

The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer

Second Sunday After Christmas

January 4-10, 2009

The Church Calendar

January 6 – The Feast of Epiphany

"Epiphany" is a word of Greek origin, related to such English words as "theophany," "phenotype," and "phenomenon." It means an appearance, a displaying, a showing forth, a making clear or public or obvious. On this day, Christians have traditionally celebrated the making known of Jesus Christ to the world.

Today, then, we commemorate the visit of the Magi, a token of the day when all the peoples of the earth will acknowledge Jesus Christ as Lord, God, and Savior. The visit of the Magi is recorded in the second chapter of Matthew. MAGI (MAGOI), the Latin (Greek) plural of MAGUS (MAGOS), referred originally to the priests of Parsiism, the monotheistic religion preached in Persia by Zoroaster in about the sixth century BC. In later years it came to mean magicians, priests, physicians, scribes, scholars, or learned men. From it we derive our word "magic." The KJV Bible translates the word as "wise men." Matthew tells us how they came to Jerusalem and then to Bethlehem, and gave gifts to the infant Jesus.

First Reading: Isaiah 60:1-6,9

Psalms: 72 (or 72:1-2,10-17)

Epistle: Ephesians 3:1-12

The Holy Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12

Collect: O God, who by the leading of a star didst manifest thy only-begotten Son to the peoples of the earth: Lead us, who know thee now by faith, to thy presence, where we may behold thy glory face to face; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

(Taken from James Keifer's Hagiographies)

The Daily Office

V: O Lord, open my lips;

R: and my mouth will declare your praise

V: Make haste, O God, to + deliver me;

R: make haste to help me, O Lord.

All: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever, world without end. Amen.

The Readings (Sunday-Saturday)

| | Psalmody | Old Testament | New Testament |
|-----|----------|----------------------|----------------|
| Sun | 40:6-10 | Isaiah 63:15-65:7 | Luke 2:41-52 |
| Mon | 37:34-40 | Isaiah 65:8-25 | Luke 3:1-20 |
| Tue | 45:1-7 | Isaiah 66:1-20 | Luke 3:21-38 |
| Wed | 46:4-11 | Ezekiel 1:1-14,22-28 | Romans 1:1-17 |
| Thu | 19:1-14 | Ezekiel 2:1-3:11 | Romans 1:18-32 |
| Fri | 62:5-12 | Ezekiel 3:12-27 | Romans 2:1-16 |
| Sat | 85:1-13 | Ezekiel 18:1-4,19-32 | Romans 2:17-29 |

Optional: Large Catechism I:333- II:70

The Catechism

The Creed – The Third Article

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.

What does this mean?

I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith.

In the same way, He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith.

In this Christian church He daily and richly forgives all my sins and the sins of all believers.

On the Last Day He will raise me and all the dead, and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ.

This is most certainly true.

Kyrie

Lord, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.** Lord, have mercy.

The Lord's Prayer (prayed together)

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 Creed (confessed by all)

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.

The Litany

V: O Lord, hear my prayer.

R: And let my cry come to You.

V: In the day of my trouble I call to you

R: For You answer me.

V: Hide Your face from my sins.

R: And blot out all my iniquity.

V: Create in me a clean heart, O God.

R: And renew a right spirit within me.

V: Do not cast me away from Your presence.

R: And do not take Your Holy Spirit from me.

V: Restore to me the joy of your salvation.

R: And uphold me with a willing Spirit.

V: Because Your lovingkindness is better than life.

R: My lips shall praise You

V: Because You have been my help.

R: Therefore in the shadow of Your wings I will rejoice.

V: Teach me Your way, O Lord, and I will walk in Your truth.

R: Give me an undivided heart that I may fear Your name.

V: I will praise You, O Lord my God, with all my heart.

R: I will glorify Your name forever.

V: May all who seek You rejoice and be glad in You.

R: May those who love Your salvation always say, Let God be exalted.

V: Save Your people and bless Your inheritance.

R: Be their shepherd and carry them forever.

V: Hear my prayer, O Lord.

R: Listen to my cry for mercy.

The Collect

Almighty and everlasting God, direct our actions according to Thy good pleasure, that in the name of Thy beloved Son we may be made to abound in good works; the same Jesus Christ, Thy Son, our Lord, Who liiveth and reigneth with Thee and the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end. Amen.

In our prayers: Pastor, Richard Eaches, Jackie Caudill, Doug Thomas, Sam Cooper, Rev. Leonard Riddle

Luther's Evening Prayer (prayed together)

I thank you my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that you have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me that the wicked foe may have no power over me. Amen.

V: Let us bless the Lord.

R: Thanks be to God.

V: The Lord bless us, defend us from all evil, + and bring us to everlasting life.

R: Amen.