



*THE GOSPEL. Matthew 2:1-12*

*And behold, the star that they had seen at its rising preceded them,  
until it came and stopped over the place where the child was*

Look!  
Look up!  
O Jerusalem,  
here comes the world  
running to walk in your light.

We are the sparkling and the dim,  
the black, brown and white,  
the kings and beggars,  
the undocumented  
and the border  
agents.

Lord,  
shine your light on us all.  
May your star chase away every darkness  
and fill us with your radiant light.  
Make us your epiphanies  
overflowing with love  
and wonderful  
care for  
each  
other.

*THE FIRST READING Isaiah 60:1-6*

***Rise up in splendour, Jerusalem! Your light has come,  
the glory of the lord shines upon you.***

Morning has opened. It's gentle light spills over.  
Caravans come, nations stretch to see.  
Hearts open their sleepy eyes  
to the radiance that you  
have poured  
out on  
us.

Help us rise up.

***THE SECOND READING. Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6***

***The Gentiles are coheirs, members of the same body,  
and co-partners in the promise in Christ Jesus.***

Old  
promises  
now answered  
in the newborn babe.

The Christ now within all of us,  
our lives forever joined  
and altered.

Make us  
shining stars  
to lead all people,  
all creation,  
to you.

*Anne Osdieck*

## The Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord

*"In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it has been written through the prophet: And you, Bethlehem, land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah, since from you shall come a ruler, who is to shepherd Israel. [Mt. 2: 5-6]"*

*Lord Jesus, help us to be shepherds to each other and lead us to care for our Common Home.*

In talking with his disciples, Jesus would invite them to recognize the paternal relationship God has with all his creatures. With moving tenderness he would remind them that each one of them is important in God's eyes: "Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies? And not one of them is forgotten before God" (Lk 12:6). "Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them" (Mt 6:26) [LS 96]



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## REFLECTION ON THE GOSPEL - Homily of Pope Francis

**Epiphany:** this word indicates the *manifestation* of the Lord, who, as Saint Paul tells us in the second reading (cf. Eph 3:6), makes himself known to all the nations, today represented by the Magi. In this way, we see revealed the glory of a God who has come for everyone: every nation, language and people is welcomed and loved by him. It is symbolized by the light, which penetrates and illumines all things.

Yet if our God makes himself known for everyone, it is even more surprising *how* he does so. The Gospel speaks of a hum of activity around the palace of King Herod once Jesus appears as a king. The Magi ask: "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews?" (Mt 2:2). They will find him, but not where they thought: not in the royal palace of Jerusalem, but in a humble abode in Bethlehem. We saw this same paradox at Christmas. The Gospel spoke of the census of the entire world taken in the days of the Emperor Augustus, when Quirinius was governor (cf. Lk 2:2). But none of the great men of that time realized that the King of history was being born in their own time.

Again, when Jesus, some thirty years of age, made himself known publicly, preceded by John the Baptist, the Gospel once more solemnly

situates the event, listing all the “magnates” of the time, the great secular and spiritual powers: Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate, Herod, Philip, the high priests Annas and Caiaphas. And it concludes by saying that, at that time, “the word of God came to John, the son of Zechariah, in the wilderness” (*Lk* 3:2). To none of the magnates, but to a man who had withdrawn to the desert. Here is the surprise: God does not need the spotlights of the world to make himself known.