

Sunday, January 4, 2026
Epiphany of God

WELCOME: (COMMENTATOR)

Good morning!

On behalf of the Charis Community, I welcome you to our Sunday Mass. All are truly welcome, and we are excited that you are joining us whether it's your first time praying with us or if you've been with us for a while. The worship aid for Mass is on our website, and we will put the address in the chat for you should you like to pull it up to support your prayer.

We are a Eucharistic people, so we invite you to have bread and wine, in whatever form you have it, with you where you are. Even though we are in many locations, we affirm that we are one table of believers.

Today, we hear about the journey of the magi and are reminded that we are also people on a journey. Like the magi, we are called to God from far off places and like the magi, we must make our way through indifference and hostility, often getting lost along the way.

Let us begin our sabbath prayer in song.

FIRST READING

A Reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah.

Rise up in splendor! Be light! For your light has come!
The splendor of God shines in you.
For behold, darkness covers the earth,
and deep darkness covers the peoples;
but in you, God shines,
and in you God's radiance appears.

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 be in awe 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 God.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

SECOND READING

A Reading from the Letter to the Ephesians.

Brothers and sisters:

I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for the sake of you foreigners, Gentiles—if indeed you have heard of the stewardship of God’s grace that was given to me for your benefit, namely, that the divine mystery was made known to me by revelation as I briefly wrote before.

When reading this, you will be able to understand my insight into this mystery of the Christ.

Now this mystery, was not made known to people in former generations, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit:

Namely, through the Glad Tidings, that the foreigners, Gentiles are co-heirs, members of the same body, and co-partners in the promise in Christ Jesus

I became a servant of this Good News, according to the gift of God’s grace that was given to me by the exercise of God’s power.

To me—less than the least of all the saints—this grace was given, to proclaim to the Gentiles, the unfathomable riches of the Christ and to enlighten everyone about God’s mystery plan—a mystery that has been hidden for ages in God who has created all things.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

A reading from the Glad Tidings according to Matthew.

Glory to you O Lord.

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea,
in the days of King Herod,

behold, astrologers 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 Messiah was to be born.

They said to him, “In Bethlehem of Judea,
for thus it has been written this way 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 astrologers 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.

When they saw the star, they rejoiced with very great joy
and on entering the house

they saw the child with Miriam his mother.

They bowed down and did him homage.

Then they opened their treasure boxes
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.

The Good News of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Praise to you O Jesus Christ.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL: (COMMENTATOR)

Led by the star, the wise men found and worshipped the Christ Child. Led by faith, we too have found the Christ, and in this Eucharist, we worship him. Our response is Lord, hear our prayer.

May the light of Christ shine radiantly in and through the members of Charis, the Ecumenical Catholic Communion, and all those who trust in a God of radical radiance and love,

We pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

May the light of Christ dispel the evil of war which continues to bring suffering to many nations, even after the bombs have fallen silent, that people can live in peace again.

We pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

May the light of Christ shine mercifully on the peoples of the Holy Land so that people of Christian, Jewish and Muslim faiths can live together with respect, the safety of the Palestinian people can be restored, and Jerusalem can be a city of peace for all of Abraham and Sarah's children.

We pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

May the light of Christ shine eternally with joy upon our departed friends and family members, and especially any person who died alone and in fear during the past year.

We pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

We invite those who are off-site to begin our sharing of our personal prayers. Just unmute your mic begin. After we hear from the offsite members, we will turn to those gathered here in our worship space.

When the off-site folks are done, please invite the on-site people to begin.

When they are no longer offering individual prayers:

God of love, may your justice and the fullness of peace flourish in our time, so that all people may recognize and know you. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Epiphany God, let all who come into this spiritual home
find in it a shelter of peace and health.

Inspire each of us to develop our individual talents
and to contribute wisdom and good works for the benefit of the whole human
family.

Make our Charis home a haven for us all,
and a place of warmth and caring
for all who come to visit us.

Enlighten us with the brilliance of your Epiphany star,
so that, as we go into the world, we might clearly see our way to You
and discover You in our work and play.

This we ask to your glory
and in the power of your reign, on heaven and on earth,
Amen