

JANUARY 6, 2023
EPIPHANY OF
OUR LORD



Jesus brings people of different backgrounds together.

EPIPHANY BIBLE READINGS

Take time to read and reflect on these Bible passages as part of your Epiphany celebration.

Friday	Matthew 2:1-12	The magi worship Jesus
	Isaiah 60:1-6	The glory of God shines on the people
	Ephesians 3:1-12	Paul's ministry to the Gentiles
	Psalms 72:1-7, 10-14	Prayer for guidance

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR EPIPHANY

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: that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.
Ephesians 3:5-6 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for Epiphany:

Dear God, through wise men from the East, you reveal your plan to bring all the nations of the world together in Christ. Guide your church to live and teach that message today. Amen.

Mealtimes Prayer:

God of the nations, we thank you for this food and ask that all people be given enough to eat so that together our lives may flourish through your grace. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the promise of Christ Jesus bless you to live in peace with all people.



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HYMN FOR EPIPHANY

This is My Song



EPIPHANY MILESTONES

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS



Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- To what teams, schools, or groups do you claim to have a loyalty?
- How can loyalty to only a certain group of people be hurtful to others?

DEVOTIONS



Read: Ephesians 3:1-12.

Epiphany points to Jesus and God's plan for all the world. That plan is like a mystery that is now revealed through the work of Christ for the world. The mystery is the power of God's grace (undeserved kindness) to bring together diverse people, people as far apart as Jews and Gentiles (non-Jews). Paul wrote to the church of this mystery because the people were still divided and opposing one another on the basis of being Jewish or Gentile. The work of the church is to reveal God's plan in Christ, the plan to unite all people under one rule, the merciful rule of God in Christ. In Ephesians we learn that in Christ we are all now "*fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel*" (v. 6). Epiphany, therefore, has become a message of repentance for the church. It represents a call to return to the mystery of Christ and refrain from divided loyalties by nation, by race, and by various Christian creeds and practices.

Discuss: How can the church today show acceptance of all people, regardless of nation, ethnicity, gender or race?

Pray: **Gracious God, in Christ you have made us one. Give us the will and the power to overcome divisions so that we may point to the mystery of Christ's love for us all. Amen.**

SERVICE



Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings for this day, how might you help others experience a sense of belonging?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



Epiphany is celebrated 12 days after Christmas. Countries around the world have different traditions on this day. From cakes to carols to candles to gifts, it is a time remembered when the wise men visited Jesus. A star led them to Jesus. Tell the story of the wise men's visit in your own words. Then draw or cut out the shape of a star. Write the name of a person in the star who has led you to Jesus. Display it in a visible place in your home as a reminder.

Pray: **Dear God, the wise men were led to Jesus. You have placed someone wise in my life. Thank you for [name in star]. I pray that I, too, may point the way for someone in my life to be led to you. Amen.**



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