

PRAYING *With* CHILDREN

SUNDAY LITURGY



Epiphany of the Lord
2 January 2022 - Year C

“We have come from the East to worship the King.”

Something to Think About

It can be hard to see stars in the sky. Sometimes the clouds cover them. Sometimes the city lights make it hard to see the bright stars. In today's story there is one very bright and important star.

The Story

After Jesus was born, three wise men noticed a bright star in the sky. They followed the star and travelled for a long time. They knew the star would lead them to Jesus. They went first to King Herod, but Jesus was not born in a palace. King Herod wanted the wise men to tell him where baby Jesus was. He was not happy to hear that another king had been born. He wanted to be the only king. The wise men went to Bethlehem and found the place where Jesus, Mary and Joseph were staying. They gave Jesus their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh, and they worshipped him. God warned the wise men not to go back to Herod, so they took a different road home.

The Scriptures

A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew **2:1-12**

When Jesus was born in the village of Bethlehem in Judea, Herod was king. During this time some wise men from the east came to Jerusalem and said, "Where is the child born to be king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him."

When King Herod heard about this, he was worried, and so was everyone else in Jerusalem. Herod brought together all the chief priests and the teachers of the Law of Moses and asked them, "Where will the Messiah be born?"

They told him, "He will be born in Bethlehem, just as the prophet wrote, 'Bethlehem in the land of Judea, you are very important among the towns of Judea. From your town will come a leader, who will be like a shepherd for my people Israel.'"

Herod secretly called in the wise men and asked them when they had first seen the star. He told them, "Go to Bethlehem and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, let me know. I want to go and worship him too."

The wise men listened to what the king said and then left. And the star they had seen in the east went on ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. They were thrilled and excited to see the star. When the men went into the house and saw the child with Mary, his mother, they knelt down and worshipped him. They took out their gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh and gave them to him. Later they were warned in a dream not to return to Herod, and they went back home by another road.

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Video

Click to watch the video. [Three Wise Men](#)



Group Discussion

The three wise men knew that Jesus was our Saviour and so they brought him special gifts. Gifts are not just things. We can show our love for God and for other people through our words and actions. What gift can you give Jesus today that shows your love for God and others?

Praying For Others

Leader: Let us pray now for the leaders of our Church, our world, for those in our community and for our own needs.

Reader 1: We pray for world leaders, that they rule with wisdom and kindness. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader 2: We pray for all who are searching for Jesus. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader 3: We pray for people who need a place of safety, welcome and peace. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader 4: We pray that we may always be open to following God in our lives. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader 5: We pray for our own needs. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Invite the children to pray for their own special intentions.

Leader: Loving God, listen to the prayers we make in the name of Jesus.

All: Amen.

Prayer



God of wonder,
Help us to have as much faith as the
wise men who followed your star to find
Jesus, and lead us on the right paths.
Amen.

Group Activity

EPIPHANY STAR

You will need: Two star templates per child, stapler, markers (or paints and brushes, stapler, stuffing (shredded newspaper or shredded scrap paper), glitter, glue.

1. Cut out 2 star templates and place them on top of each other. (A3 or A4 paper.)
2. Lay out the two stars and some paints or markers. Children add colour to one side of each star. (If using paint, you will need to add drying time).
3. Staple all but two sides of the stars together, with the decorated sides facing out. Children crumple the shredded paper and gently fill the star.
4. When the star is filled, staple the last two sides together.
5. Children brush some glue onto the star and add some glitter. To hang the stars, punch a hole at the top and put a piece of string through it.



Epiphany Star



**FIRST
CAME THE
SHEPHERDS**



**COME
TO
ME**

**THEN
CAME THE
3 WISE MEN**



DRAW THE SHEPHERDS
COMING WITH THEIR SHEEP

DRAW THE WISE MEN
COMING WITH THEIR GIFTS