

### First Reading

Isaiah 60 v 1-6

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

<sup>2</sup> For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples;

but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you.

<sup>3</sup> Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

<sup>4</sup> Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms.

<sup>5</sup> Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you.

<sup>6</sup> A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.

*This is the word of the Lord*

### Second Reading

Ephesians 3 v 1-12

#### *Paul's Ministry to the Gentiles*

<sup>3</sup>This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles—<sup>2</sup>for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given to me for you,<sup>3</sup>and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words,<sup>4</sup>a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ.

<sup>5</sup>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:<sup>6</sup>that is, the Gentiles have become fellow-heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

<sup>7</sup> Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given to me by the working of his power.

<sup>8</sup>Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ,<sup>9</sup>and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things;<sup>10</sup>so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places.

<sup>11</sup>This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord,<sup>12</sup>in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

*This is the word of the Lord*

### Gospel

Matthew 2 v 1-12

#### *The Visit of the Wise Men*

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem,<sup>2</sup>asking, 'Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.'

<sup>3</sup>When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him;<sup>4</sup>and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born.

<sup>5</sup>They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:<sup>6</sup> "And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel."'

<sup>7</sup>Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared.<sup>8</sup>Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, 'Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.'

<sup>9</sup>When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was.<sup>10</sup>When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy.<sup>11</sup>On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage.

Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.<sup>12</sup>And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.