

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

People: O King of Kings and Lord of Lords, we confess our sin and our need to you today. You came so far to save us. You endured such humility to show us your love. Yet we struggle in our devotion to you. We easily complain about our hardships. We focus on our desires and not on what your will would be. Forgive us, dear Savior. Renew us again by the promises of your grace and change our hearts and strengthen our faith to follow you wherever you would lead. Amen.

Scripture Readings

January 10, 2010

Isaiah 60:1-6

"Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the LORD rises upon you.
See, darkness covers the earth
and thick darkness is over the peoples,
but the LORD rises upon you and his glory appears over you.
Nations will come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.
"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.
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.
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.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God!

Ephesians 3:1-12

For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles—
Surely you have heard about the administration of God's grace that was given to me for you, that is, the mystery made known to me by revelation, as I have already written briefly. In reading this, then, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, 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. 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.

I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God's grace given me through the working of his power. 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, and to make plain to everyone the administration of this mystery, which for ages past was kept hidden in God, who created all things. 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, according to his eternal purpose which he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God!

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 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."

When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. 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. "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has 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.'"

Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. 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."

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. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. 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. And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

Leader: This is the Gospel of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God!

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His only son our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen

Sermon Outline • January 10, 2010

"The Importance of Epiphany"

Matthew 2:1-12

I. It reveals the awesome _____ of God.

II. It reveals the amazing _____ of God.

I. A. The appearance of the star, the leading of the star, the guidance of the star - these are all evidence of God's almighty _____.

B. Jesus' humble birth in Bethlehem was _____ piece of God's Plan to save the _____.

C. Epiphany is important because on this day God reveals His awesome _____. He reminds us he can do anything, He can see everything. And sometimes God's people need the _____.

II. A. Why doesn't God give us what we deserve? Why is He so patient with us? Matthew knows why and in the Epiphany account he tells. On this day God reveals _____ grace.

B. The Wise Men symbolize God's _____ to carry the Gospel from one little corner of the _____ to every corner of the globe.

C. Epiphany is different. It wasn't just written for us. It was written about _____. The Epiphany account is God's way of saying, "My _____ came into the world for _____. I want you to believe in _____. I want you to _____ Me. I want you to _____ Me!

Answers to Sermon Outline: power, grace, power, one, world, power, reminder, amazing, desire, world, us, Son, you, Me, follow, worship

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

THE BENEDICTION

Leader: The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

People: And the people took the blessing and held it in their hearts.

Leader: Go in peace, serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!