

REFLECTION

EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

Gospel Matthew 2: 1-12

Today we celebrate that the Child born in the darkness of night in a lowly manger is revealed as the manifestation of God. Christ is revealed in many ways: as Lord, as King, as the one in Whom God is present and acts. All of these manifestations are “lights” that shine on Christ, revealing a deeper understanding of who he is. All the readings for today reveal, in a way a different manifestation of who Christ is for all who believe.

In many nations today, the Feast of the Epiphany is celebrated with greater solemnity than Christmas. This is because it celebrates Jesus’ manifestation of himself to the GENTILE World. Just as Christmas celebrates the special manifestation of Jesus to the Jews, so Epiphany celebrates his special manifestation to the Gentiles. It is, therefore, the **“feast of the nations.”** What was begun by Jesus in his time must be continued by us in our time. If Jesus is to be made known to all nations, it must be through our efforts. We must carry to the nations of the world the **“GOOD NEWS”** that Jesus, the Son of God, took flesh and lived among us. We must tell them that Jesus entered history not just for the Jews of his time, but for all nations of all time.

Jesus came to set up God’s kingdom on earth. He came to set up a new world, one in which there would be no more grief, no more pain, no more sorrow – one in which the needy man and the needy woman would find loving friends, where before they found only cold strangers.

This is the “Good News” that we must carry into the world. This is the practical message of the feast of the Epiphany. It is a message that calls each of us to action.

Let us close with these words. Written by an unknown poet, they sum up in vivid imagery the practical message of the Epiphany:

“When the song of the angels is stilled, when the star in the sky is gone, when the kings and princes are home, when the shepherds are back with the flocks, the work of Christmas begins: “to find the lost, to heal the broken, to feed the hungry, to release the prisoners, to rebuild the nations, to bring peace among brothers, to make music in the heart.”