Psalm 72:1-11

Of Solomon.

1 Endow the king with your justice, O God,
the royal son with your righteousness.
2 May he judge your people in righteousness,
your afflicted ones with justice.

3 May the mountains bring prosperity to the people,
the hills the fruit of righteousness.
4 May he defend the afflicted among the people
and save the children of the needy;
may he crush the oppressor.
5 May he endure[a] as long as the sun,
as long as the moon, through all generations.
6 May he be like rain falling on a mown field,
like showers watering the earth.
7 In his days may the righteous flourish
and prosperity abound till the moon is no more.

8 May he rule from sea to sea
and from the River[b] to the ends of the earth.
9 May the desert tribes bow before him
and his enemies lick the dust.
10 May the kings of Tarshish and of distant shores
bring tribute to him.
May the kings of Sheba and Seba
present him gifts.
11 May all kings bow down to him
and all nations serve him.

Old Testament Reading - Isaiah 60:1-6

The Glory of Zion

60 "Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the LORD rises upon you.
2 See, darkness covers the earth
and thick darkness is over the peoples,
but the LORD rises upon you
and his glory appears over you.
3 Nations will come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

4 “Lift up your eyes and look about you:
   All assemble and come to you;
your sons come from afar,
   and your daughters are carried on the hip.
5 Then you will look and be radiant,
   your heart will throb and swell with joy;
the wealth on the seas will be brought to you,
   to you the riches of the nations will come.
6 Herds of camels will cover your land,
   young camels of Midian and Ephah.
And all from Sheba will come,
   bearing gold and incense
   and proclaiming the praise of the LORD.

Epistle Reading - Ephesians 3:1-12

God’s Marvelous Plan for the Gentiles

3 For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles—

2 Surely you have heard about the administration of God’s grace that was given to me for you, 3 that
is, the mystery made known to me by revelation, as I have already written briefly. 4 In reading this,
then, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, 5 which was not made
known to people in other generations as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to God’s holy apostles
and prophets. 6 This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel,
members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus.

7 I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God’s grace given me through the working of his
power. 8 Although I am less than the least of all the Lord’s people, this grace was given me: to preach
to the Gentiles the boundless riches of Christ, 9 and to make plain to everyone the administration of
this mystery, which for ages past was kept hidden in God, who created all things. 10 His intent was that
now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and
authorities in the heavenly realms, 11 according to his eternal purpose that he accomplished in Christ
Jesus our Lord. 12 In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and
confidence.

Gospel Reading - Matthew 2:1-12

The Magi Visit the Messiah

2 After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi[a] from the east
came to Jerusalem **2** and asked, “Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his
star when it rose and have come to worship him.”

3 When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. **4** When he had called
together all the people’s chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was
to be born. **5** “In Bethlehem in Judea,” they replied, “for this is what the prophet has written:

6 “‘But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for out of you will come a ruler
who will shepherd my people Israel.’[b]”

7 Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had
appeared. **8** He sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as
you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him.”

9 After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went
ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. **10** When they saw the star, they
were overjoyed. **11** On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed
down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold,
frankincense and myrrh. **12** And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they
returned to their country by another route.