

JANUARY 5, 2020
EPIPHANY OF
OUR LORD



God's light shines through Jesus.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	Matthew 2:1-12	The wise men worship Jesus
Monday	Isaiah 60:1-6	God's glory shines on the people
Tuesday	Ephesians 3:1-12	The mystery of Christ
Wednesday	1 Peter 5:1-11	Tending the flock of God
Thursday	Genesis 50:14-21	Joseph's promise
Friday	2 Corinthians 12:1-10	Visions from the Lord
Saturday	Psalms 72:1-7, 10-14	Sing and praise the Lord
Sunday	Mark 1:4-11	The baptism of Jesus

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you..

Isaiah 60:1 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Dear God, in Jesus you show your glory to the nations. Come, Holy Spirit, bless all the nations of the world with peace, joy, and love. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Lord God, as the star shone over Bethlehem to reveal the presence of your Son, may this meal remind us that this food is a gift of your love. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the light of Christ bring you peace and joy.



JANUARY 5, 2010

HYMN OF THE WEEK

Arise, Your Light Has Come

WEEKLY 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:

- Why do some people fear other people they don't know?
- How does the light of Christ help us to conquer our fears?
- A star led the wise men to Jesus. What leads you to Jesus?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Matt 2:1-12.

People of another religion and another part of the ancient world used astrology to guide them to Jesus, and it worked. God wants the world to be blessed by the light of Christ that shines from Bethlehem to Jerusalem and on to the ends of the earth. It is God's powerful light that has entered the darkness of fear. Not only is King Herod frightened by the message that a king has been born to the Jews, so are all the people of Jerusalem (v. 3). That is, even the people faithful to God's reign are fearful. A new day that brings astonishing news is feared by all. We easily fear change, even if it has come to benefit us. The moment something new happens to us, we lose a sense of control. It is no longer about us. In this instance, the change is about God's rule, God's ways, and God's love that shines brightly into a darkened world. Thanks be to God for the light that breaks into the dark corners of our world and of our lives. It is the only light and only hope that really matters. Is change easy or difficult for you? How do you ask God for help?

Pray: Dear Jesus, bless us to see in you the one who takes our fears and worries and turns them into joy and gladness. Amen.

SERVICE

Epiphany, also known as Three Kings Day, is a time when an age-old Christian tradition of blessing homes takes place around the world. It is a custom to inscribe 20+C+M+B+20 with chalk on the door. C, M, and B between the year 2020 are the initials of the Magi but also stand for a Latin phrase meaning bless this house. The + symbolizes the cross. Our homes are places where daily spiritual practices take place (i.e., reading scripture, praying, or blessing others). Visit a person today who is homebound and pray with them. Conclude with the Lord's Prayer?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

The wise men followed a star to find Jesus. We still need something to guide us to Jesus. Take a moment to stand with your legs spread slightly and your arms stretched out. Just as a star has five points, imagine your head, hands, and feet being the points of a star. When you think about the awesome role you have as a star, leading others to Jesus, imagine how you can do that. Talk about, draw a picture, or make a list of ways you can lead others to Jesus through your actions and words.

In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: www.milestonesministry.org