



Living in the Spirit **Epiphany** Our Greatest Gift to You

Call to Prayer and Sharing

❖ *Invitation to Prayer - Leader*

Let us begin,
Now, here in this place
With a moment of silence
to reflect,
to focus,
to be attentive to ourselves,
to one another,
and to the presence of Christ.

May the Lord come and increase our faith. (*reflective pause*)

❖ *Opening Song - If time allows, sing a familiar hymn or song.*

❖ *Then: "In the name of the Father and of the Son . . ."*

The Word of God

❖ *Leader: Let us welcome God's Word into our hearts.*

All: Fill our minds that we may hear your wisdom.
Touch our lips that we may speak your truth.
Hold in our hearts that we may always follow you.
Come now, O Word of God.

From Matthew 2:1-12 (The Magi)

When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of King Herod, behold, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews?"

We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage."

When King Herod heard this, he was greatly troubled, and all Jerusalem with him.

Assembling all the chief priests and the scribes of the people,

He inquired of them where the Christ was to be born.

They said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it has been written through the prophet:

*And you, Bethlehem, land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
since from you shall come a ruler,
who is to shepherd my people Israel."*

Then Herod called the magi secretly and ascertained from them the time of the star's appearance. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search diligently for the child.

When you have found him, bring me word, that I too may go and do him homage."

After their audience with the king they set out. And behold, the star that they had seen at its rising preceded them, until it came and stopped over the place where the child was.

They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage.

Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed for their country by another way.

The Word of the Lord...

❖ *At the conclusion of the reading, briefly pause for quiet reflection.*

Faith Sharing/Question of the Week (consider sharing on either question)

- ❖ **Adult:** What events or people have guided my search for Jesus?
- ❖ **Mixed Ages:** Who are some people and what are some signs that help you know God?

Time is provided for sharing responses to the question. Silence between responses is to be expected. Allow a few minutes for faith sharing. For larger groups, leader invites members to divide into groups of 3 or 4 for faith sharing.

- ❖ *When the sharing comes to an end, the leader invites everyone to take a moment to silently and reverently hold what has been shared together.*

Litany of Faith

Leader: Christ Jesus, you are the star that enlightens our journey.
May we be your presence and gift to the world.

All: May we always follow the light of your star, and become our greatest gift to the world.

Leader: Christ Jesus, you are the star which brightens the dimness of our lives.
May we be your presence and gift to the world.

All: May we always follow the light of your star, and become our greatest gift to the world.

Leader: Christ Jesus, you are the star that reveals the glory of God.
May we be your presence and gift to the world.

All: May we always follow the light of your star, and become our greatest gift to the world.

The Lord's Prayer

Leader: Let us pray together:

All: Gracious God, we know that you are with us here,
and we have taken your Word into our hearts.
You call us all to conversion, we who are here in this place,
and we who are now ready to welcome you into our lives.
We are ready, we are willing, and we are yours.
So we surrender to you
our aches and longings into one as we pray:
Our Father...

Continue with the Meeting

Final Blessing

Leader: Now let us bless one another:

All: May God bless and keep us, may God smile upon us.
May God show us kindness, fill us with peace.
And may God bless us, Father, Son and Holy Spirit;
may we always love and serve,
filled with God's Peace. Amen.

Leader: *Conclude the meeting or sing a closing song.*

Reflection Question to take home for the week: How has this Word touched or challenged my understanding of God? About faith? About the Church?