

Scriptures: January 2, 2022

First Reading: Isaiah 60:1-6 (NRSV)

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

60:2 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.

60:3 Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your
dawn.

60:4 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.

60:5 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.

60:6 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.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 2:1-12 (NRSV)

2:1 In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea,
wise men from the East came to Jerusalem,

2:2 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."

2:3 When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with
him;

2:4 and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he
inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born.

2:5 They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the
prophet:

2:6 '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.'"

2:7 Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the
exact time when the star had appeared.

2:8 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."

2:9 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.

2:10 When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy.

2:11 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.

2:12 And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.