



Lectio Divina

The Epiphany of the Lord - January 4, 2026

Matthew 2: 1-12

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.

Step 1: Lectio

Read the Gospel passage out loud slowly and reflectively – respecting the pauses the passage presents. After a moment of silence, read the Gospel passage again aloud. What is the Scripture itself saying? What is happening in the reading?

Step 2: Meditatio

Read the Gospel passage slowly and reflectively again, pausing after each verse. As we listen to the Word this time, we allow the words we are reading to mind to our heart. Underline any word or phrase that draws your attention or echos in your heart. What is the Scripture saying to my heart? Why do you think it resonates with you?

Step 3: Oratio

What do you wish to say to the Lord in response to the Word he has spoken to you? Silently offer a simple prayer of response to the Lord (i.e., praise, thanks, petition) related to the Word you are pondering.

Step 4: Collatio

Gather the fruits of this Meditation: What truth is the Lord presenting to my mind? (Truth)
What is the Word saying to my heart? (Life)
What is the Word saying to me about my actions, my service, my choices? (Way)

