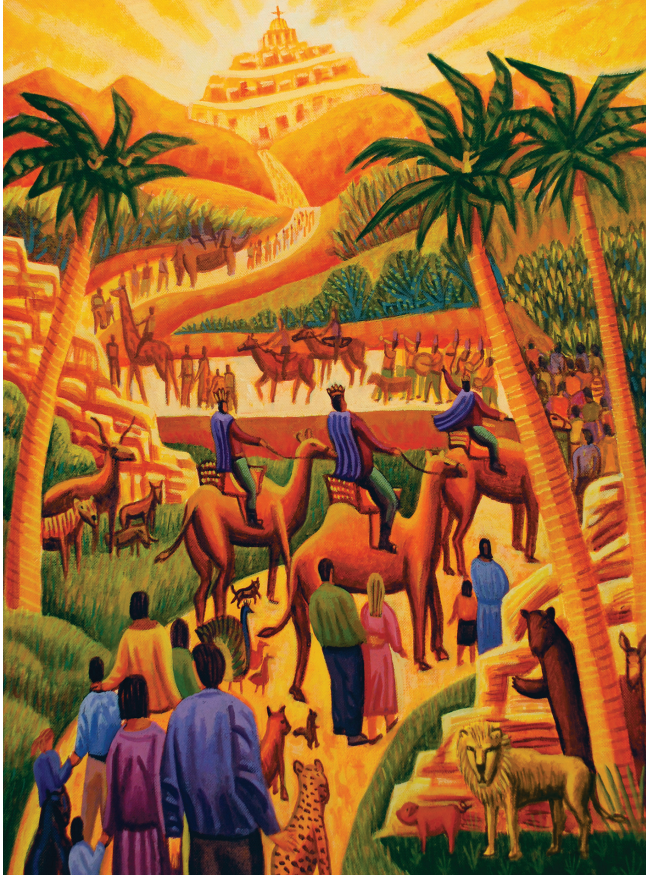


# THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD



## Star-Crossed

God our Creator  
you guided the Magi to the infant  
through the brightness of a star.  
Gold, frankincense, and myrrh,  
the Magi presented.  
May the light of Scripture  
guide our journey  
as we offer to you  
our worship and discipleship.  
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Sunday, January 4 , 2026**  
**Illumination and Glory**



*Today's readings: Isaiah 60:1–6; Psalm 72:1–2, 7–8, 10–13; Ephesians 3:2–3a, 5–6; Matthew 2:1–12.* The radiance of God's glory is clear as we celebrate Isaiah's prophecy fulfilled in the visit of the Magi. In the first reading, Isaiah addresses Jerusalem, saying, "Your light has come." Continuing, Isaiah tells of people from afar bringing gifts: "All from Sheba shall come bearing gold and frankincense, and proclaiming the praise of the LORD."

The Magi proclaim the Lord's birth, when they arrive in Jerusalem, inquiring, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews?" Alarmed at this query, the jealous King Herod begins a search for the one he considers a rival to his power. But this newborn is not destined to compete with the king.

Isaiah had foretold that the newborn would "shepherd my people Israel." This is not the language of an earthly ruler. Jesus continues to be manifest in us in the readings and the Eucharist. On this Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord, we thank God for the gift of the Eucharist, a gift that we can continue to receive throughout our lives.

Matthew's Gospel is a particular type of Jewish story that intends to make a theological point and is heavily influenced by biblical tradition and diverse sources. These visitors to the holy family were clearly good-hearted, kindly, and motivated by faith in prophecy and astrology. Honor their generosity by extending good will and kindness to family, friends, and coworkers.