

Make Church a Part of Your Life

WEEKLY SERMONETTE

"Jesus Revealed!"

By Pastor Rick Rostek, Immanuel Lutheran Church

Webster's defines the word epiphany as "a moment of sudden intuitive understanding; flash of insight". The Church is currently in the season of Epiphany, which celebrates the manifestations of Christ as true God come to earth as Savior of the world.

The season begins with the visit of the Magi to the Christ Child. These Gentiles, bearing their gifts, followed the star to the home of Jesus. When they got there, they fell on their knees and worshipped Jesus, showing that the Christ had come not only for Jews, but for all people.

During the Epiphany season, we celebrate the baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River. Though He had no sin, Jesus received a baptism of repentance and forgiveness to show that He joined with all humanity and was willing to serve as the perfect substitute and sacrifice for the sin of the world. As the Holy Spirit descended on Jesus, the voice of God the Father thundered from heaven, "You are my beloved

Son. With You I am well pleased" (Luke 3:22). Not only did Jesus reveal Himself to be humanity's substitute, the Father revealed that Jesus was indeed the very Son of God.

The Epiphany season re-

veals Jesus as 1) having control over the natural order of the world by changing water into wine at the wedding at Cana; 2) the One who fulfills prophecy as He comes into the synagogue and reads from the

prophet Isaiah; and 3) the Ruler over the spiritual world as He drives out the demon from the man in Capernaum.

The Epiphany season ends on the Mount of Transfiguration as Jesus is miraculously transformed before the eyes of Peter, James, and John. Appearing with Jesus are Moses and Elijah, verifying that Jesus does indeed fulfill the law and the prophets. The majestic scene ends with the Father once again booming from heaven, "This is my Son, my Chosen One; listen to him" (Luke 9:35).

In all of these moments of sudden intuitive understanding, Jesus reveals Himself to be the only one who is chosen by God to be the forgiver of sins and Savior of the world. He would accomplish this task by dying on the cross as a perfect sacrifice for all sin, including yours. Believing that Jesus is your Savior, you have forgiveness of sins and everlasting life. May Jesus be revealed to you this Epiphany season.



Leaders & Followers

Many of us define our role in life at an early age. Some of us scramble to be leaders...the rest are content to follow or to watch from the sidelines. We do not know all of the reasons why this is so, but a teacher can usually predict who will be the first with hands flying toward the ceiling, and who will sit quietly and wait.

Leaders take us where we need to go, but we need followers to complete the scene...supporting players...even in the spiritual sense. Followers show God's goodness in their lives by example. In this way they, too, become leaders of their peers. We read in Luke 22:26, "...the greatest among you should be like the youngest, and the one who rules like the one who serves." Though the minister, priest, or rabbi leads us in worship, there would be no service without a body of followers. Join the crowd at your house of worship this and every week!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Luke	Luke	Luke	Luke	Luke	Luke	Luke
4.31-44	5.1-16	5.17-39	7.1-17	7.18-35	7.36-50	9.1-17

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