

## **EPIPHANY: CELEBRATING GOD'S GIFT FOR ALL PEOPLE**

**The Epiphany of Our Lord  
January 6, 2010**

**Isaiah 60:1-6**

**Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14**

**Ephesians 3:1-12**

**Matthew 2:1-12**

### **The Lord Is Our Light**

Today is the Day of Epiphany, and the word “Epiphany” comes from the Greek word for “manifestation or shining forth.” The theme of Epiphany flows out of the Gospel, which tells us that God’s Son was born to be the Savior who “will save his people from their sins” (Matthew 1:21, *GNT*).

During the Epiphany season, we celebrate that God wants the light of his salvation to shine upon all people so that all might be saved. The thematic hymn in the Orthodox Church for the Feast of Epiphany, also called Theophany, is “Today you have appeared to the universe, and your light, O Lord, has shone on us, who with understanding praise you: you have come and revealed yourself, O light unapproachable!”

In this world there are times when we are cut off from God by our own rebellion and pride. Worse yet, we are in danger of staying in this pit of spiritual darkness for all eternity. But God rescues us from this darkness. God wants to bring us into his light. Once we come into the light we will then see that our Savior is here to rescue us and give us eternal life in his love. As Isaiah the prophet says: “Arise, Jerusalem, and shine like the sun; the glory of the LORD is shining on you! Other nations will be covered by darkness, but on you the light of the LORD will shine; the brightness of his presence will be with you” (Isaiah 60:1, 2, *GNT*).

Mathew’s Gospel tells us about the Magi who followed the star and encountered Christ. Like the Magi, let us follow the star—the living Christ who is present by his Spirit in all of life, throughout the world. The light of God’s Word shines upon us, and we shine the light of his Word upon others. We do not know what the new year will bring; yet in faith, we trust that it will be filled with the light of Christ which the darkness can never extinguish (John 1:5). Keep focusing on that star, Christ, who is the true light of the world. Amen!

This week’s Reflection was prepared by Tenny Thomas, a Ph.D. candidate at Columbia University and Union Theological Seminary in New York City and who serves as a consultant for the American Bible Society in the Nida Institute for Biblical Scholarship.

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**This day we remember, give thanks, and pray for** God's love that has been revealed to all people through God's Son, Jesus. Just as the wise men were led by a star, may we be led by faith to worship Jesus, the newborn king, and know God's presence in our lives.

**Activity Corner:** "Prayer Star"

Supplies needed: 2 sheets of construction paper (yellow and any other color); 5-point star pattern; scissors; pen or markers; small brass fastener.

Trace the star pattern on a sheet of 8-1/2 x 11 yellow construction paper. In the center of the star, write the words "Jesus, Our Light, Has Come!" In each of the five points, write "Family and Friends," "Church," "Community," "Country," "World." Make a small hole in the center of the star and fasten it to another sheet of construction paper. Along the top of the background sheet, write "We Remember to Pray For ...". Using the star for your daily prayer and devotion, turn the star so that one of the points is directed to the top of the page and use what is written in the point as the focus. Turn the star each day so that all five points have been used throughout the week. At the end of your prayer and devotion time, invite a member of your household to read Psalm 72:18,19. At the end of the reading, invite everyone to respond: **ARISE, SHINE! OUR LIGHT HAS COME!**