



**DAILY BREAD
LECTIONARY DEVOTIONS
EPIPHANY—YEAR A**

INVOCATION

L: In the name of the Father
and of the Son +
and of the Holy Spirit.

G: Amen

PSALM OF THE DAY: PSALM 72

**A: Let the people praise you, O God.
Let all the people praise you.**

L: Endow the King with your justice, O God,

G: the royal Son with your righteousness.

L: He will defend the afflicted among the people

G: and save the children of the needy.

L: He will endure as long as the sun,

**G: as long as the moon, through all
generations.**

L: He will be like rain falling on a mown field,

G: like showers watering the earth.

L: All kings will bow down to him,

G: and all nations will serve him.

L: All nations will be blessed through him,

G: and they will call him blessed.

L: Praise be to the LORD God, who alone does
marvelous deeds.

**G: May the whole earth be filled with his
glory.**

**A: Let the people praise you, O God.
Let all the people praise you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: Lord God, by the leading of a star you once made known to the nations your one and only Son. Guide us, also, who know him now by faith, to come at last to the perfect joy of your heavenly glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

READING & MEDITATION *see next page*

PRAYER

LORD'S PRAYER

**A: Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom
and the power and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.**

VERSE OF THE DAY

**A: We saw his star in the east and have come
to worship him. (Matthew 2:2b)**

BENEDICTION

L: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ
and the love of God
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with you all.

A: Amen

READING AND MEDITATION:

The Epiphany of Our Lord: Jesus appears as Savior of the Nations. The Church remembers January 6th as the Twelfth Day which closes the Christmas season. The Festival of the Epiphany of our Lord is the second oldest festival celebrated by the Church, dating to the second century. The Eastern Church commemorates the birth of Christ on this day, but the Western Church remembers it as the “Gentile Christmas” and celebrates Jesus who appeared (ἐπεφάνη) as the Word for the world.

As you study this week, seek to find the connecting theme in all the lessons by using Luther’s Four Big Barber Questions to ponder and discuss each individual reading:

1. *What is God saying to me in this lesson?*
2. *For what does this lesson lead me to give thanks?*
3. *What sins does this lesson lead me to confess?*
4. *For what does this lesson lead me to pray?*

THE GOSPEL: MATTHEW 2:1-12

When the Son of God entered our race, the world barely seemed to notice. Though the Messiah lived within their midst, the powerful men at the temple and palace of Jerusalem took no notice. God, however, set out to display the glory of his Son born in the flesh. He placed his sign in the heavens, and Gentile magi came to acknowledge the birth of Israel’s king and thus fulfill the prophecy of Isaiah. Where had the magi heard the promises? What did they know? Were they recipients of the remnants of Daniel’s testimony? We don’t know what God had revealed to them. The priests and teachers, however, had the prophets, and they had the promises—they were so close. They knew this King of the Jews would be the Christ, born of David’s line in Bethlehem. Yet, they did nothing with what they knew. The magi, though, saw the star and believed. They came, and they worshipped. In that, they were a picture of all the Gentiles who would come to faith in Christ: Gentiles who were not of the patriarchs, the promised land, or the prophets—but Gentiles called by the Gospel, converted by the Spirit and worshipping the true King of the Jews and Savior of the Nations.

My takeaways:

FIRST LESSON: ISAIAH 60:1-6

Isaiah speaks God’s promises of the future glory of Israel—glory not realized until the Son of Man came as the Savior of the nations. The union of Christ and the true Israel, the Church, brings undreamed of glory for us. The light of God’s love has appeared among us, and therefore God tells us to rise and shine the light of God’s glory into all the darkness around us. The Church is a beacon of God’s glory that pierces the darkness of the world. In the glow of this light, Isaiah points Israel to what God is accomplishing through them: Gentiles are streaming to them and kings are coming to their brightness. Not all Gentiles will come (note the absence of the article with ἔθνη). Some, like Herod, scurry and hide from the light. Others, like the Magi, come to the brightness of Israel’s dawn, bringing with them new sons and daughters for Israel. As the Church shines her light into the world, Israel can see the promise to Abraham fulfilled: all nations are blessed.

My takeaways:

SECOND LESSON: EPHESIANS 3:2-12

The people of Israel knew that the Gentiles had a place in the Old Covenant. The Law had made provisions for them. The prophets had made promises about them. The mystery, however, lay in exactly what kind of place they would have in the New Covenant. The Jews did not understand that God intended the Gentiles to have an *equal* place. The coming of the magi marked the beginning of wave after wave of Gentiles who would come to faith in Christ. God wanted them to be equal partners with the sons of the covenant. Paul shares the mystery that the Gentiles would be συγκληρονόμα και σύσσωμα και συμμετοχα which the NIV renders well with its triple “together.” God intends that his joint Church of Jew and Gentile reveal his manifold wisdom and glory—to kings (First Lesson), to the learned (Gospel), and even to the rulers and authorities in heaven (v 10)!

My takeaways:

What major theme(s) connect(s) all the lessons?