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THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD
January 6, 2019
Divine Setting Three ~ Page 184

As We Gather ~*The Lord God Is Manifested in the Incarnate Son*

The Feast of the Epiphany centers in the visit of the Magi from the East. In that respect, it is a “Thirteenth Day” of Christmas; and yet, it also marks the beginning of a new liturgical season. While Christmas has focused on the Incarnation of our Lord—that is, on God becoming flesh—the season of Epiphany emphasizes the manifestation or self-revelation of God in that same flesh of Christ. For the Lord Himself has entered our darkness and rises upon us with the brightness of His true light (Is. 60:1–2). He does so chiefly by His Word of the Gospel, which He causes to be preached within His Church on earth—not only to the Jews but also to Gentiles (Eph. 3:8–10). As the Magi were guided by the promises of Holy Scripture to find and worship the Christ Child with His mother in the house (Matt. 2:5–11), so does He call disciples from all nations by the preaching of His Word, to find and worship Him within His Church (Is. 60:3–6). With gold they confess His royalty; with incense, His deity; and with myrrh, His priestly sacrifice (Matt. 2:11).

Announcements

Confession & Absolution

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Entrance Hymn

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“As with Gladness Men of Old”

(As the Cross, a symbol of our redemption, enters the sanctuary, God’s people stand and fix our eyes upon it)

Kyrie

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Gloria in Excelsis

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Salutation and Collect of the Day

p 189

P O God, by the leading of a star You made known Your only-begotten Son to the Gentiles. Lead us, who know You by faith, to enjoy in heaven the fullness of Your divine presence; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 60:1–6

1 Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.
2 For behold, darkness shall cover the earth,
and thick darkness the peoples;
but the LORD will arise upon you,
and his glory will be seen upon you.
3 And nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your rising.
4 Lift up your eyes all around, and see;
they all gather together, they come to you;
your sons shall come from afar,
and your daughters shall be carried on the hip.
5 Then you shall see and be radiant;
your heart shall thrill and exult,
because the abundance of the sea shall be turned to you,
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.
6 A multitude of camels shall cover you,
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;
all those from Sheba shall come.
They shall bring gold and frankincense,
and shall bring good news, the praises of the LORD.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gradual

Those from Sheba shall come.

They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall bring good news, the praises of the LORD.

**Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.**

Epistle

Ephesians 3:1–12

1For this reason I, Paul, a prisoner for Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles— 2assuming that you have heard of the stewardship of God’s grace that was given to me for you, 3how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I have written briefly. 4When you read this, you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ, 5which was not made known to the sons of men in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit. 6This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. 7Of this gospel I was made a minister according to the gift of God’s grace, which was given me by the working of his power. 8To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, 9and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things, 10so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. 11This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord, 12in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in him.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Alleluia and Verse

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Holy Gospel

Matthew 2:1–12

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the second chapter.

C Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

1Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, 2saying, “Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.” 3When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; 4and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. 5They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet:

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

7Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. 8And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him.” 9After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. 10When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. 11And going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. 12And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise be to Thee, O Christ.**

Nicene Creed

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Hymn of the Day

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“O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright”

Sermon “Light for the Dark of All Ages” *Matthew 2:1–12*

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Offering

Prayer of the Church

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

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Distribution (*You may kneel or stand to receive communion*)

Distribution Hymns p 370,376

*“What Child Is This”
“Once in Royal David’s City”*

Nunc Dimittis p 199

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Salutation and Benedicamus p 201

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“The Star Proclaims the King Is Here”

The Immanuel Spirit

Welcome to Immanuel! On this first Sunday of the New Year, welcome to worship! We have come to honor and praise the living God who makes all things new. St. Paul reminds us that it is God who enables us to “walk in newness of life” (Romans 6:4). Let us glorify God with that reality in mind. Blessings on one and all. Please join us for fellowship after the service.

Guests: Please sign our guest book, or a guest card in the pew and place in the offering plate before leaving.

Scripture Lessons for next Sunday: Isaiah 42:1–7, 1 Corinthians 1:26–31 and Matthew 3:13–17.

Stewardship: *Matt. 2:11* – “And going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh.” Worship and the giving of gifts go together. This makes sense because God is the great Giver of every good gift, and we worship Him and desire to grow into His image. We receive His gifts in worship and then, being conformed to the likeness of His image, we imitate His generosity.

Communion Statement: As we learn from 1 Corinthians, when we commune together we make a confession of our oneness in doctrine and understanding of God’s Word. Since those who show publicly that they agree with the teachings believed, taught, and confessed by the Pastor and congregation at which the Sacrament is distributed, we ask that those who are not members in good standing of a congregation of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, or one of our sister churches please refrain from partaking of the Sacrament. Instead, if you would like to receive a blessing, you are more than welcome to come to the altar rail and please indicate you would like to receive a blessing by crossing your arms in front of your chest. A list of church bodies with whom we share Altar and Pulpit fellowship is posted on the bulletin board in the hallway. If you would like to visit about this doctrine and practice, please talk to Pastor or an Elder. For further study on this matter see Matthew 5:23ff, 18:15-35, 26:26-39; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:19-20 and 1 Cor. 11:17-34. Thank you.

Sunday School: Today's Sunday School lesson is "The Birth of John Foretold." The children learned that God in His mercy promised to send John to prepare sinful people for the coming of the Lord. God in His Word calls us to repentance, declaring us righteous because of His Son, Jesus. In your family discussions ask, "When have you doubted God's Word? How does God forgive and relieve our doubts?"

Building Healthy Families for Jan. 6th: Have you experienced the grief and loss of infertility? Or do you have parenting experience and room in your heart and home for one more child? Would you prayerfully consider adopting a child, possibly one who exists today as a waiting frozen embryo, or one who is waiting in foster care, in need of a forever family? Adoption builds a family through love that transcends genetics, biology and culture. To learn more about embryo adoption, visit www.embryoadooption.org. **Lutheran Family Service of Iowa: Des Moines (515) 251-4900.**

Life Quote for Jan. 6th: "For Christians, then, 'too many people' is impossible. Each additional person affords another opportunity to love and give in the way that brings God Himself the highest joys. And in the neediness of every neighbor more, we encounter and embrace Christ Jesus (Matthew 25:40)." Rev. Michael W. Salemink, executive director of Lutherans For Life ~ **A "Life Quote" from Lutherans For Life www.lutheransforlife.org**

Lutheran Hour Ministries for Jan. 13th: Hear "Reason to Believe" based on John 1:19-51 by Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler. Do you have a reason to believe that everyone should believe what you believe? John did. Come and see. ~ **Listen next Sunday on 600 WMT at 6:30 a.m., 1190 KFJB at 8:30 a.m., WHO-1040 at 7:30 a.m., & 1410 KGRN at 7:30 a.m.**

Life Thought in the Church Year for January 6th: The Heavenly Father welcomed outsiders into His household at Christmas (Matthew 2:1, 11). He even escorted them toward His nativity and incarnation by an extraordinary gesture. His loving grace held the magi as precious as His own Son, regardless of their origin and location. God's favor shines the same way upon unborn ones, even in their sometimes unfavorable circumstances. And His forgiveness embraces all sinners—even those with histories checkered by violence against life.

Cleaning: Household(s) responsible for the week of 1/6--1/12 is **Smith/Schutt**. Household(s) responsible for the week of 1/13--1/19 is **Sittig**. If it is your week to clean church & you have other obligations or prefer to write a check rather than cleaning, the cost is \$50. Please contact Amber Carnine (641-990-5985) no later than the Thursday of the week before it is your week to clean.

Voters' Assembly

The 1st quarter meeting will be held after the service on Sunday, January 20th.

If you are not a member and desire to become one:

4.3.1 Definition: Voting members are communicants who have reached the age of 18 years and who have been received by the Voters' Assembly.

4.3.2 Reception: Applicants for voting membership shall have received a copy of the constitution and be given time to review it. They shall be received as voting members by presenting themselves at a meeting of the Voters' Assembly and signing the constitution.

Confirmation Memory Work

There is no confirmation January 13

Serve
one another
Humbly
In **Love**
Galatians 5:13

TODAY

Organist.....Esther Huedepohl
Elder.....Keith Thorpe
Greeter.....Stanek
Ushers.....Randy Carnine & Steve Haase
Servers.....Emily Louden & Marrina Kaloupek
Acolyte/Crucifier.....Lauren Louden & Joey Koepp

NEXT SUNDAY

Organist.....Pam Haase
Elder.....Ken Mergen
Greeter.....Thorpe
Ushers.....Kevin Schultz & Arnie Heimsoth
Servers.....Diane Schultz & Kathy Stanek
Acolyte/Crucifier.....Alex Eichenberger & Oliver Louden

Our Gifts to God (given at Immanuel)

December 30, 2018

| | |
|---------------------------|----------|
| Attendance | 58 |
| Holy Communion | 42 |
| General Fund | \$605.00 |
| Building Improvement Fund | \$50.00 |

Week Ahead

TODAY

The Epiphany of Our Lord.....9:00 a.m.
Christian Education.....10:30 a.m.
Board of Ed. Meeting.....11:30 a.m.
7th/8th Confirmation.....1:00-2:30 p.m.
5th/6th Pre-Confirmation.....2:30-4:00 p.m.

TUESDAY

Winkle.....9:00 a.m.
Board of Evangelism/Missions.....4:15 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

Windsor Manor Service.....10:30 a.m.
Grinnell Ministerial Association.....Noon

THURSDAY

Bible Study.....11:00 a.m.

NEXT SUNDAY

Council Meeting.....8:00 a.m.
The Baptism of Our Lord.....9:00 a.m.
Christian Education.....10:30 a.m.
No Confirmation

BIRTHDAYS

No birthdays this week

2018 Missions Totals

| | |
|---|------------------|
| LC-MS World Relief & Human Care | \$464.00 |
| Mexico Missions, Trinity Lutheran Church | \$647.00 |
| Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca | \$559.00 |
| Lutheran Hour Ministries | \$631.00 |
| Newton Pregnancy Resource Center | \$475.00 |
| MICA | \$475.00 |
| Missions Grand Total: | \$3251.00 |

Other Donations

| | |
|----------------------------------|------------------|
| Building Improvement Fund | \$4823.00 |
| Caleb Hammond Fund | \$310.00 |
| Thrivent Choice | \$188.00 |



Our church website has the info. you need right at your fingertips! Get access to weekly bulletins, sermons, calendars, upcoming events, pictures and more!
www.immanuelgrinnell.org

Follow us on Facebook!

Immanuel Lutheran Church LC-MS

Subscribe to Pastor's YouTube channel to listen to sermons!
Rev. Dr. Joel Koepp or Immanuel Lutheran Church, Grinnell, IA

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Esther Huedepohl/Pam Haase

Church Secretary

Amber Carnine

Sunday School Opening

Pastor Koepp

The Divine Service Introduction

Our Lutheran Heritage of Worship

Pastor David Miller

Trinity Lutheran Church, Cedar Rapids, Iowa

The Aaronic Benediction

“The LORD spoke to Moses, saying, ‘Speak to Aaron and his sons, saying, thus shall you bless the people of Israel; you shall say to them: The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make His face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the LORD lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace. So shall they put My name upon the people of Israel, and I will bless them.’” (*Numbers 6:22-27*)

This blessing receives its power, content, meaning and purpose from the Word of God. The act of blessing has the divine Word as its object, and therefore gives a gift that is creative and flows through the Spirit of God. In other words, the ministry of the Word delivers Christ and His Spirit to God’s people. It conveys God’s gifts as freely given to people, communally and personally, as they are ready to receive them.

Blessing is a foundational action in both Judaism and Christianity. It acknowledges that since God is our Creator, we do not need to fabricate life for ourselves or make something of ourselves by our own performance. Instead, we receive everything from God. Blessing enacts God’s grace as something that we cannot achieve, but always only receive. When we bless, we are like channels that pass on to others what we do not possess ourselves, good things from God that we ourselves do not control. By blessing we live by God’s grace and pass it on to others.

Since the triune God is rich in grace, giving richly to those who confess Jesus as their Lord (*Romans 10:12-13*), blessing is also the basic gesture of a pastor. Pastoral blessing delivers the full measure of Christ’s blessing to believers and the blessing of the Creator to unbelievers. Even though the ministers of the Word are stewards of God’s riches, they themselves do not possess what they pass on to others. Like beggars, they themselves give only as they receive. Their capacity to bless comes through faith in God’s promises and from prayer for themselves and others.

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
LCMS Stewardship Ministry
Newsletter Article – January 2019

It is no secret that God calls us to be generous with the gifts He has given us. Throughout the Bible, we read that just as God has generously given to us, so are we to give generously one to another. As Jesus said, “By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another” (John 13:35) and “Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful” (Luke 6:36).

But God also calls us to give to Him. And He, who does all things well, presses it into service for the benefit of all the people of God. See for example what God spoke to Moses on Mount Sinai, after he and the people were safely brought out of Egypt across the Red Sea on dry land:

The Lord said to Moses, “Speak to the people of Israel, that they take for me a contribution. From every man whose heart moves him you shall receive the contribution for me. And this is the contribution that you shall receive from them: gold, silver, and bronze, blue and purple and scarlet yarns and fine twined linen, goats' hair, tanned rams' skins, goatskins,[a] acacia wood, oil for the lamps, spices for the anointing oil and for the fragrant incense, onyx stones, and stones for setting, for the ephod and for the breast-piece. And let them make me a sanctuary, that I may dwell in their midst. Exactly as I show you concerning the pattern of the tabernacle, and of all its furniture, so you shall make it. (Ex. 25: 1-9)

Notice in verse two that the Lord instructs Moses to tell the Israelites to “take for me a contribution” and that from everyone motivated from gratitude for what God has just accomplished and given to them, Moses is to gather up “the contribution for me.”

Pay attention, though, why the Lord wants the people of Israel to gather up these contributions for Him. God tells Moses precisely why: “let them make me a sanctuary, that I may dwell in their midst.”

The purpose for the contribution of the Israelites was so that He may dwell with them, that He would live among them. Through the tabernacle and the priesthood, through their rites and ceremonies, through their feasts and festivals, as through means, the Lord God, who brought them out of the bondage of Egypt would live and dwell among them and be their God, and lead them into the promised land, which flowed with milk and honey.

God dwells among us still. In the fullness of time, God's son was born of woman, born under the law to redeem those under the law. He brought us out of bondage to sin, death, the devil, and Hell, and He did this by His obedient suffering and death, his resurrection and ascension. But He is not gone. He dwells with us through the means of His Word and His sacraments, through the preaching and the teaching of our pastors, through the rites and ceremonies of our liturgy. He dwells with us in the Church through those means. And He is leading us to the true promised land, to the new heavens and the new earth in the new creation.

In the meantime, as God, even now, continues to call us to give to Him, let us, who have been saved from slavery to sin and death, the devil and hell, be so moved in our hearts as to give generously to Him so that the means of grace, the means of His gracious dwelling among us, would continue now and into the future. For just as He did then so does He do now. He presses the gifts given to Him into service for the benefit of all His people. He puts it to use so that we may have Him with us always, even unto the end of the age.