

# The Epiphany Gospel

Matthew 2:1-12 (GNB)

## Voices

Narrator  
King Herod  
Caspar  
Melchior  
Balthasar  
Teacher of the Law  
Chief Priest

*The priest could begin the gospel, reading from the gospel book, in the usual way:*

*Priest:* The Lord be with you.

**All:** And with your spirit.

*Priest:* A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew.

**All:** Glory to you, O Lord.

*He could then hand the book to the narrator who takes up the story . . .*

*[If a priest does not begin the reading, the following introduction is used by the narrator:  
A reading from the gospel of St Matthew.]*

**Narrator** Jesus was born in the town of Bethlehem in Judea, during the time when Herod was king. Soon afterward, some men who studied the stars came from the East to Jerusalem and asked:

**Caspar** Where is the baby born to be the king of the Jews?

**Melchior** We saw his star when it came up in the east.

**Balthasar** And we have come to worship him.

**Narrator** When King Herod heard about this, he was very upset, and so was everyone else in Jerusalem. He called together all the chief priests and the teachers of the Law and asked them:

**Herod** Where will the Messiah be born?

**Narrator** They answered :

**Teacher** In the town of Bethlehem in Judea.

**Chief Priest** For this is what the prophet wrote:  
'Bethlehem  
in the land of Judah,  
you are by no means the least of the leading cities of Judah;  
for from you will come a leader  
who will guide my people Israel.'

**Narrator** So Herod called the visitors from the East  
to a secret meeting  
and found out from them  
the exact time the star had appeared.  
Then he sent them to Bethlehem  
with these instructions:

**Herod** Go  
and make a careful search for the child;  
and when you find him,  
let me know,  
so that I too may go  
and worship him.

**Narrator** And so they left,  
and on their way  
they saw the same star they had seen in the East.  
When they saw it,  
how happy they were,  
what joy was theirs!  
It went ahead of them  
until it stopped  
over the place where the child was.  
They went into the house,  
and, when they saw the child  
with his mother Mary,  
they knelt down  
and worshiped him.  
They brought out their gifts  
of gold,  
frankincense,  
and myrrh,  
and presented them to him.

Then they returned to their country  
by another road,  
since God had warned them in a dream  
not to go back to Herod.

*The book is handed back to the priest who concludes . . .*

*Priest:* The gospel of the Lord.

**All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

*[If a priest does not do this, the reader/narrator  
concludes . . .*

*Reader:* The word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.]**