

JANUARY 3, 2016



SOLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD



ISAIAH 60:1-6

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

EPHESIANS 3:2-3A, 5-6

MATTHEW 2:1-12

REFLECTION

Once again, the theme of light appears in the readings for today. The First Reading from Isaiah speaks of the light of the Lord shining upon Jerusalem, dispelling the clouds of darkness. Those who walk in the Light of the Lord are radiant. The Lord shines upon them and through the light of the Lord they find treasures. The Second Reading talks about that which was hidden is now revealed, and we are copartners in the promise in Christ Jesus. The Gospel connects it all together. Jesus is the fulfillment of what is written in the Old Testament. The magi from the east follow the light of a star to find Jesus. They saw the light and were overjoyed. Recognizing the light within Jesus, they give him gifts of gold and frankincense, two of the same precious gifts mentioned in Isaiah. The magi listen to the warning from their dream and they leave for their country going a different way. This prevents Herod from trying to put out the light of Jesus. Jesus is the light of the Lord. As copartners with Jesus we can open ourselves to the light of the Lord. Once we do we can then shine that light for all to see. We are changed for the better when we truly let the light in. The light of Jesus affected all those he encountered. If we embody the light of Jesus, we too can bring light to those around us as we open ourselves to God's gifts.



SESAME STREET

BERT AND ERNIE'S "GIFT OF THE MAGI"

[www.youtube.com/
watch?v=o2VFgHGKzx4](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o2VFgHGKzx4)

ACTION

Be the light of Jesus to someone today. There is a song from my childhood that fits with today's readings: "This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine . . ." Shine with the light of Jesus. It's a choice we can make daily. Find some way to bring the gift of joy, forgiveness, hope, or peace to someone.

Watch or read a short version of O. Henry's "The Gift of the Magi." One fun version is from *Sesame Street* with Bert and Ernie. Then find the connection from the story to today's Gospel reading.



JOURNALING QUESTIONS



- What is one way this week that you can shine the light of Jesus into the world?
- Who has been the light of Jesus to you this week?
- How is shining our light contagious?