

The Epiphany of the Lord

Isaiah 60:1-6
Ps 72:1-2,7-8,10-13
Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6
Matthew 2:1-12

Monday January 3

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

Tuesday January 4 St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

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

Wednesday January 5 St. John Neumann

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

Thursday January 6

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

Friday January 7

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

Saturday January 8

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 account 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-and-human presence, is excluded from the kingdom of God. Christ is the way, the truth and the life. No one can have eternal life without him, but all are welcome.

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 honored his divinity, and myrrh, which was used in preparing the dead for burial, honored 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 that changes our lives. Did the magi recognize baby Jesus as the world's savior? It was a common belief at the time that all kings were gods living among us until they died. Did the magi have an epiphany about the permanent kingship of Jesus?

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. We know this, because 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!