



## COLLECT

O God, who on this day revealed your Only Begotten Son to the nations by the guidance of a star, grant in your mercy that we, who know you already by faith, may be brought to behold the beauty of your sublime glory. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

Amen



## READING 1 – Isaiah 60:1-6

### *A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah*

<sup>1</sup> “Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD rises upon you. <sup>2</sup> See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples, but the Lord rises upon you and his glory appears over you.

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

<sup>4</sup> “Lift up your eyes and look about you: All assemble and come to you; your sons come from afar, and your daughters are carried on the hip.

<sup>5</sup> Then you will look and be radiant, your heart will throb and swell with joy; the wealth on the seas will be brought to you, to you the riches of the nations will come. <sup>6</sup> Herds of camels will cover your land, young camels of Midian and Ephah. And all from Sheba will come, bearing gold and incense and proclaiming the praise of the LORD.



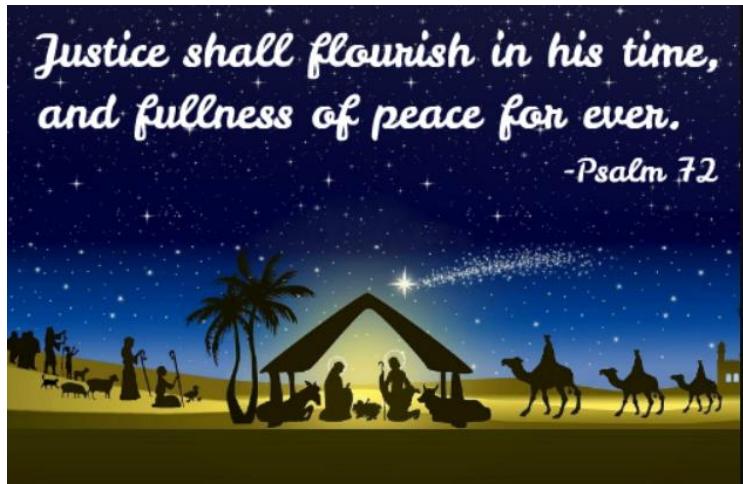
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### RESPONSORIAL PSALM – Psalm 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13

**R. Lord, every nation on earth will  
adore you.**

O God, with your judgment endow the king,  
and with your justice, the king's son;  
he shall govern your people with justice  
and your afflicted ones with judgment.

**/R/ Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.**



Justice shall flower in his days,  
and profound peace, till the moon be no more.  
May he rule from sea to sea,  
and from the River to the ends of the earth.  
**/R/ Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.**

The kings of Tarshish and the Isles shall offer gifts;  
the kings of Arabia and Seba shall bring tribute.  
All kings shall pay him homage,  
all nations shall serve him.  
**/R/ Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.**

For he shall rescue the poor when he cries out;  
and the afflicted when he has no one to help him.  
He shall have pity for the lowly and the poor;  
the lives of the poor he shall save.  
**/R/ Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.**

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**Reading 2 –**  
**Ephesians 3:2-6**

*A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul  
to the Ephesians*

Brothers and sisters:

<sup>2</sup> Surely you have heard about the administration of God's grace that was given to me for you, <sup>3</sup> that is, the mystery made known to me by revelation, as I have already written briefly.

<sup>4</sup> In reading this, then, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, <sup>5</sup> which was not made known to people in other generations as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to God's holy apostles and prophets. <sup>6</sup> This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus.

if indeed you have heard of the stewardship of  
God's grace which  
**EPHESIANS**  
was given to me  
for you



**3:2**

## **ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA.**

**We observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay homage to the Lord.**



## **ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA.**

(Matthew 2:2)

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**GOSPEL –  
Matthew 2:1-12**

*A reading from the holy  
Gospel according to Matthew*

<sup>1</sup> After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem <sup>2</sup> and asked, “Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.”



<sup>3</sup> When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. <sup>4</sup> When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. <sup>5</sup> “In Bethlehem in Judea,” they replied, “for this is what the prophet has written:

<sup>6</sup> “But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,  
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;  
for out of you will come a ruler  
who will shepherd my people Israel.”

<sup>7</sup> Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup> He sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him.”

<sup>9</sup> After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup> When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. <sup>11</sup> On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. <sup>12</sup> And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

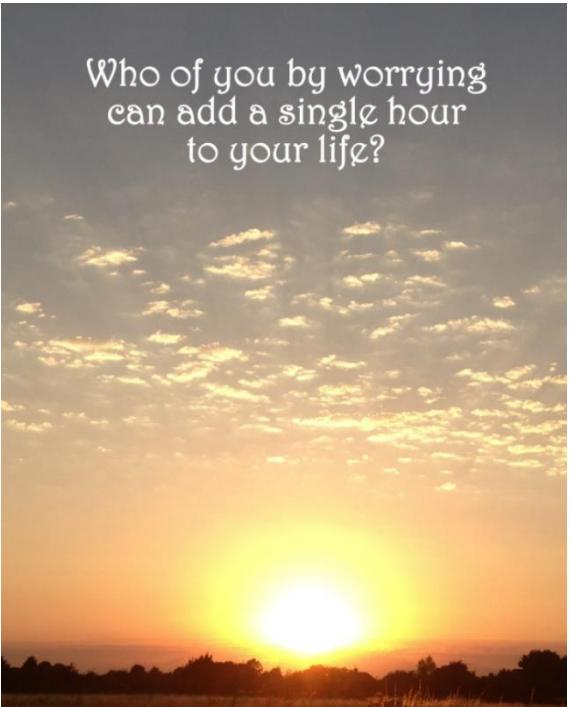
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#### A PRAYER CONCERNING WORRIES (Luke 12:25)

<sup>25</sup> *“Can all your worries add a single moment to your life?”*

Dear God,  
I find that I am constantly worrying about the future. Sometimes, I may be fearful about my appearance, how others see me, or how to earn enough money to pay my bills. I know that these thoughts hurt me because when I am controlled by fear, it creates profoundly negative effects in my life, including increased irritability, the inability to make prudent decisions, errors in judgment, and low productivity – among others! This certainly is not the way that you intended for me to live. Teach me that the only One who can protect me from worry and fill my mind with peace is you, God, who provides for all of my needs. Help me understand that the only way I can discover who you are, and grow closer to you, is through an intimate, daily relationship with Jesus Christ – who shared in my humanity and who understands my fears. Help me draw closer to you each day and direct my thoughts to focus only on you – rather than my circumstances – and you will enable me to face whatever is happening in my life and come out victorious. Give me the assurance that while I may go through difficulties, hardships, or trials, as long as I am anchored to you, I will always have hope.

Amen



Who of you by worrying  
can add a single hour  
to your life?

## A PRAYER CONCERNING PRAYING TO GOD (Philippians 4:6-7)

*<sup>6</sup> Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. <sup>7</sup> And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*



Dear God,

When I pray to you, it is our time to talk together. I have come to love these times because you have taught me that there is so much more to prayer than just getting the answer to a question or a solution to a problem. My heart is often more changed through the act of praying than the answer I receive. Thank you that I can always be perfectly honest, and I often pour out my heart to you, confess my sins, express my pain and frustrations, make requests, and share what is happening in my life. Just telling you how I feel often makes me feel closer to you. Sometimes, by your goodness, you lead me to praise you for the many blessings you have bestowed in my life or by teaching me about yourself. But, perhaps more importantly, you have also shown me that a good conversation also includes listening. When I stop and listen, you have the opportunity to share your wisdom with me, and I often gain a greater understanding of myself, my situation, my motivation, your nature, and your direction for my life. Before I end this prayer, I will take a few moments to listen respectfully for your voice. Whether or not you speak to me now, I will be thankful in the knowledge that you are here with me to share this special moment.

Amen

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## A PRAYER CONCERNING RENEWAL (Psalm 51:10)

*<sup>10</sup> Create in me a pure heart, O God,  
and renew a steadfast spirit within me.*



Dear God,

How often I am disappointed with myself. I have such high hopes and good intentions, but inevitably, I find myself weary and burned-out with self-defeat, the burdens of everyday living, or the consequences of bad choices and sinful actions. The challenges of life can leave me feeling exhausted – not only physically, but in my very soul. Sometimes, I wish that I could simply start over! But then I realize that this is where renewal truly begins! Your compassion and my ready heart need to meet to bring about change. When the two are put together, I find a new beginning where my soul is refreshed and my outlook on life is revived. You make it clear that you will restore any heart that seeks a new start. I sincerely desire to turn to you, and turn away from those things in my life that have been bringing me down. I ask that you forgive my sin, and I thank you that I am never beyond the reach of your forgiveness as long as I desire it. My heart is truly ready for change. Please renew my life with the change that only your Spirit can bring.

Amen