

From the eastern mountains, pressing on, they come,  
wise men in their wisdom, to his humble home;  
stirred by deep devotion, hasting from afar,  
ever journeying onward, guided by a star.

There their Lord and Saviour like an infant lay,  
wondrous Light that led them onward on their way,  
ever now to lighten nations from afar,  
as they journey homeward by that guiding star.

Thou who in a manger once hast lowly lain,  
who dost now in glory o'er all kingdoms reign,  
gather in the heathen who in lands afar  
ne'er have seen the brightness of thy guiding star.

Gather in the outcasts, all who've gone astray,  
Throw Thy radiance o'er them, guide them on their  
way.

Those who never knew Thee, those who've  
wandered far,  
Guide them by the brightness of Thy guiding star.

Onward through the darkness of the lonely night,  
shining still before them with thy kindly light.  
Guide them, Jew and Gentile, homeward from afar,  
young and old together, by thy guiding Star.

Until every nation, whether bond or free,  
'neath thy starlit banner, Jesus, follows thee.  
O'er the distant mountains to that heavenly home,  
where nor sin nor sorrow evermore shall come.

## **Collect**

O God,  
who by the leading of a star  
manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth:  
mercifully grant that we,  
who know you now by faith,  
may at last behold your glory face to face;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

**Amen.**

## Old Testament Reading

*Isaiah 60.1-6*

<sup>1</sup>Arise, shine; for your light has come,  
and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.

<sup>2</sup>For darkness shall cover the earth,  
and thick darkness the peoples;  
but the LORD will arise upon you,  
and his glory will appear over you.

<sup>3</sup>Nations shall come to your light,  
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

<sup>4</sup>Lift up your eyes and look around;  
they all gather together, they come to you;  
your sons shall come from far away,  
and your daughters shall be carried on their  
nurses' arms.

<sup>5</sup>Then you shall see and be radiant;  
your heart shall thrill and rejoice,  
because the abundance of the sea shall be brought  
to you,  
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.

<sup>6</sup>A multitude of camels shall cover you,  
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;  
all those from Sheba shall come.

They shall bring gold and frankincense,  
and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.

This is the word of the Lord.

*All*     **Thanks be to God.**

## **New Testament Reading *Ephesians 3.1-12***

<sup>1</sup>I, Paul, am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles - <sup>2</sup>for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you, <sup>3</sup>and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, <sup>4</sup>a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. <sup>5</sup>In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: <sup>6</sup>that is, the Gentiles have become fellow-heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

<sup>7</sup>Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of his power. <sup>8</sup>Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, <sup>9</sup>and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; <sup>10</sup>so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. <sup>11</sup>This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, <sup>12</sup>in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

This is the word of the Lord.

**All Thanks be to God.**

We three kings of Orient are,  
bearing gifts we traverse afar,  
field and fountain,  
moor and mountain,  
following yonder star.

*O star of wonder, star of night,  
star with royal beauty bright;  
westward leading, still proceeding,  
guide us to thy perfect light!*

Born a King on Bethlehem's plain,  
gold I bring to crown him again,  
King for ever,  
ceasing never  
over us all to reign.

*Refrain:*

Frankincense to offer have I:  
incense owns a Deity nigh;  
prayer and praising,  
gladly raising,

*Refrain:*

Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume  
breathes a life of gathering gloom;  
sorrowing, sighing,  
bleeding, dying,  
sealed in the stone-cold tomb.

*Refrain:*

Glorious now behold him arise,  
King and God and Sacrifice;  
heaven sings  
alleluia; alleluia  
the earth replies.

*Refrain:*

*O star of wonder, star of night,  
star with royal beauty bright;  
westward leading, still proceeding,  
guide us to thy perfect light!*

## **Gospel**

## **Matthew 2.1-12**

*When the Gospel is announced the reader says*

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

**All    Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, <sup>2</sup>‘Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.’ <sup>3</sup>When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; <sup>4</sup>and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. <sup>5</sup>They told him, ‘In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

<sup>6</sup>“And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.” <sup>7</sup>Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup>Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, ‘Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.’ <sup>9</sup>When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup>When they saw that the star had stopped, they

were overwhelmed with joy. <sup>11</sup>On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. <sup>12</sup>And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

*All*     **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Father, hear the prayer we offer:  
not for ease that prayer shall be,  
but for strength, that we may ever  
live our lives courageously.

Not for ever in green pastures  
do we ask our way to be;  
but the steep and rugged pathway  
may we tread rejoicingly.

Not forever by still waters  
would we idly rest and stay;  
but would smite the living fountains  
from the rocks along our way.

Be our strength in hours of weakness,  
in our wanderings be our Guide;  
through endeavour, failure, danger,  
Saviour, be thou at our side.

As with gladness men of old  
did the guiding star behold,  
as with joy they hailed its light,  
leading onward, beaming bright;  
so, most gracious Lord, may we  
evermore be led to thee.

As with joyful steps they sped,  
that thy lowly manger bed,  
there to bend the knee before  
thee whom heaven and earth adore;  
so may we with willing feet  
ever seek thy mercy-seat.

As they offered gifts most rare  
at thy cradle rude and bare,  
so may we with holy joy,  
pure and free from sin's alloy,  
all our costliest treasures bring,  
Christ, to thee, our heavenly King.

Holy Jesus, every day  
keep us in the narrow way,  
and, when earthly things are past,  
bring our ransomed souls at last  
where they need no star to guide,  
where no clouds thy glory hide.

In the heavenly country bright  
need they no created light;  
thou its light, its joy, its crown,  
thou its sun which goes not down;  
there for ever may we sing  
alleluias to our King.

## ***Post Communion***

Lord God,  
the bright splendour whom the nations seek:  
may we who with the wise men have been drawn by  
your light  
discern the glory of your presence in your Son,  
the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen**

O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness!  
Bow down before him, his glory proclaim;  
with gold of obedience, and incense of lowliness,  
kneel and adore him: the Lord is his Name!

Low at his feet lay thy burden of carefulness,  
high on his heart he will bear it for thee,  
and comfort thy sorrows, and answer thy prayerfulness,  
guiding thy steps as may best for thee be.

Fear not to enter his courts in the slenderness  
of the poor wealth thou wouldst reckon as thine;  
for truth in its beauty, and love in its tenderness,  
these are the offerings to lay on his shrine.

These, though we bring them in trembling and fearfulness,  
he will accept for the Name that is dear;  
mornings of joy give for evenings of tearfulness,  
trust for our trembling and hope for our fear.

O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness!  
bow down before him, his glory proclaim;  
with gold of obedience, and incense of lowliness,  
kneel and adore him: the Lord is his Name!