

The Lord shows Himself to Us

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In every journey of life, God will show the way. Our own is to also trust and belief Him. He will never lead us astray.

- The feast of today marks the occasion when the Lord revealed and manifested Himself to nations through the representation of the Magi (three Wise Men), who came all the way to Bethlehem.
- They saw the star from their different nations and they understood what it means but they followed the star until they went astray.
- The importance of the feast is to let us know that salvation is for everyone and for every nation. It is not only for the Jews alone. But we must follow God's ways in order to be saved.
- God's promise is for all His children all over the world. Nobody can claim monopoly of salvation.
- While the Magi saw the sign and believed, the leaders of the Jewish people, especially Herod knows about the sign but did not want to accept it. This is because he did not want to accept that there will be a king that is greater than him.
- He did everything humanly possible to kill the story, to kill the joy of salvation promised to all the nations. He lost it because he was only able to kill his own joy to part in the salvation.

1st Reading: Isaiah 60:1-6; calls the people to rise up and rejoice in the salvation that has being given by God Himself.

- "Rise up in splendor, Jerusalem! Your light has come, the lory 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."
- The prophet calls the people to a new dawn. He hopes of a new life different from their life of misery, despair and dejections. With the Lord there is always fullness of life.
- The Lord reigns His wealth on the people like a torrent. It comes like an unimaginable barrage.

2nd Reading: Ephesians 3:2-3a,5-6; St Paul refers to what has happened as a mystery. That mystery was made known through a revelation.

- God reveals Himself to us if we dispose ourselves to Him asking for His grace.
- The mystery is given for the benefit of all and the grace is bestowed for the love of all. We are all to enjoy it.
- "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."
- No one is excluded especially if you believe in the gospel. It is very simple, that Jesus is the Savior of the world.

Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12; is the story of the Magi, a participation in the revelation of God to all the nations. The Magi where from the East and they saw the star. They were great men who know through study that what they saw was true.

- “Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw His star at its rising and have come to do Him homage.”
- Through the efforts of all the people around Herod, he was only able to know the story, but was not able to know the New Born King. Herod lived in denial until this happened.
- The Wise Men (The Magi), came to the Lord with gifts of gold, myrrh and frankincense. They brought to the Lord what was available in their places. But they were gifts that were symbolic to the Lord and in the message of salvation.
- They have come to honor the Lord, but the Lord honors them by accepting their gifts and using them for a holy purpose.
- How do you feel when you give your gifts to the Lord? All our unworthiness is made worthy by the Lord who give worth to all things offered in simplicity and love.
- In their gifts, they recognized the Lord as King, Priest and Messiah. Gold as a King, Frankincense as a Priest and Myrrh as the Messiah.

Our celebration of Christmas has meaning when we know that we are celebrating Him who is the Priest, the King and the Messiah.

- God manifest Himself in the flesh so that we might receive Him for our healing, leader and sanctifier.
- The salvation is not limited to a nation or race. It is for everyone who is born in the flesh. We need to call everyone to the saving grace of God.