, even if they didn't fully understand why until later.

Reflect & Discuss:

1. In what ways do you pay homage to Jesus?
2. Reflect on how this assures you of your salvation.
3. Describe an epiphany you had during a time of suffering.
4. How did it increase your righteousness? How did it affect your prayer life? These are your royal gifts for Jesus!



PREVIEW