

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.

Sermon Hymn: 79 – How Lovely Shines the Morning Star

Sermon: Presents Fit for a King

Offering: *(Please remember to sign the Friendship Register.)*

Distribution Hymn: 78 – O Light of Gentile Nations

Benediction

Closing Hymn: 80 – Angels from the Realms of Glory

Ushers: This Week – Dan Stern & Brady Broedlow
Next Week – Jesse Horta & Alex Vogel

Greeters: This Week – Kevin & Holly Broedlow
Next Week – Keith & Lynn Fry

Please remember to use your new 2019 envelopes for your weekly and special offerings. If you have not picked up your envelopes please do so. Remaining envelopes are on the pew in the church narthex.

St. Peter's Ev. Lutheran Church

Epiphany - January 5th & 6th, 2019



P.O. Box 86, Helenville, Wisconsin

Pastor: Mark Swanson Church Tel: 920-674-3307

Principal: Craig Winkler School Tel: 262-582-3010

Organist: Beth Schumacher

We Welcome You!

Order of Worship: Divine Service 1

Opening Hymn: 76 – Jesus! Name of Wondrous Love

Prayer of the Day:

M: Lord God, by the leading of a star you once made known to the nations your one and only Son. Guide us, also, who know him now by faith, to come at last to the perfect joy of your heavenly glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

First Lesson - Isaiah 60:1-6

The oppressive darkness of sin is shattered as the כֶּנֶסֶת הַלַּיְלָה dawns on the peoples of the earth. But this light reaches beyond the covenant people of Israel. This light reaches to the ends of the earth, inviting all to step into the radiance of its light.

¹“Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD rises upon you. ²See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples, but the LORD rises upon you and his glory appears over you. ³Nations 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. ⁵Then 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. ⁶Herds 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.

Psalm of the Day - Psalm 72, p. 93

Second Lesson - Ephesians 3:2-12

Paul knew what it meant to be suddenly bathed in light for the ultimate good of his soul. Now he rejoices in the revelation of the Christ not only to the House of Israel but to the Gentiles – fellow heirs in the promise of Christ Jesus.

² Surely you have heard about the administration of God’s grace that was given to me for you, ³ that is, the mystery made known to me by revelation, as I have already written briefly. ⁴ In reading this, then, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, ⁵ which was not made known to men in other generations as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to God’s holy apostles and prophets. ⁶ This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus.

⁷ I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God’s grace given me through the working of his power. ⁸ Although I am less than the least of all God’s people, this grace was given me: to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, ⁹ and to make plain to everyone the administration of this mystery, which for ages past was kept hidden in God, who created all things. ¹⁰ His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, ¹¹ according to his eternal purpose which he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. ¹² In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence.

Verse of the Day: *Alleluia. We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him. Alleluia. (Matthew 2:2b)*

Gospel - Matthew 2:1-12

So long on the outside, looking in, the nations of the earth had viewed the glory of the Lord with a sense of mystery and awe while all but a faithful few in the chosen nation of Israel forsook and dishonored the God of the covenant. Yet, in the Lord’s faithfulness, the promise is fulfilled as the Savior is born. The heralding star beckons the Magi to come and worship the King. Others wish to come for the purposes of evil. But the power of the Most High protects the Hope of Nations in his mother’s arms. We offer our best in response to the greatest treasure – salvation in Christ.

¹ 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