



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

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: The Eastern Church celebrates January 6th as the Nativity of our Lord. For the West, the Epiphany of Our Lord is the continued celebration of the birth of the Savior of Nations. So bright is the dawning of the Son, so great is the fullness of his glory, that his light not only fills the dark streets of Bethlehem, but the ends of the earth. Jew and Gentile alike gather to worship him who is born ruler of Judah and Shepherd of all Israel.

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

So long on the outside, looking in, the nations of the earth had viewed the glory of the Lord with a sense of mystery and awe while all but a faithful few in the chosen nation of Israel forsook and dishonored the God of the covenant. Yet, in the Lord's faithfulness, the promise is fulfilled as the Savior is born. The heralding star beckons the Magi to come and worship the King. Others wish to come for the purposes of evil. But the power of the Most High protects the Hope of Nations in his mother's arms. We offer our best in response to the greatest treasure – salvation in Christ.

My takeaways:

FIRST LESSON: ISAIAH 60:1-6

The oppressive darkness of sin is shattered as the אור ה' יאיר dawn on the peoples of the earth. But this light reaches beyond the covenant people of Israel. This light reaches to the ends of the earth, inviting all to step into the radiance of its light.

My takeaways:

SECOND LESSON: EPHESIANS 3:2-12

Paul knew what it meant to be suddenly bathed in light for the ultimate good of his soul. Now he rejoices in the revelation of the Christ not only to the House of Israel but to the Gentiles – fellow heirs in the promise of Christ Jesus.

My takeaways:

SUPPLEMENTAL FIRST LESSON: 1 KINGS 10:1-9

The Queen of Sheba arrives with opulence in her train, but a seeking in her heart. In the court of Solomon she sees the faithfulness of the God of Israel. Her joy is evident as she offers praise to the eternal Lord. She typifies all the Gentiles nations who would hear of the mystery of Christ and come to the brightness of his dawn.

My takeaways:

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