



Epiphany, 1986

Is. 60: 1-6

Eph. 3: 2-3a

Mt. 2:2

Today the Bridegroom claims his bride, the Church.

Today we celebrate the call to the gathering of all of God's people, to all of God's creation under the Mantle of Mary. Mary, Mother of all. "That all may be one as you Father and I are One"...the

mysteries of Christ for the salvation of the world.

"Now a great sign appeared in heaven, a woman adorned with the sun standing on the moon and with twelve stars on her head for a crown."

"Happy are those who will have washed their souls clean so they will have the right to feed on the tree of life and can come through the Gates into the city."

"From everlasting I was firmly set.

The day was not yet when I was born.

Before the mountains were settled...

When he fixed the heavens firm.

I was by his side, a master craftsman delighting him day after day ever at play in his presence.

At play everywhere in his world, delighting to be with the sons and daughters of men."

This past week we listened to a message to the people of God from Bishops of the synod; of the "inexhaustible riches of the mystery of Christ." Through the Church which is his body, Christ is ever present in the midst of humanity. We are all called, through faith...to full communion" to be gathered again – "The mystery that has now been revealed through the Spirit...pagans now share the same inheritance, that they are parts of the same body, and that the same promise has been made to them, in Christ Jesus..."

Matthew in our Gospel of the feast brings together episodes in the childhood of Christ, placing them alongside texts from the tradition of the Jews, to help his people who have come to believe in Jesus, that they are not disloyal to their ancestors –

"And you Bethlehem...for out of you will come a leader who will shepherd my people Israel"...

"David, the unrecognized who was out shepherding"

"Lift up your eyes and look round"

All are assembling and coming toward you, your sons from far away. And your daughters being tenderly carried.”

Matthew also confronts his people, in particular, the Scribes and the Pharisees with the story of the Magi – The sight of pagans adoring Jesus foretold (described) in Isaiah...

”camels in throngs will cover you.  
And dromedaries of Median and Ephah,  
Everyone in Sheba will come  
Bringing gold and incense  
And singing the praise of the Lord.”

The Scribes and Pharisees who have the knowledge to seek the Messiah, are too set in their ways to open themselves in the search to believe – The Jews, who know the prophecies, fail to discover the Messiah and are dispossessed, while the nations who do not know the prophets, come to the faith -.

A Message to the People of God from the bishops of the Synod.

“Brothers and Sisters, in the church we experience with you...mankind’s present crisis...The Second Vatican council has been convoked in order to promote the renewal of the Church with a view to evangelizing a radically changed world. Today we feel impelled toward a deeper understanding...in order to respond to the world’s new challenges and to those which Christ ever addresses to the world...The world’s ills...stem from man’s incapacity to dominate his conquests when he closes in upon himself.”

“From Vatican II the church received with certitude a new light: The joy and hope which come from God to help mankind...to overcome every sadness and anguish, if we lift our gaze to the heavenly city.”

“We re not made for death but for life. We are not condemned to divisions and wars but called to fraternity and peace...made for God. Man responds to this vocation by renewing his heart.”

“At the conclusion of this gathering the synod gives thanks. As Christ taught the apostles gathered with Many in the Cenacle, so the Holy spirit teaches us...May the sprit grant that in this century, with the intercession of Mary...the Church be able to celebrate the mysteries of Christ for the salvation of the world.”

“Happy are those who will have washed their robes clean so they will have the right to feed on the tree of life and can come through the Gates into the city.”

Today the Bridegroom claims his bride, the Church.