

REFLECTION FOR THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD

We are celebrating the Solemnity of the Epiphany of Our Lord. The word epiphany means “*manifestation*.” In fact, this day's liturgy celebrates the manifestation of Jesus to all people. The Child of the manger is a “light” that *lights up the night of the world* and draws all the peoples of the earth to him. This “light” is incarnate in our history and in our world, illuminating people's paths and leading them towards salvation and definitive life. The readings present us with exactly this doctrine:

The first reading announces to Jerusalem, which represented the entire People of Israel, the arrival of God's saving light. This light will transfigure the face of the city and illuminate the world. It will be a light for all the peoples of the earth.

In the second reading, St. Paul, in the Letter to the Ephesians, tells us that God's saving plan, the mystery of Christ, has been revealed to him: “*This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.*” In other words, Jesus came to bring his light, his salvation, to all peoples. In him, the prophecies of the first reading are fulfilled: in Christ, the light of God has come to enlighten all nations. Jesus was born to save everyone, regardless of who they are. In Christ, we are all called to be one body, one family, one people who are all brothers and sisters. Therefore, the light of the Lord will shine in our world.

In the Gospel, we also find this doctrine presented through the story of the Magi, who came from the East to worship the Child born in Bethlehem as the Savior of all peoples. The “magi from the east” represent all the peoples of the earth who are looking for the Savior. This search must be made in the ways of simplicity, poverty, and humility. In the palaces of the Herod's of our world, in the paths of wealth and violence, God cannot be found, and the star of Bethlehem does not shine. It is only by stripping ourselves of our riches, our pride, our ambitions for power and glory that we allow the light of Jesus to shine in us. Our Savior will always be poor, small, and humble, and that is why he will say that the Kingdom of God belongs to the little ones.

On this Solemnity of the Epiphany, let us allow ourselves to be flooded by the light of Christ, by his love, asking him to give us a poor, meek and humble heart like his, and for all the peoples of the earth to be guided by his light, renouncing the ways of violence and hatred, of ambition and power, of domination and exploitation of our brothers and sisters. May Christ be our light!

Amen.