St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

A congregation of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod
711 Court Street Pekin, IL 61554-1735
(309)-347-2136/2137
Web site: stjohnpekin.com Email: stjohnsec@grics.net
Rev. Daniel J. Bishop, Pastor
Joel Kilgus - Good Shepherd Lutheran School - 347-2020

THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD
(OBSERVED)
January 8, 2023

Christ's blessings to all! **To our visitors**, we rejoice to have you gathered together with us in our Lord's House this day & look forward to having you with us again. If you are searching for a Church home, **please introduce yourself to Pastor** afterwards, or indicate such together **with your contact information** in the red 'Fellowship Booklets' located in each pew.

The Order of Service without Holy Communion

+ Prelude

+ Hymn – #126
"Arise and Shine in Splendor"

+ Invocation – pg. 5
+ Confession of Sins and Pronouncement of Grace – pg. 5-6

+ Introit *Antiphon: Ps. 72:11; Ps. 72:1-2, 12-14, 17a*
All kings will bow down to him
and all nations will serve him.
Endow the king with your justice, O God,
the royal son with your righteousness,
He will judge your people in righteousness,
your afflicted ones with justice.
For he will deliver the needy who cry out,
the afflicted who have no one to help.
He will take pity on the weak and the needy
and save the needy from death.
He will rescue them from oppression and violence,
for precious is their blood in his sight.

His name shall endure forever;
His name shall continue as long as the sun.
All kings will bow down to him
and all nations will serve him.

+ Gloria Patri – pg. 6
+ The Kyrie – pg. 7
+ The Gloria in Excelsis – pg. 7-9
+ The Salutation – pg. 9

+ The Collect for The Day

O God, by the leading of a star You once made known to all nations your only-begotten Son; now lead us, who know You by faith, to know in heaven the fullness of your divine goodness; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

The Catechism Review – The Sacrament of the Altar

How can bodily eating and drinking do such great things?

Certainly not just eating and drinking do these things, but the words written here: "Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins." These words, along with the bodily eating and drinking, are the main thing in the Sacrament. Whoever believes these words has exactly what they say; "forgiveness of sins."

Who receives this sacrament worthily?

Fasting and bodily preparation are certainly fine outward training. But that person is truly worthy and well prepared who has faith in these words: "Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins."

But anyone who does not believe these words or doubts them is unworthy and unprepared, for the words "for you" require all hearts to believe.

+ The 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.

+ The 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.

+ The Triple Hallelujah – pg. 10

+ The Gospel Verses – pg. 10-11

+ The Holy Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12 *(stand)*

[1]Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, [2]saying, "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." [3]When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; [4]and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. [5]They 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.' "

[7]Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. [8]And 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." [9]After 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. [10]When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. [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. [12]And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

+ The Apostles' Creed, pg. 12

+ Sermon Hymn – #59

"Hail to the Lord's Annointed"

+ Sermon – "An Ancient Epiphany"

Psalm 72:11-12

I. The Messiah is for all people.
II. He is the Helper of the helpless.

+ The Offertory – pg. 12 *(stand)*

+ The Offering *(be seated)*

Choir "Justice Shall Flourish in His Time" *(from Psalm 72) (8:00)*
Duet "Justice Shall Flourish in His Time" *(10:30)*

+ The Prayer of The Church

+ The Lord's Prayer – pg. 14

+ Hymn – #128
"Brightest and Best of the Sons of the Morning"

+ The Collect for The Word / The Church – pg. 14 *(stand)*

+ The Benediction – pg. 14

+ Hymn – #127
"As with Gladness Men of Old"

Silent Prayer & Postlude

+ SOLI DEO GLORIA +

DAILY READINGS: January 8: Ezek. 2:1–3:11; Rom. 1:18–32; 9: Ezek. 3:12–27; Rom. 2:1–16; 10: Ezek. 18:1–4, 19–32; Rom. 2:17–29; 11: Ezek. 33:1–20; Rom. 3:1–18; 12: Ezek. 34:1–24; Rom. 3:19–31; 13: Ezek. 36:13–28; Rom. 4:1–25; 14: Ezek. 36:33–37:14; Rom. 5:1–21.

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