

EPIPHANY SEASON BIBLE STUDY

1-7-24 Pastor David Nehrenz

Trinity Lutheran Church - Norman, OK. www.tlcnorman.org

THE FOUR KEY EVENTS IN THE LIFE OF OUR LORD DURING EPIPHANY

(This year from Jan. 6 – Epiphany till Feb. 11 – Transfiguration)

1. The Epiphany Coming of the Magi (**Mt. 2:1-23**)
2. The Baptism of our Lord (**Mt 3:1-17; Mk 1:1-11; Lk 3:1-23; Jn 1:29-36**)
3. The First Miracle showing his glory at the Wedding in Cana (**Jn 2:1-11**)
4. The Transfiguration of Our Lord (**Mt 17:1-9; Mk 9:1-10; Lk 9:28-36; Jn 1:14; 1 Jn 1:1-3; 2 Pet 1:16-21**)

The Hymn **LSB 394**: “Songs of Thankfulness and Praise”

1 Songs of thankfulness and praise, - **EPIPHANY**

Jesus, Lord, to Thee we raise,

Manifested by the star

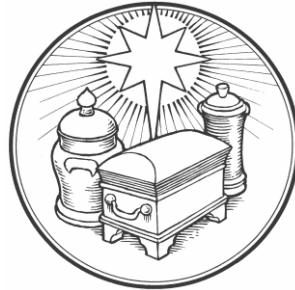
To the sages from afar,

Branch of royal David’s stem

In Thy birth at Bethlehem:

Anthems be to Thee addressed,

God in man made manifest.



2 Manifest at Jordan’s stream, - **BAPTISM AND FIRST MIRACLE AT CANA**

Prophet, Priest, and King supreme;

And at Cana wedding guest

In Thy Godhead manifest;

Manifest in pow’r divine,

Changing water into wine;

Anthems be to Thee addressed,

God in man made manifest.



3 Manifest in making whole

Palsied limbs and fainting soul;

Manifest in valiant fight,

Quelling all the devil’s might;

Manifest in gracious will,

Ever bringing good from ill;

Anthems be to Thee addressed,

God in man made manifest.



4 Sun and moon shall darkened be, - **TRANSFIGURATION**

Stars shall fall, the heav’ns shall flee;

Christ will then like lightning shine,

All will see His glorious sign;

All will then the trumpet hear,

All will see the Judge appear;

Thou by all wilt be confessed,

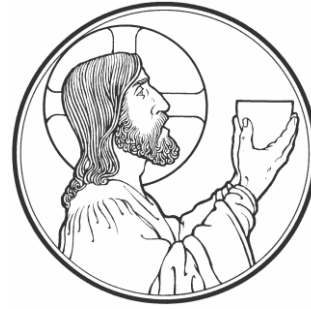
God in man made manifest.



5 **Grant us grace to see Thee, Lord, - PRESENCE WITH US IN WORD AND SACRAMENT**

Present in Thy holy Word—

Grace to imitate Thee now
And be pure, as pure art Thou;
That we might become like Thee
At Thy great epiphany
And may praise Thee, ever blest,
God in man made manifest.



EXPLANATION OF THE EPIPHANY SEASON:

“Don’t miss the season of Epiphany! Epiphany is season of light but is squeezed between Christmas and Lent. The message of this season ought to shine brightly for it teaches an important topic: the mission of the church. It progresses from bright star guiding the Magi to the shining dove at the Baptism of Jesus to the glory of the Transfiguration. The structure of the season proclaims the mission of God’s people.

Epiphany Sunday is the story of the Magi and tells of distant people coming to Christ. The light draws the wise men from far off to worship Him. The Church calls people who are isolated from God to come. But the invitation is not to some idea or theory but to “God in man - made manifest” (LSB 394). The Church’s mission is to call sinners to communion with the life-giving flesh of Christ.

The first Sunday after the Epiphany is the Baptism of Our Lord and takes us to the waters of the Jordan. There John baptized Jesus, who numbers Himself among sinners. The bright dove, the Holy Spirit, points out Christ in the water. Outreach to the world and into the Church points to the same water. Those whom the mission calls to join Christ and His Church are called to the light of Christ in Baptism.

The second Sunday after Epiphany is The Wedding at Cana and turning water into wine to show his glory. The remaining Sundays of Epiphany focus on the ministry of Jesus. He is the light of the world. He preaches. He prays. He heals those afflicted by Satan. In other words, He does mission work. The Church does also. Jesus also calls us the light of the world. The mission of the Church is like Jesus’ ministry: long and patient. The Church’s mission is not to simply bring in as many as we can through the front door. It is to keep shining the light of Christ through His word, season after season, so that those living in darkness may continue to see the great light.

The finale of the Epiphany season is the Transfiguration of Our Lord. God in flesh is at the center but now not Magi but the glorified saints of old and the trembling disciples surround Christ. The light that pointed to Jesus at His Baptism now shines through Him. This is the goal of the Church’s work: to bring people into God’s presence for eternity. The light of Transfiguration shows us how important the Church’s work really is. The mission of the Church is aimed at that divine joy.”

The Rev. Paul Gregory Alms is pastor of Redeemer Lutheran Church, Catawba, N.C.

THE WHITE PARAMENTS:

In addition to its use during Eastertide, white is the appointed color for such festive Sundays as Christmas and its twelve days; Epiphany (Jan. 6) and the first Sunday following it, observed as the Baptism of Our Lord; the Last Sunday after the Epiphany, also known as Transfiguration Sunday; Holy Trinity Sunday; and twenty-one minor festivals and occasions listed on the church year calendar in *Lutheran Service Book*. In all, white serves as the best festive color for the church year.