

JANUARY 6, EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD

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(Station at St. Peter's)

Epiphany means "appearance" or "manifestation," and among the Eastern Christians had originally the same significance as Christmas in Rome. It was the festival of the eternal Word, clothed in the flesh, revealing Himself to mankind. Three different phases of this historical manifestation were especially venerated-viz., the adoration of the Magi at Bethlehem, "the changing of the water into wine at Cana, and the baptism of Jesus in the Jordan. The station at St. Peter's is inspired by the same thought as that of Christmas Day. In Rome the greater festivals are celebrated at the Pastor Ecclesire whose basilica is the sheepfold of the Roman flock.

The interior life of a Christian is the reproduction of the life of Jesus; thus the object of the Church in placing before us the annual cycle of feasts is not merely to commemorate the great historical epochs in the history of our redemption, but also to reproduce in our souls their spiritual teaching. Hence in the Night Office of this feast of the Epiphany we do not so much adore the Christ who showed Himself twenty centuries ago to the Magi, but rather the Christ who has revealed Himself to us, too, who are now living.

INTROIT Malachi 3: 1

Ecce advénit Dominátor Dóminus: et regnum in manu ejus et potéstas et impérium. (Ps. 71: 2) Deus, júdicium tuum Regi dá: et justítiam tuam Fílio Regis. Glória Patri et Fílio et Spíritui Sancto, sicut erat in princípío, et nunc, et semper, et in sǎcula sǎculórum. Amen. Ecce advénit Dominátor Dóminus: et regnum in manu ejus et potéstas et impérium.

COLLECT

Deus, qui hodiérna die Unigénitum tuum géntibus stella duce revelásti: concéde propítius; ut, qui jam te ex fide cognóvimus, usque ad contemplándam spécíem tuæ celsitúdinis perducámur. Per eúndem Dóminum nostrum Christum Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spíritus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sǎcula sǎculórum.

LESSON Isaiah 60: 1-6

Surge, illumináre, Jerúsalem: quia venit lumen tuum, et glória Dómini super te orta est. Quia ecce ténebræ opérient terram et caligo pópulos: super te autem oriétur Dóminus, et glória ejus in te vidébitur. Et ambulábunt gentes in lúmine tuo, et reges in splendóre ortus tui. Leva in circúitu óculos tuos, et vide: omnes isti congregáti sunt, venérunt tibi: filii tui de longe vénient, et filíæ tuæ de látere surgent. Tunc vidébis et áfflues, mirábitur et dilatábitur cor tuum, quando convérsa fúerit ad te multitúdo maris, fortitúdo géntium vénerit tibi. Inundátio camelórum opériet te, dromedárii Mádian et Epha: omnes de Saba vénient, aurum et thus deferéntes, et laudem Dómino annuntiántes.

GRADUAL Isaiah 60: 6, 1

Omnes de Saba vénient, aurum et thus deferéntes, et laudem Dómino annuntiántes. V. Surge, illumináre, Jerúsalem: quia glória Dómini super te orta est.

LESSER ALLELUIA Matthew 2: 2

Allelúia, allelúia. Vídimus stellam ejus in Oriénte, et vénimus cum munéribus adoráre Dóminum. Allelúia..

GOSPEL Matthew 2: 1-12

Cum natus esset Jesus in Bétlehem Juda in diébus Heródis regis, ecce Magi ab Oriénte venérunt Jerosólymam, dicéntes: Ubi est qui natus est rex Judæórum? Vídimus enim stellam ejus in Oriénte, et vénimus adoráre eum. Aúdiens autem Heródes rex, turbátus est, et omnis Jerosólyma cum illo. Et cóngruens omnes príncipes sacerdotum et scribas pópuli, sciscitabátur ab eis, ubi Christus nascerétur. At illi dixérunt ei: In Bétlehem Judæ: sic enim scriptum est per Prophétam: Et tu Bétlehem terra Juda, nequáquam mínima es in princípibus Juda: ex te enim éxiet dux, qui regat pópulum meum Israél. Tunc Heródes, clam vocátis Magis, diligénter didícit ab eis tempus stellæ, quæ apparuit eis: et mittens illos in Bétlehem, dixit: Ite, et interrogate diligénter de púero: et cum invenéritis, renuntiáte mihi, ut et ego véniens adórem eum. Qui cum audíssent regem, abiérunt. Et ecce stella, quam viderant in Oriénte, antecédébat eos, usque dum véniens staret supra, ubi erat puer. Vidéntes autem stellam, gavísi sunt gáudio magno valde. Et intrántes domum, invenérunt púerum cum María matre ejus, (hic genuflectitur) et procidéntes adoráverunt eum. Et apértis thesáuris suis obtulerunt ei mýrram, aurum, thus, et myrrham. Et respónso accépto in somnis ne redírent ad Heródem, per áliam viam revérsi sunt in regiónem suam.

OFFERTORY Psalms 71: 10, 11

Reges Tharsis et insulæ múnera offerent: reges Arabum et Saba dona addúcent: et adorábunt eum omnes reges terræ: omnes gentes sérvient ei.

SECRET

Ecclésiæ tuæ, quæsumus, Dómine, dona propítius intuére: quibus non jam aurum, thus et myrrha profértur; sed quod eisdem munéribus declarátur, immolátur et múnitur, Jesus Christus, Fílius tuus, Dóminus noster. qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spíritus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sǎcula sǎculórum.

PREFACE OF THE EPIPHANY

Verè dignum et justum est, æquum et salutáre, nos tibi semper, et ubique grátias agere: Dómine sancte, Pater omnipotens, ætérne Deus: Quia cum Unigénitus tuus in substántia nostræ mortalitátis apparuit, nova nos immortalitátis suæ luce reparávit. Et ideo cum Ángelis et Archángelis, cum Thronis et Dominatióibus, cumque omni milítia cæléstis exércitus, hymnum glóriæ tuæ cánimus sine fine dicéntes:

COMMUNION Matthew 2: 2

Vídimus stellam ejus in Oriénte, et vénimus cum munéribus adoráre Dóminum.

POSTCOMMUNION

Præsta, quæsumus, omnipotens Deus: ut quæ solémni celebrámus officio, purificátæ mentis intelligéntia consequámur. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spíritus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sǎcula sǎculórum.

Behold the Lord the Ruler is come: and the Kingdom is in His Hand, and power, and dominion. (Ps. 71: 2) Give to the king Thy judgment, O God: and to the king's Son Thy justice. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Behold the Lord the Ruler is come: and the Kingdom is in His Hand, and power, and dominion.

O God, who on this day, didst manifest Thine only-begotten Son to the Gentiles by the guidance of a star: graciously grant, that we, who know Thee now by faith, may be led on even to contemplate the beauty of Thy Majesty. Through the same Jesus Christ, Thy Son, our Lord, Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.

Arise, be enlightened, O Jerusalem: for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee. For behold darkness shall cover the earth, and a mist the people: but the Lord shall arise upon thee, and His glory shall be seen upon thee. And the Gentiles shall walk in thy light, and kings in the brightness of thy rising. Lift up thy eyes round about and see: all these are gathered together: they are come to thee: thy sons shall come from afar, and thy daughters shall rise up at thy side. Then shalt thou see and abound, and thy heart shall wonder and be enlarged, when the multitude of the sea shall be converted to thee, the strength of the Gentiles shall come to thee. The multitude of camels shall cover thee, the dromedaries of Madian and Epha: all they from Saba shall come, bringing gold and frankincense and showing forth their praise to the Lord.

All they from Saba shall come, bringing gold and frankincense and showing forth praise to the Lord. V. Arise and be enlightened, O Jerusalem: for the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee.

Alleluia, alleluia. We have seen His star in the East, and are come with gifts to adore the Lord. Alleluia

When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Juda in the days of king Herod, behold there came wise men from the East to Jerusalem, saying: Where is He that is born king of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East, and are come to adore Him. And king Herod hearing this was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. And assembling together all the chief priests and the scribes of the people, he inquired of them where Christ should be born. But they said to him: In Bethlehem of Juda. For so it is written by the Prophet. And thou Bethlehem, the land of Juda, are not the least among the princes of Juda: for out of thee shall come forth the Captain that shall rule My people Israel. Then Herod, privately calling the wise men, learned diligently of them the time of the star which appeared to them: and sending them into Bethlehem, said: Go and diligently inquire after the Child, and when you have found Him, bring me word again, that I also may come and adore Him. Who having heard the king went their way. And behold the star, which they had seen in the East, went before them until it came and stood over where the Child was. And seeing the star they rejoiced with exceeding great joy. And entering into the house, they found the Child with Mary His Mother, (Here genuflect) and falling down they adored Him. And opening their treasures, they offered Him gifts, gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having received an answer in sleep that they should not return to Herod, they went back another way into their country.

The kings of Tharsis and the islands shall offer presents: the kings of the Arabians and of Saba shall bring gifts: and all kings of the earth shall adore Him: all nations shall serve Him.

Look graciously, we beseech Thee, O Lord, upon the offering of Thy Church, in which gold, frankincense, and myrrh are no longer offered: but He, who by these same gifts was signified, is sacrificed and received, even Jesus Christ, Thy Son, our Lord, Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.

It is truly meet and just, right and for our salvation, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto Thee, O holy Lord, Father almighty, everlasting God; for when Thine only-begotten Son was manifested in the substance of our manifested, with the new light of His own Immortality He restored us. And therefore with Angels and Archangels, with Throne and Dominations, and with all the hosts of the heavenly army, we sing the hymn of Thy glory, evermore saying:

We have seen His star in the East, and are come with gifts to adore the Lord.

Grant, we beseech Thee, almighty God, that we may attain by the understanding of a purified mind unto that which we celebrate with solemn office. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.