

Historic Scripture Lessons for ✨ The Epiphany of our Lord

OLD TESTAMENT Isaiah 60:1-6 NIV

"Arise, shine, for Your Light has come, and the glory of the LORD rises upon You. 2 See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples, but the LORD rises upon You and his glory appears over You. 3 Nations will come to Your light, and kings to the brightness of Your dawn. 4 "Lift up Your eyes and look about You: All assemble and come to You; Your sons come from afar, and Your daughters are carried on the arm. 5 Then You will look and be radiant, Your heart will throb and swell with joy; the wealth on the seas will be brought to You, to you the riches of the nations will come. 6 Herds of camels will cover Your land, young camels of Midian and Ephah. And all from Sheba will come, bearing gold and incense and proclaiming the praise of the LORD.

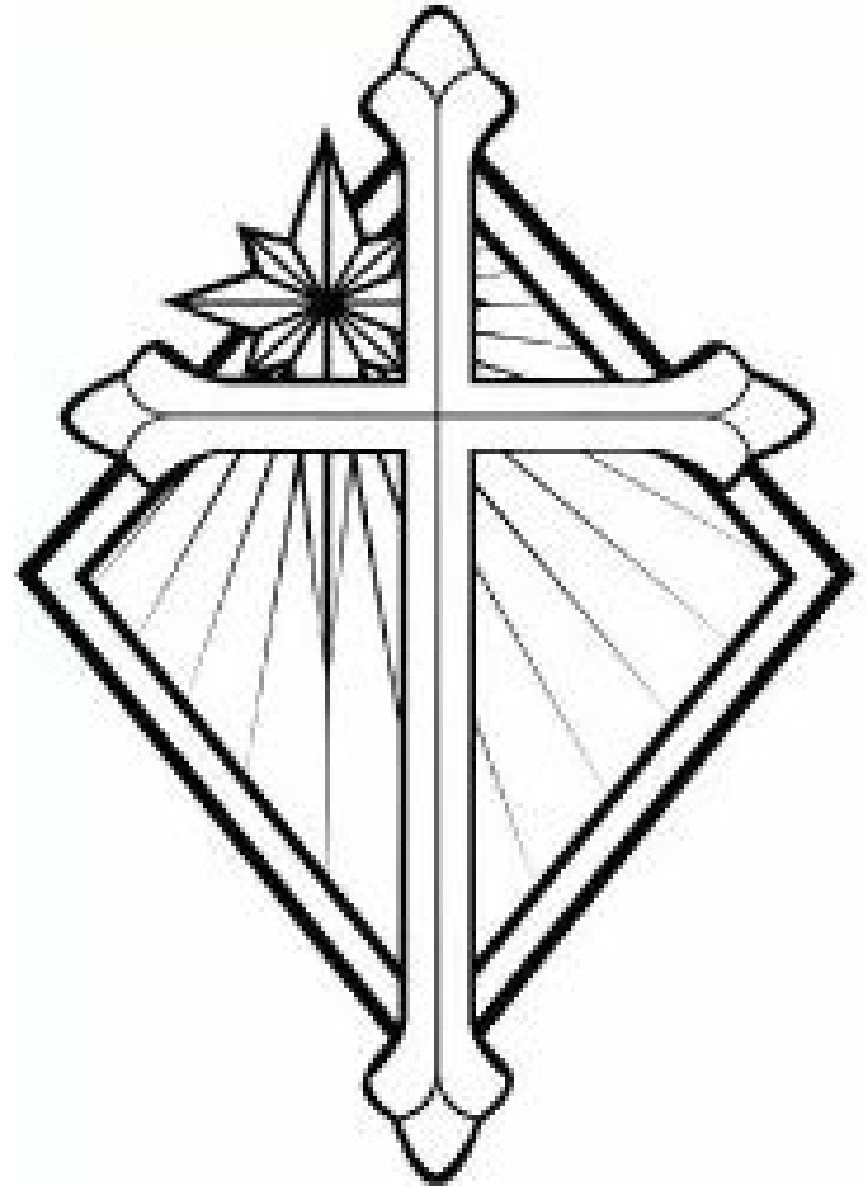
EPISTLE Romans 3:23-31 For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 and are justified freely by his grace through the Redemption that came by Christ Jesus. 25 God presented Him as a sacrifice of atonement, through faith in His Blood. He did this to demonstrate His justice, because in His forbearance He had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished - 26 He did it to demonstrate His justice at the present time, so as to be just and the One who justifies those who have faith in Jesus. 27 Where, then, is boasting? It is excluded. On what principle? On that of observing the law? No, but on that of faith. 28 For we maintain that a man is justified by faith apart from observing the law. 29 Is God the God of Jews only? Is He not the God of Gentiles too? Yes, of Gentiles too, 30 since there is only one God, who will justify the circumcised by faith and the uncircumcised through that same faith. 31 Do we, then, nullify the law by this faith? Not at all! Rather, we uphold the law.

Gospel (Sermon Text)

Matthew 2:1-12

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the East came to Jerusalem 2 and asked, "Where is the One who has been born King of the Jews? We saw His star in the East and have come to worship Him." 3 When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. 4 When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Christ was to be born. 5 "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written: 6 ""But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a Ruler who will be the Shepherd of my people Israel."" 7 Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. 8 He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and make a careful search for the Child. As soon as you find Him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship Him." 9 After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen in the East went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the Child was. 10 When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. 11 On coming to the house, they saw the Child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped Him. Then they opened their treasures and presented Him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh. 12 And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

Our Savior Lutheran Church  Lakeland, FL USA
Epiphany Sunday (Observed) ✨ *Manifestation of Christ*
Jesus to Gentiles ✨ January 7th, 2017 ✨ 9:30 am



Historic Church Year Symbol Set for Epiphany of Our LORD: Matthew 2:1-12
Magi, Wise men from the East visit Jesus in (a house in) Bethlehem.

OSL OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH OSL

6920 N Socrum Loop Road / (north) Lakeland, FL 33809 USA

Phone: (863) 859-3400 ~ Web: www.osllakeland.org

BIBLE CLASS 8:30 AM WORSHIP 9:30 AM FELLOWSHIP 10:45 AM

✦ Rev. Andrew R. Burmeister 863-430-5859 ✦ Organ: A.R. Burmeister

January 7th, 2018 Epiphany ✦ *Manifestation of Jesus*

TODAY WE CELEBRATE THE LORD'S SUPPER: If you are new to the area or our worship and have never communed with us before, please speak with the pastor before the service. If you are not currently a member of an ELS or WELS congregation, we ask that you please **wait to take Communion until you can speak with our pastor.** Out of Christian love and consideration to you the guest, we want you to have the opportunity to learn what our church teaches about the Bible and Sacraments before you unite with us in taking Holy Communion. Thank you for your understanding. LORD's blessings to you.

OUR ORDER OF WORSHIP On silver liturgy sheets or red TLH Hymnal p.15 .

Service	TLH# (vv)	...First Line
Invocation Hymn	128 (5v)	Brightest and Best of the Sons of the Morn..
Psalm 98	98 (4v)	All the Ends of the Earth, Have Seen Power 7
Hymn of the Day	127 (5v)	As With Gladness Men of Old
Offertory Verse	343 (7v)	<i>Sing v.1 How lovely shines the Morning Star</i>
Distribution Hymn	130 (6v)	O Jesus, King of Glory
Closing Hymn	47 (4v)	Savior Again to Thy Dear Name We Raise

Suggested Bible readings for the weekdays after Epiphany Sunday

Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday
 Genesis1:1-31 Gen. 2:1-25 Gen. 4:1-26 Gen. 5:1-32 Gen. 6:9-22 Gen.7:1-24
 Luke 3:10-14 Luke3:15-20 Mark 1:1-8 Mark1:9-11 Luke3:21,22 Luke3:23-38

PROPERs for the FESTIVAL of EPIPHANY (Observed) ✦ JANUARY 7TH 2018

INTROIT Behold, the Lord, the Ruler, has come; and the kingdom and the power and the glory are in His hand. All kings will fall down before Him, all nations will serve Him. Give the King Your judgments, O God, and Your righteousness to the King's Son. ...from Malachi 3

COLLECT O God, who by the leading of a star You manifested Your only-begotten Son to the Gentiles: mercifully grant that we, who know You now by faith, may after this life enjoy the fullness of Your glorious Godhead; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one true God, now and forever. C: ♪ A- -men.

GRADUAL C: Alleluia! All they from Sheba will come; they will bring gold and incense; and they will show forth the praises of the Lord. Arise, shine, O Jerusalem, for the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee. Alleluia! Alleluia! We have seen His star in the East, and we have come with gifts to worship the Lord. Alleluia!

SCRIPTURE LESSONS (on back page of bulletin) ^GRADUAL from Is.60 & Mt.2

OT Isaiah 60:1-7 (All) Nations come to Zion's Light, which is Jesus.
 Epi. Romans 3:23-31 Jesus is the Savior of Jews and Gentiles alike.
 Gos. Matthew 2:1-12 Gentile Wisemen come & worship the Christ Child.

NEW! Psalm 98 ALL THE ENDS OF THE EARTH, HAVE SEEN THE POWER OF GOD.

Refrain C: ♪ All the Ends of the Earth, Have Seen the Power of God.
 All the ends of the earth, have seen the power of God.

Verse 1. Sing to the Lord a new song, ___ for He has done wondrous deeds; ___
 His Right Hand has won the Vict'ry for Him, His ho-ly Arm. _____

♪ All the ends of the earth, have seen the power of God. All the ends...

Verse 2. The Lord has made His Salvation known, His justice revealed to all; ___
 Remembered His kindness and faithfulness, to Is-rael. _____

♪ All the ends of the earth, have seen the power of God. All the ends...

Verse 3. All the ends of the earth have seen, salva—tion by our God; ___
 Joyfully sing out all you lands, break forth- in song. _____

♪ All the ends of the earth, have seen the power of God. All the ends...

Verse 4. Sing to the Lord with harp and song, ___ with trumpet and with horn; ___
 Sing in your joy before the King, The King-, our Lord. _____

♪ All the ends of the earth, have seen the power of God. All the ends of the...

**#343 1. How lovely shines the Morning Star! - The nations see and hail afar
 The light in Judah shining. - Thou David's Son of Jacob's race,
 My Bridegroom and my King of Grace, - For Thee my heart is pining.
 Lowly, Holy, - Great and glorious, - Thou victorious - Prince of graces,
 Filling all the Heav'nly places. A--men.**

PRAYER REQUESTS:	Member or Relation	Pray for ...
Sue (Foster)	(Bev Foster's daughter)	Sue- liver & pancreas growth. Bev- ill
Jim&Elma Hendricks	LORD's will be done. Jim at home.	Blood pressure spikes
Mary Lou Knigge	Mary Lou is back home after fall and rehab.	Recuperating
Dee Kurczewski (David)	Dee was in hospital after fallS.	Back home, rehab
Jon Sawyer Sr (Andrea)	Had a stroke. Back at home, improving every day	
Martha Sawyer (Jon's mom)	In Brandon, MS Hospital- then to rehab (Jan.1,2)	
James Vanesky & Delores Platt	Delores & Jim at home. Both doing rehab	
Bev Wienke (Don)	Bev rehabbing from her back. Both Bev&Don have been ill	

Volunteers	Today	Next Sunday
Greeters	Sub(BevFoster)JoeThacker	Shirley&DuWayne Marquardt
Treaters	Fruit & (Pea)Nuts (Pastor)	Volunteer

Statistics	Last week	Year to date / Avg.
Sunday Attendance/(L.S.) / N.Y.	21/(--)/ 18/18	24 / 21
Bible Class Attendance (Sunday)	6	8
Sunday Offering for LORD / N.Y.	\$. \$.	YTD Total \$.

Calendar of Events		
Today, Sunday 7 th	8:30 am	Bible Study Heb. 12 JC, Hero of Faithful
Epiphany Sunday	9:30 am	Divine Worship (W/ Holy Communion)
(Observed from 1/6)	10:45 ff...	Fellowship, ...Please stay & UNdecorate!
Thursday 1/10	1:30 pm	OSL January Council Meeting at church
Next Sunday 1/14	8:30 am	Bible Study Heb. 12 JC, Hero of Faithful
Epiphany-1 Sunday	9:30 am	Divine Worship (NO Holy Communion)
(Baptism of Jesus)	10:45 ff...	Fellowship, Coffee ...Please stay & talk

Our Savior Elders are: Tom Temple 213-4622; John Weber 853-5458; Steve Wendt 858-3611 & Don Wienke 815-8892. Please contact with any concerns.

Next Sunday 1/14 Epiphany-1B (NO L.S. p.5) TLH #s 126 298 301 409 410

EPIPHANY(B) Matthew 2:1-12 "WE ARE A PART OF EPIPHANY" 01.07.17 OSL

INTRODUCTION: Our text for today is the Epiphany of our Lord, and the visit of the Wise-men to the infant Jesus from **Matthew chapter two**.

In the story of our Lord's Nativity, there are two groups of people who come to worship our infant Lord: the shepherds and the wise-men from the east. The **shepherds were Israel**. They were the keepers of the Temple flocks, waiting for sacrifice. And despite the fact that these shepherds were the keepers of the Temple flocks, in Israel's day, shepherds had a well, not a very savory reputation. They were the earthiest of characters. In their culture, the shepherds were the ones who ended up doing all of the work no one else wanted to do. They took care of sheep, a dirty, frankly pretty smelly animal. But these shepherds represented all of Israel in the story of our Lord's birth. They are a part of the promise, even though they don't always look it.

But **our Lord came to save Israel**, to save shepherds such as they were, poor, dirty and messy. He came for all of the **lost sheep of the house of Israel**, not just the Israelites that smelled good, lived in nice homes, or had perfect lives. We can find much comfort in this, for poor sinners such as you and I.

So now the season of Christmas has come to a close, and **the Magi**, these Wise-men from the east, enter in to the picture. They followed the star. These sages, perhaps astrologers from Babylon, followed the star all the way to Jerusalem to find the infant king. They came to worship and adore, and remembered all the way back to when the prophet Daniel had been in their midst generations before. Where would they go? They remembered the prophecy of Balaam, where he said:

"A Star shall come out of Jacob; a Scepter shall rise out of Israel, and batter the brow of Moab, And destroy all the sons of tumult. And Edom shall be a possession; Seir also, his enemies, shall be a possession, While Israel does valiantly. Out of Jacob One shall have dominion, And destroy the remains of the city." (Numbers 24:17-19)

Epiphany's **a great story**. It's where we get the "**fun stuff of Christmas**" - the **star** atop most Christmas trees, all those Christmas **lights**, and the whole notion of **giving gifts**. And we have **Matthew** to thank for providing it to us. It probably would have been more along Luke's way, since Luke's version of the Gospel is more Gentile-oriented. But it's Matthew who tells us about the Magi, partly because it was all prophesied in the OT, and partly to remind his Jewish readers that Israel's Messiah came for all and not for a chosen few. "For us men and for our salvation," as we say.

These Wise-men knew that a star would rise for One Who would destroy the enemies of the Lord and bring the whole world under His gracious dominion. But, **Where did they go?** How did they find Him who was born king of the Jews?

They first went to Jerusalem, where King Herod was forced to go to the one and only place where we finally learn the will of God: the **Sacred Scriptures**. In the prophet **Micah** we hear the prophecy: "*But you, **Bethlehem**, in the land of Judah, are not the least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you shall come a Ruler who will shepherd My people Israel.*" (**Micah 5:2**)

Now this is a prophecy that brings all of the peoples of the world together... Jew and Gentle, slave and free, male and female. Because this infant King is **not born like the rulers of the world**. He does not slavishly demand obedience, charge

taxes and seek to rule with an iron fist. No, our Lord comes as a **Shepherd King**. This **shepherd**, this truly **Wise-Man**, will take care of all of the peoples of the world, by forgiving their sins and drawing them into His gracious embrace, by protecting them from danger and giving them eternal life in His Name.

Now this is **very good news FOR YOU AND ME**, dear Christians. Christ our Lord came into the world as an infant **not to be served, but to serve**, and to give His **life as a ransom** for many. The very gifts of the Magi testify to our Lord's person and word. **Gold**, the metal of **kings**. **Frankincense**, the sweet smelling aroma used at both the Temple (by the **priest**) for prayer and for (covering the burning flesh) smell of **sacrifice**. And **Myrrh**, that bitter spice that our Lord was offered on the **Cross**, and which was used for **embalming the dead**. The (three) gifts of the Wisemen only make sense if Jesus is coming to save us from our sins.

Jesus Christ, our infant King who is born to die, comes this day to say to you: "**BE FREE!** I have come to **claim your life**, and to **pay the price** for your **redemption!** No matter **what your sin**, I will pay it. No matter how ignorant you are of me, I will teach you by my very **Word!** No matter what **the cost**, I will come to you and make my **home in you**, for *I love you* with an everlasting love."

Our Lord does **NOT** promise happiness or peace as the world knows it. Right after our text, Jesus and his mother and foster father are forced to flee Bethlehem to Egypt because of Herod's murderous rage over the infants of Bethlehem. Later in the Gospel of **John** Jesus even says, In this world **you WILL have trouble**, but be not afraid, for I have overcome the world.

In our hymn this morning all of these beautiful texts and promises come together. Comfort for the **bereaved**, life to the **dying**, hope to those **in prison** and under the **pain of sin**, and most important **life everlasting in His Name**. Hear again the final verse of our (Exordium sermon) Offertory bring-up hymn (**TLH #343**):

***What joy to know, when life is past,
The Lord we love is first and last,
The end and the beginning!
He will one day, oh, glorious grace,
Transport us to that happy place
Beyond all tears and sinning!
Amen! Amen!
Come, Lord Jesus!
Crown of Gladness!
We are Yearning!
For the day of Your returning.***

CONCLUSION: Dearly Baptized, the coming of the Wisemen shows us that **you are a part of that great joy**, **YOU** are in that promise. Because just as surely as Jesus came born of the Virgin Mary in lowliness and humility, so He will also come again **in glory to bring us from this vale of tears to Himself in Heaven**. You have a **life**, a **hope**, a **future** that shines for all eternity. God has come into our flesh and blood, and has revealed Himself to the world. Trust in Him, Word and Water, Body and Blood, with the holy comfort that only He can give. Trust in Him, for He gives Himself to you, now even forevermore. Believe it for Jesus' sake. -- Let us then **rejoice this day in our Lord's Epiphany to the nations**, to us Gentiles as well as to the Jews. Let us show forth the light of Christ, that others may be drawn to worship Him. And let us ever **believe in and follow Him Who is Himself our Bright Morning Star**. **IJ,N, Amen. SDG**

Possible Prayer of Church for Sunday (closest to) Epiphany * January 7, 2018
Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs. (Possible Brief silence)

God of all light and power, You shine upon Your creatures and eradicate all darkness that lies within them. Destroy the darkness that our sin has caused in our lives. Help us to shine in the light of Your grace and truth. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord of the Church, we thank and praise You for the ministers of Your Gospel, who preach the unsearchable riches of Your mercy. Strengthen all pastors and teachers of Your Word, that they may boldly proclaim the forgiveness of sins in Christ's name. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father, You protected the Wise Men from the schemes that King Herod had prepared for them and for the child Jesus. Protect all of Your faithful people from tribulation and persecution. Be with those who are currently facing persecution, that they would remain faithful to You, even in the face of death. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Almighty God, You desire that all would be saved and come to a knowledge of the truth. We pray that Your Gospel kingdom would continue to spread throughout the world. Tear down walls of resistance and hostility to the Gospel. Build up Your Church on the firm foundation of Christ's sacrifice and resurrection, that all the world may know the Gospel truth. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of the Church, You send missionaries and workers into the field to bear witness to the Good News of Jesus Christ. Bless the missions of Your Church and the missionary work of this congregation. Bless the faithful witness of Your people, that we might faithfully proclaim Your love, grace and forgiveness throughout the world. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Holy Lord, You have washed us in the waters of Holy Baptism and made us pure and holy. Keep us ever in our baptismal grace, that we might look only to You for our salvation and redemption. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord God, we are unworthy of Your love and forgiveness, yet You freely offer us these gifts on account of Christ's sacrifice for our sake. As we partake in Holy Communion today, assure us of these gifts, that we might receive them in repentance and faith. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Lord, You daily strengthen and preserve Your people. Be with those who are not able to be in worship because of their health. Comfort them with Your Word and Spirit, that they might see Your great love and mercy for them. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Into Your hands we commend all for whom we pray, *[especially...]*

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...trusting in Your mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen. Then, The L.S.**

Our Savior Lutheran Church  Lakeland, FL USA
 Epiphany Sunday (Observed) ✠ **Manifestation of Christ**
Jesus to Gentiles ✠ January 7th, 2017 ✠ 9:30 am



From "Illustrations of Gospel Stories" **Jerome Nadal** – Luke 2 – Epiphany1: Magi, Wise men from the East visit Jesus in (a house in) Bethlehem.

Image courtesy of the Biblical and Religious Art Collection, <http://catholic-resources.org/Nadal/009.jpg>