

Scripture Readings – January 4, 2026 – LCUCPC

Psalm 72 - VU 790 Part 1,2and 3.

Refrain: Hail to God's own anointed, who rules in equity.

Give the ruler your justice, O God, and your righteousness to the royal heir,
for judging your people rightly, and upholding the poor with justice;
that the mountains may bring forth peace for the people,
and the hills, prosperity with justice R.

May our anointed defend the cause of the poor among the people,
save the children of the needy, and crush the oppressor.

May your anointed live as long as the sun endures, as long as the moon from age to age.
May your anointed be like rain falling upon the grass, like showers that water the earth;
may your anointed be one in whose days justice shall flourish and peace abound till the moon is no more. R.

May the rulers of Tarshish and the isles pay tribute, the monarchs of Sheba and Seba bring gifts.

May all rulers do homage, and all nations render service.

For your anointed shall deliver the needy when they cry, the poor and those who have no helper.

Your anointed shall have pity on the weak and the needy, and save the lives of the poor.
From oppression and violence your anointed shall redeem their life,
and count as precious their blood. R.

Blessed are you, O God, the God of Israel, who alone does marvellous things.

Blessed is your glorious name for ever. May the whole earth be filled with your glory. R.

Matthew 2: 1-12 NRSV

The Visit of the Magi

2 In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the east came to Jerusalem, **2** asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star in the east and have come to pay him homage.” **3** When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him, **4** and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. **5** They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it has been written by the prophet:

6 ‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah,
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel.’ ”

7 Then Herod secretly called for the magi and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. **8** Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.” **9** When they had heard the king, they set out, and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen in the east, until it stopped over the place where the child was. **10** When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. **11** On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. **12** And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.



Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.

Thanks be to God.