

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.

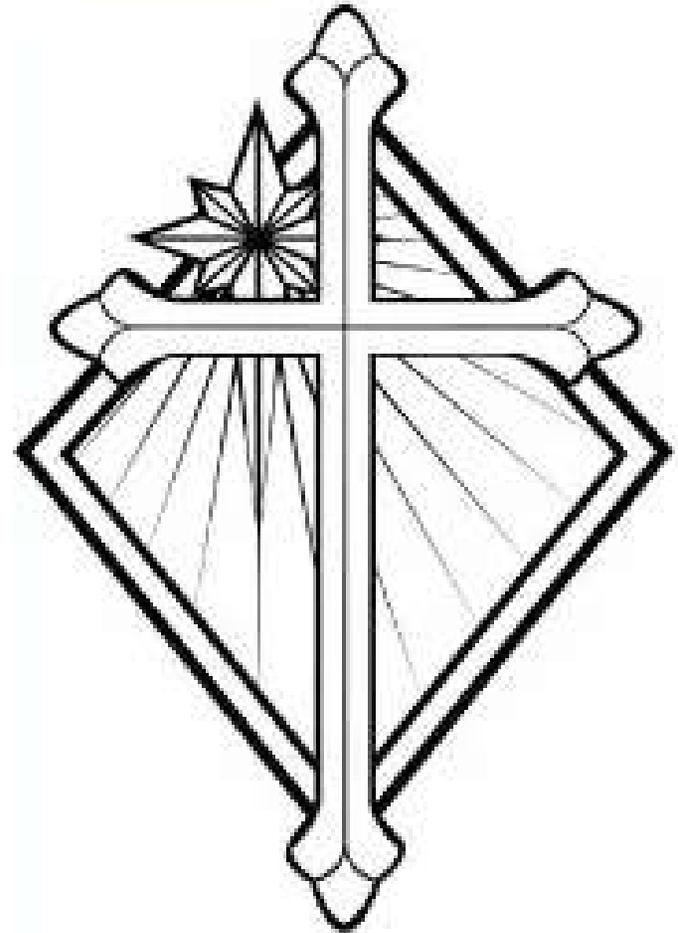
Epistle

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  ELS
The Festival of Epiphany ✨ *Manifestation of Christ*



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 6th, 2019 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 .

Suggested Hymn	TLH# (vv)	...First Line
Opening Hymn	128 (5v)	Brightest and Best of the Sons of the ...
<i>Psalm 98</i>	<i>Ps. 98 '4v'</i>	<i>All the Ends of the Earth Have Seen ... 7</i>
Hymn of the Day	127 (5v)	As With Gladness Men of Old
<i>Offertory Verse</i>	<i>343 (7v)</i>	<i>Sing 1 How lovely shines the Morning Star</i>
Distribution Hymn	343 (7v)	<i>Sing v.2-7 O highest joy by mortals won...</i>
Closing Hymn	133 (7v)	Within the Father's House

Suggested Bible readings for the weekdays after Epiphany Sunday

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

PROPERs for FESTIVAL of EPIPHANY (6th = Sunday) ✱ January 6th 2019

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! ...from Isaiah 60 & Matthew 2

SCRIPTURE LESSONS (on back page of bulletin)

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.

SERMON (Gospel) Matthew 2:1-12 "EPIPHANY: CHRISTMAS FOR THE REST OF US"

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...

Dee Kurczewski (David) Dee - rehabbing. David back working
 DuWayne & Shirley Marquardt Health for both. Shirley has hernia surgery
 Jon & Andrea Sawyer Jon's heart, changing work. Andrea in LRMC 8 days!
 James Vanesky & Delores Platt Both rehabbing. We enjoy seeing them

Volunteers	Today	Next Sunday
Greeters	Bev Foster & Joe Thacker	DuWayne & Shirley Marquardt
Treaters		

Statistics	Last week	Year To Date / Avg.
Sunday, Attendance (Communion)	21+21 / (19)	24 / 19
Bible Class Attendance: Sunday	10	11
Sunday Offering (Needed) & YTD	\$. (\$1,350)	2018 \$., (\$71.K)

Calendar of Events		
Today, January 6 th	8:30 am	Bible Study Salvation Words: Covenant
Epiphany Festival	9:30 am	Divine Worship (WITH Communion)
Jesus is Manifest	10:45 ff...	"FFF" Stay... & UNdecorate church (Xmas)
Tuesday, 1/8	1:30-3:30	OSL "Game Time" ... Activities in hall
Thursday, 1/10	1:30 pm	OSL (1 st) January Council Meeting in hall
Next Sunday 1/13	8:30 am	Bible Study Salvation Words: Fide = Faith
Epiphany-1 Sunday	9:30 am	Divine Worship (NO Communion)
Jesus is Baptized	10:45 ff...	"FFF" = Food, Fun & Fellowship ... Stay!

Elders: Tom Temple 213-4622; John Weber 853-5458; Don Wienke 815-8892

✱ We are so happy to see Rev. Kenneth & Carol Mellon (and maybe family) visiting us and we thank Pr. Mellon for leading our Liturgy (just like old times)

1/13/19 Epi.-1C (NO L.S. p.5) 126/81 298/294 300.5/452 409/452 410/422

EPIPHANY/C Matthew 2:1-12 "EPIPHANY: CHRISTMAS IS OVER?" 1.6.19 OSL

X-MAS OVER? ☺ Today, January 6th is the actual **Day of Epiphany** (or the **?13th day of Christmas?**). But you can definitely **still** delight in this little sentence of Christmas in the creed: *"For us men and for our salvation, He came down from Heaven, and was Incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary, and was made Man."* **For us men** (and women) **He became Man**. For all of humanity, all the sons and daughters of Adam and Eve, God the Son, the Eternal Word, became a Human Being. ... And that brings us to **Epiphany**. The word itself means **Appearing** or **Manifestation**.

OUR X-MAS Epiphany is also called the "**Christmas of the Gentiles**," because the Magi were the first Gentile worshippers of the Messiah. Until then the only ones to worship Jesus were Israelites – "the insiders." A bunch of **shepherds** from Bethlehem, and **Simeon** and **Anna** in the temple. But the **Magi were Persians, probably from Babylon** (Iraq today). They were about as UNcircumcised, non-Israelite, Gentile as you could get. Yet they too come to worship the Child and acknowledge Him as King and God. Since most of us don't have a drop of Jewish blood in us, this is a big day for us too. So in case you still want to hang on to Christmas, go ahead for another week. You don't have to pack it in just yet. Christmas for the **Goyim**, the outsiders, the **Gentiles**. The Baby born to Mary is the world's baby, and today the world sends it's wise men to worship Him.

GREAT STORY 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 **St. 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.

PARANOID HEROD Well, it turns out that there **weren't any baby boys bouncing around** the Herod household that year. Which was probably good, since Herod eventually murdered his wife, three sons, mother-in-law, brother-in-law, uncle, and whoever else threatened his throne. The word on the street in Jerusalem was that it was safer to be one of Herod's pigs than to be one of his sons. And you can imagine that this bunch of Babylonian star gazers looking for a newborn "King of Jews" would **pique Herod's interest**. He calls in the teachers of the Torah and asks them where the Messiah was supposed to be born. And they flip the prophetic pages to the **Prophet Micah** who, 700 years before had written,

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. (Micah 5:2)

DIVINE GPS So off to Bethlehem the Magi go, and the star reappears, and like some **Divinely-ordained GPS** (a "God-Positioning-System") guides them to the little house at the end of the block where they knock on the door and find a young mother with her little child. They fall down on their knees and touch their foreheads to the ground, the **deepest sign of respect there is in the Middle East**, and they worship the little Child with their gifts of **gold, incense, and myrrh**.

"BREAD KING(?)" Now stop and consider for a moment that Bethlehem was the **birthplace of David**, the shepherd turned king of Israel, and that the name "Bethlehem" means "**House of Bread**," Israel's "bread box" where the true and living Bread of Life was born, you begin to **see the Fingerprints of God all over this episode**.

& OT TOO (PROPHECY) And just in case you need a little more convincing that this is no coincidence, there are the **many** OT prophecies, from (1) the reluctant prophet **Balaam** back in Israel's infancy; to (2) the **Queen of Sheba** coming to visit King Solomon, David's son and successor, and leaving a lot of valuable gifts - gold, spices, precious stones; and then there's (3) **Psalms 72**, which recalls that event and says of the Messiah-King; and finally (4) prophet **Isaiah** (OT Lesson): *"Herds of camels will cover your land, young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba will come. They'll bring gold and frankincense, and proclaim the praise of the Lord."*

4 ALL Here they are, men whose forefathers once took "David's children" captive into Babylon with the sword, now come bearing gifts, to worship David's Son. **Who for us men, for all mankind - for the Israelite, the Babylonian, for everyone in the world** - He came down from Heaven and was conceived by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary and was made Man.

WDTM? **What does this mean**, you may wonder. What does this Epiphany to Gentiles mean to us living in **America in the 21st Century?**

1, 2, 3, 4... It means, **First of all**, that God is a "sneaky fox" when it comes to **Mission work**. We sometimes don't give Him enough credit for being crafty. We think that God can only work in certain ways, especially ways that are under **our control**, and apart from them, well, **Sorry, God's hands are tied**, we think. Who's going to preach to the Babylonians? Who's going to tell them the **Good News** that a Savior has been born to them too, who is Christ the Lord? The shepherds heard the voice of an angel. God sends a star to the east to catch their searching eye. It's God's way of saying, *"He's for you too. Come and worship."*

2ND, Epiphany reminds us that **no one** has a monopoly on the Christ Child. He may be a Jewish boy, born to a (great-great-great-...grand) **daughter of David**, whose bloodline flowing back to **Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob**. But this Jewish Messiah, who is the Glory of Israel, is the Light who brings God's light to the nations. He's the true King of the Jews; He's the Lord of the nations, even those nations who don't know Him or acknowledge Him. He's God's gift to the world. The Father sends the birth

announcement out far and wide - as far as the East is from the West. Jesus is not simply the Messiah of Israel or the Savior of Christians, He's **the Redeemer of the whole world**. The arms of this Baby embrace the world, just as He would later embrace the world in the darkness of His death. Every sinner is spoken for in His death, **every sin atoned for in His Blood**.

3RD, Even the **gifts of the Magi** remind us of Who this Child of Bethlehem is **and what He will do**. Most likely that the Magi did **not fully understood the meaning** of their gifts. They were probably bringing the most expensive, portable gifts they could - gold, incense, myrrh. Each suggests something important about Jesus. **Gold** is the gift of **royalty**. This is **King David's Son**, the Ruler of the universe, the King of all kings and Lord of all lords. Incense is the **gift for a god**. This is little Child is **God of God, Light of Light, true God of true God**. Myrrh is the gift of **suffering and death**. It was used in medicine and for **burying the dead**. This Child came to suffer, to die, to rise, *"for us men, for the whole human race, and for our salvation."*

4TH, The Magi teach us that though there are many "religions" in the world, (today more than ever, and stranger than ever), there is **only one Way**, one **Truth**, one **Light and Life of the world**. God has only one Son, and His Name is Jesus. God is ever merciful and gracious - even to those who don't know Him. He provides a **star, a shining ray of truth** in the pagan star gazers' religion, to draw them to Bethlehem where they can meet the Truth Incarnate.

CHANGED MEN Whatever truth there may be - in **religion, in philosophy, in science, in all the wisdom of the ages** - every "truth" has its source in the Truth Incarnate, Jesus the Christ. Having bowed down before the world's Christ, the **Magi were now different men. Who wouldn't be changed?** They went back to their homes by "**another way**." You could say they "**Lost their religion**" to find the Truth in the Child named Jesus. And there is coming a Day to End all days, when every knee will bow, and every tongue will confess what the wise men learned that day - this Jesus is the Lord and the Christ of all. You're **in on the Mystery** ahead of time. **Consider yourself (so very) Blessed by God**.

"SO SPECIAL" Epiphany reminds each of us **how privileged we truly are as Baptized believers**. We too have been guided to the place where we might bow down and worship our Savior. Not by a star in the sky. More likely, it was by the word of a **godly parent**, or maybe a believing **neighbor** or friend. And you didn't have to go on a 700 mile journey through the desert. You simply had to get out of bed and come to the meeting where the Word is preached and the **Supper of Jesus' Body and Blood** is given, as it is here today. Here is **your Bethlehem**, your "House of Bread," where He **manifests Himself to you personally**. And, you don't have to ride a camel across the desert to worship Jesus. You don't need a star to guide you. He is right here for you. **In Jesus' OUR SAVIOR's Name, Amen. SDG**

Epiphany Festival ✨ *Manifestation of Christ* ✨ January 6

Possible Prayer of Church for Sunday of Epiphany ✨ January 6th, 2019

Led by the light of the star, the wise still come and, at the bidding of the Lord, kneel before Him with their prayers for all people as they have need.

As once the Magi of old came to adore the infant Savior and to bring Him the worship of their hearts, hands and gifts, so do we come this day giving thanks for Your mercy and rejoicing in Your promise kept. Bring the light of Your Word to all who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer**.

You have established Your Church and drawn into her people from every race, tribe and people. Bless all those entrusted with the leadership of the church, and give to all pastors and missionaries the boldness of Your Spirit, that they may proclaim the saving truth of Your Word without fear. Bless those who hear, that they may be brought to faith. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer**.

Bring an end to all threats of violence, and raise up for all the peoples leaders who will act with integrity, pursue justice and follow Your commands. Grant to all people the blessing of food, shelter, medical care and safety in their homes, and bless those whose duty it is to protect and defend them. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer**.

Guide those who teach Your Word, and fill the classrooms in our churches, schools, universities and seminaries with children, youth and adults who seek to know Jesus Christ. Prosper the publishing of faithful books to teach the faith, and bless the ways in which we may use the gift of technology for the faithful witness of the Gospel. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer**.

Give to all people the comfort of Your presence, healing according to Your will, relief of their suffering, and an end to the terrors of mind and heart, especially those for whom our prayers have been requested (**OSL Prayer List**) and those we name in our hearts. (Brief silence.) Sustain the weary with Your Word, the wounded with hope and the dying with peace. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer**.

Mindful of Your plan of the mystery hidden for the ages and revealed in Christ, we come together in this place as one people by Baptism and set apart to live out our common vocation of worship, witness, intercession and mercy work. Bless the gifts we bring as You once honored the Magi by accepting gold, frankincense and myrrh. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer**.

You have made us all Your chosen people, members of Christ's Body, co-heirs with Him of all the riches of Your grace, including the privilege of this holy table. Here the one in faith receive the one body of Christ and His one blood, for the forgiveness of our sins. Bless our communion in Christ and bring peace and unity, that we may see the day when no divisions prevent us from kneeling in Your presence and receiving this blessed Eucharist, for our life and salvation and for the life and salvation of all. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer**.

With exceedingly great joy in Your promises and with confidence that You will hear and answer Your people, we commend into Your hands ourselves and all for whom we pray, through Christ, our Lord, whom with the Father and Holy Spirit, You are one God and one Lord, now and forevermore. **Amen. L.S.**