

*Feast of Epiphany, January 3, 2021 -- Readings*

**First Reading- A Reading from the Book of Genesis**

Yahweh appeared to Abraham by the oak grove of Mamre, as he sat in the entrance of his and Sarah's tent, while the day was growing hot. Looking up, he saw three travelers standing nearby. When he saw them, he ran from the tent to greet them; and bowing to the ground, he said: "Sir, if I may ask you this favor, please do not go on past our tent. Let some water be brought, that you may bathe your feet, and then rest yourselves under the tree. Now that you have come this close to your servant, let me bring you a little food, that you may refresh yourselves; and afterward you may go on your way."

"Very well," they replied, "do as you have said." Abraham hastened into the tent and told Sarah, "Quick, three measures of fine flour! Knead it and make rolls." Abraham offered food and waited on his guests under the tree while they ate. "Where is Sarah?" they asked him. "There in the tent," Abraham replied.

One said, "I will surely return to you about this time next year and Sarah will then have a child." Sarah was listening at the entrance of the tent, just behind him. Now Abraham and Sarah were old, advanced in years, and Sarah had stopped having her menstruations. So Sarah laughed to herself and said, "Now that I am so old and my husband too, is pleasure to come my way again?"

Yahweh said to Abraham: "Why does Sarah laugh and say, 'Shall I really bear a child, old as I am?' Is anything too marvelous for Yahweh to do? At the appointed time, about this time next year, I will return to you and Sarah will have a child." Sarah was afraid, and said, "I didn't laugh." God said, "Oh, but you did indeed laugh!"

*The Word of God*

**Second Reading- A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Ephesians**

Praised be God, the Beloved Parent of our Messiah Jesus Christ, who has bestowed on us in Christ every spiritual blessing in the heavens! God chose -- us in Christ before the world began, to be holy and blameless in God's sight, to be full of love.

God has given us wisdom's Spirit to understand fully the mystery, the plan that was decreed in Christ, to be carried out in the fullness of time: namely, to bring all things in the heavens and on earth into one under the leadership of Christ.

*The Word of God.*

**Gospel- A Reading from the Gospel of Matthew**

After Jesus' birth in Bethlehem of Judea, during the reign of Herod the ruler, three astrologers from the east arrived one day in Jerusalem inquiring, "Where is the newborn ruler of the Jews? We observed his star at its rising and have come to pay homage." At this news Herod became greatly disturbed, and all Jerusalem as well. Summoning all of the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born.

"In Bethlehem of Judea," they informed him. "Here is what the prophet has written:

And you, Bethlehem, land of Judah,  
are by no means least among the leaders of Judah,  
since from you will come a ruler  
who is to shepherd my people Israel.

Herod called the astrologers aside and found out from them the exact time of the star's appearance. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, after having instructed them, "Go and get detailed information about this child. When you have found him, report it to me -- so that I may go and offer homage too."

After their audience with the ruler, they set out. The star which they had observed at its rising went ahead of them until it came to a standstill over the place where the child was. They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and upon entering the house, found the child with Mary, his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their coffers and presented the child with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

They were warned in a dream to return to Herod, so they went back to their own country by another route.

*The Good News of Salvation!*