
INTROIT: Plainsong, Mode II; MAL 3:1; 1 1 CHRON 29:12

Ecce advenit dominator Dominus: et regnum in manu eius, et potestas, et imperium. (PS. 72:2) Deus, iudicium tuum regi da: et iustitiam tuam Filio regis Gloria Patri... Behold the Lord the Ruler is come: and the Kingdom is in his Hand, and power, and dominion. (PS 72:2) Give to the king your judgment, O God: and to the king’s Son your justice. Glory be to the Father...

FIRST READING: IS 60:1-6

Rise up in splendor, Jerusalem! Your light has come, the glory of the Lord shines upon you. See, darkness covers the earth, and thick clouds cover the peoples; but upon you the LORD shines, and over you appears his glory. Nations shall walk by your light, and kings by your shining radiance. Raise your eyes and look about; they all gather and come to you: your sons come from afar, and your daughters in the arms of their nurses. Then you shall be radiant at what you see, your heart shall throb and overflow, for the riches of the sea shall be emptied out before you, the wealth of nations shall be brought to you. Caravans of camels shall fill you, dromedaries from Midian and Ephah; all from Sheba shall come bearing gold and frankincense, and proclaiming the praises of the LORD.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: PS 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13

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. 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.
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.
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.

SECOND READING: EPH 3:2-3A, 5-6

Brothers and sisters: You have heard of the stewardship of God’s grace that was given to me for your benefit, namely, that the mystery was made known to me by revelation. It was not made known to people in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: that the Gentiles are coheirs, members of the same body, and copartners in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

GOSPEL: Mt 2:1-12

When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of King Herod, behold, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was greatly troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. Assembling all the chief priests and the scribes of the people, He inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They said to him, "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 my people Israel." Then Herod called the magi secretly and ascertained from them the time of the star's appearance. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search diligently for the child. When you have found him, bring me word, that I too may go and do him homage." After their audience with the king they set out. 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. They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed for their country by another way.
OFFERTORY ANTIPHON: Plainsong, Mode V; Ps. 72: 10, 11

Reges Tharsis et insulae munera offerent: reges Arabum et Saba dona adducunt: et adorabunt eum omnes reges terrae, omnes gentes servient ei.

The kings of Tarshish and the islands shall offer presents; the kings of the Arabians and of Sheba shall bring gifts; all the kings of the earth shall adore him, all nations shall serve him.


1. Let resound today the voices of children, joyfully praising him who is born to us, given by most high God, and conceived in a virginal womb. 2. He was born into the world, wrapped in swaddling clothes, and laid in a manger in a stable for animals, the master of the heavens. The prince of Hell has lost his spoils. 3. Three Magi came, they were bearing gifts, and sought the little one, following a star, to worship him, and offer him gold, frankincense, and myrrh. 4. Let all the junior clerics and also the boys sing like angels: "You have come to the world, I pour out praises to you. Therefore, glory to God in the highest!"

COMMUNION CHANT: Plainsong, Mode IV; Mt 2:2 (with verses from Ps 72)

Vidimus stellam eius in Oriente et venimus cum muneribus adorare Dominum. We have seen his star in the East, and are come with gifts to adore the Lord.

COMMUNION MOTET (11): Omnes de Saba Venient—Joseph Eybler (1765-1846)

All they from Saba shall come, bringing gold and frankincense: and giving forth praise to the Lord. Arise, be enlightened, O Jerusalem: for your light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon you. We have seen his star in the east, and have come with gifts to adore the Lord. Alleluia.

POSTLUDE: Fugue in C, BWV 547—JS Bach (1685-1750)


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