

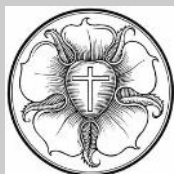
“This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to Him.”

ST. MATTHEW 17: 5
FROM THE HOLY GOSPEL
FOR THE
TRANSFIGURATION
OF OUR LORD



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The Fullness of Your Glory

by Pastor Sutton

It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God,
*and now we praise You that
You sent us your only-begotten Son
and that in him, being found in fashion as a man,
You manifested the fullness of your glory.*

Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying...

Who is Jesus Christ? What makes Jesus different than all the rest of the great “religious” figures of world history? Isn’t Jesus Christ perhaps just a great teacher, a great moral example, a great story-teller, or even perhaps for some skeptics, a great legendary figure designed to elicit a religious following?


In the Epiphany season, Jesus Christ is revealed as more than just any other man. Christmas and Epiphany bring us the incarnate Lord, son of God and son of Mary, “God with us.” This Jesus is celebrated on Epiphany Day as the true light, the bright and morning star, whose star rose up over the place where He lived with His mother and step-father. The wise men know the significance of the star from God’s Word, and hear again from God’s Word that the Christ was to be born in Bethlehem. They make haste and see the star shine yet again and lead them to the very house. They go in and worship the Christ-child and give Him gifts fit for a prophet (myrrh – a burial spice for one destined to die), for a priest (frankincense), and for a king (gold). Gifts and worship fit for the glorious presence of God Himself, even God “being found in fashion as a man” by the Wise Men.


Like the Wise Men, the light of this revelation concerning who Jesus Christ is has been revealed to all Christians by the Holy Spirit. By grace, through faith, we go into the House and worship where our Savior is laid for us. Jesus Christ is in the water and Word of promise in the Baptismal Font, is heard from the proclamation of His Word in the Pulpit, and is on the Altar in bread and wine set apart at His Word as His own Body and Blood given and shed for the forgiveness of sins. Unlike the Wise Men, we Christians worship and adore the Christ when we receive gifts from our prophet, priest, and king, gifts that flow

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Esprit is the informational and educational newsletter of Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church.

Esprit de corps indicates a sense of union and of common interests and responsibilities, as developed among a group. Our community of Immanuel is centered in the Lord Jesus Christ as He comes to us in the Holy Scriptures and the Sacraments.

Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church is an historic and centrally located parish—called, gathered, and strengthened by Christ's Word and Sacraments—confessional in doctrine, evangelical in orientation, orthodox in liturgy, cosmopolitan in membership; serving the Terre Haute community and the students of Indiana State University and Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology, and reaching out to the nations since 1858 as a parish of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

Tuesday Night Theology: Male and Female, He Created Them

THE world says all sorts of things about what masculinity and femininity are, but the Bible says something quite different. God gave men responsibilities that are distinct from those He gave to women. Godly men and women rejoice in their responsibilities to care for others, to sacrifice themselves for the ones they love, to support and nurture their spouse and children as God gives them these gifts. Finally, we remember that we follow the Man – Jesus Christ – who gave Himself up for His bride, the Church, making her spotless and presenting her radiant to the Heavenly Father. The class meets on Tuesday evenings at 7pm. ✕

Sunday Afternoon Theology: Augsburg Confession

OUR Adult Catechesis class on the Augsburg Confession is on Sundays after Divine Service and lasts through the Lent season. The class meets for one hour, and you're invited to bring a lunch. The class is for anyone desiring a deeper look at our Lutheran Confessions and liturgy, and for anyone who may be interested in joining our parish as a communicant member. ✕

Continued from page 1 from Him, gifts of eternal life and salvation.

Only Jesus Christ manifests the fullness of His glory, because only Jesus truly has glory to manifest!

Only Jesus Christ manifests His glory by filling the night sky around Bethlehem with His divine and heavenly glory at His birth.



Only Jesus Christ manifests His glory as He stands in the sinner's baptism for our sake, fulfilling for us all righteousness that our sin and shame be exchanged for His holiness and purity.

Only He has the heavenly Father's glorious voice of approval, only He has the testimony of the Holy Spirit's glorious descent as a dove.

Only Jesus Christ manifests His glory by demonstrating His control over the whole creation, making the wedding banquet complete with his perfect wine, walking on the water, and stilling the wind and waves.



Only Jesus Christ manifests His glory as He heals the afflicted of both Jew and Gentile, casts out demons, gives the blind their sight, and makes the lame to walk.

Only Jesus Christ manifests His glory on the mountain of transfiguration, discussing his impending "Exodus" with Moses and Elijah, and only Jesus will ultimately glorify His Father as He set his face to Jerusalem to accomplish the Father's will perfectly, to show real heavenly glory and power by suffering and dying the judgment deserved by sinners who do not deserve His mercy.

Only Jesus Christ manifests His glory in the Epiphany season as true God and true Man, who redeems you, His creation, with His holy, precious blood by His innocent suffering and death. Only Jesus Christ manifests His glory as He is raised from the dead, ascended to the right hand of the Father, lives and reigns to all eternity, and only this same Lord Jesus Christ continues to come into our presence to reveal Himself to you graciously in great love and mercy.

From God the Father, virgin born
To us the only Son came down;
By death the font to consecrate,
The faithful to regenerate.

Beginning from His throne on high,
In human flesh He came to die;
Creation by his death restored,
And shed new joys of life abroad. ✘



Isolation and the Christian Life

by Vicar Cornwell

PROVERBS 18.1 states: "Whoever isolates himself seeks his own desire; he breaks out against all sound judgment."

Isolation is a very dangerous thing to the life of a Christian. In Scripture, the Church is referred to as the Body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12.12-13). This Body is a community. As such, this community lives together (Hebrews 10.25).

Satan seeks to isolate us from one another. When he succeeds in this, most of the battle is already won.

Think, for a moment, of a predator in the wild. If, for example, a lion seeks to pick off an antelope, its primary goal is to isolate it. This is why many animals of prey stick together in groups. There is indeed, power in numbers.

Once the antelope is isolated from the herd, the likelihood of its survival is low. Very rarely, if ever, will the antelope overcome its foe. Isolation becomes the means by which the predator consumes its prey.

In the same regard, Satan seeks to pick us off from the rest of the community, just as a predator does its prey. The name Satan in Scripture (*diabolos*) actually means "one who scatters." In his first epistle, Peter even describes Satan as a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour (5.8-9).

When we isolate ourselves from the Body of Christ, whether by refusing to attend church on Sunday, not coming to Bible study, or even neglecting to meet with other Christians for daily encouragement, we leave ourselves susceptible to this lion's attacks.

God intended for man to live in community

together. First and foremost with Himself (as was the case in Eden before the Fall) and second amongst one another. Thus, after creating Adam and not finding a helper fit for him, God declared, "it is not good for man to be alone. I will make him a helper fit for him" (Genesis 2.18).

In God's commandments, we can see this divine intention for man to live in community. Think in particular of the fourth through the tenth commandments. All these have to do with how we act toward our neighbor. This necessitates man not being isolated or by himself.

Therefore, Satan's work is to scatter and turn men against one another. He does this by means of quarrels, gossip, theft, lust, and anything else contrary to God's commands. The breaking of any of God's commandments ultimately leads to the destruction of a community, especially that of the Church. Lawlessness destroys true peace and harmony among men.

In giving us these commands not to do these things, God reveals to us that it is His will for us to live in harmony, love, and peace with each other. God wants to unite all men in the Body of His Son, the Church, in which is perfect harmony, peace, and love.

Notice how in the verse from Proverbs, Solomon points out that whoever isolates himself seeks *his own desire*. Not the desire of those around him. His own. But is this how we are to live our lives as God's children? Did Christ come to be served, seeking His own desire?

Absolutely not! For example, what do we confess in the Nicene Creed concerning the Incarnation? "*Who for us men and for our*

(Continued from page 4)

salvation, came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary and was made man."

Christ did not come to this earth to seek His own desire. He came for our good. He did not come to live comfortably, to isolate Himself from the rest of God's creation. No, rather He came to heal the sick, give sight to the blind, and ultimately to suffer the death we deserved that we might stand justified before the Father. And all of this so that we might live in communion with Him, just as it was in the

Garden of Eden.

This is the gift given to us in our Baptism. The gift of communion with Christ and all other Christians throughout all space and time. In Christ, we are never alone. So as we take care of our own bodies, we do the same with the Body of Christ—namely, the Church.

Therefore, as the writer to the Hebrews exhorts us, "Let us not neglect to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near" (Hebrews 10.25). ✘

This is Your Great Salvation— Continued Singing "the Queen of Chorales" by Kantor Schultz

PHILIPP Nicolai's (1556-1608) great hymn "O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright" (LSB 395) is known as the "Queen of Chorales" because of its significant place both musically and poetically in Christian doctrine and history.

In the liturgical year, it serves as a bookend of the Epiphany season as it is the Hymn of the Day for both Epiphany on January 6, and the Transfiguration of Our Lord, which after the Reformation began to be celebrated on the last Sunday after Epiphany.

Because it is such a significant hymn, countless composers have written settings for choirs and instruments, both great and small. When we sang it on Epiphany, we were blessed to have the accompaniment of the Crossroads Brass Ensemble players in a thrilling setting by S. Drummond Wolff (1916-2004).



Our choir has also recently sung settings of "O Morning Star" by Michael Praetorius (1571-1621) and Hugo Distler (1908-1942), and we will hear again on Transfiguration the partita setting for organ by Dietrich Buxtehude (1637-1707).

I encourage you to examine each stanza of this great hymn on your own, and notice the wealth of images from Holy Scripture woven throughout this text. Sing it as part of your daily prayer at home this Epiphany season.

It constantly points us to Jesus, our Life: "As living branches of a tree, Your life our lives supplying." He has ransomed us in love to live in Him: "This is Your great salvation."

He is our hope throughout this life. "Amen, amen! Come, Lord Jesus! Crown of gladness! We are yearning, For the day of Your returning!" ✘

Higher Things Daily Reflections

DURING Advent and Lent, our parish distributes meditations for daily prayer for use at home. However, Advent and Lent are times for *increased* emphasis on prayer. Daily prayer at home should happen daily, throughout the year. Advent and Lent are good times to begin if you fall out of practice! But Higher Things provides daily reflections every day of the year, and they are available on the Higher Things website.

There they are available either to read or to listen. Check out their website at HigherThings.org/reflections. If you would like to pick up a printed copy of the reflections for the Epiphany or Septuagesima seasons at church, please talk to Kantor Schultz, or e-mail Kantor@ielcth.org. ✕

Sunday Adult Bible Study

JOIN us each Sunday morning at 9am for study of God's Word in the book of Hebrews.

- February 3 Hebrews 10.19-25 **"The Open Way"**
"Brothers" in Christ are encouraged by Hebrews to make good use of what Christ has accomplished – to come near to God in the Divine Service with a true heart, holding fast the confession of hope, and provoking each other to love and good works.
- February 10 Hebrews 10.26-39 **"The Best Investment"**
Hebrews 10.26-12.27 extols Jesus' brothers to faith in Him as the basis of their hope in God. The inspired author of Hebrews teaches the congregation about the penalty for deliberately rejecting God's Son, and the reward for its ongoing participation in the Divine Service.
- February 17 Hebrews 11.1-31 **"People of Faith"**
"Now faith is the basis of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen..." We will review with the inspired author of Hebrews the divinely attested people of faith from the foundational story of God's people in the Old Testament. The primeval types of Christ as offering and savior: Abel, Enoch, Noah.
- February 24 Hebrews 11.1-31 **"People of Faith" (continued)**
"Now faith is the basis of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen..." We will review with the inspired author of Hebrews the divinely attested people of faith from the foundational story of God's people in the Old Testament. Four cases from the life of Abraham as a type of God's faithful people.

In the Church Year Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the Presentation of Our Lord

FEBRUARY 2 is far more significant than Groundhog's Day for the Christian. Being forty days after Christmas, it is the day Our Lord was presented in the Temple. Faithful Simeon receives Jesus into His arms and blesses the Lord with the now familiar words of the *Nunc Dimittis* ("Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace...")

St. Luke records: "Now when the days of her purification according to the Law of Moses were completed, they brought Him to Jerusalem to present Him to the Lord" (2.22).

As in His circumcision, Jesus again keeps the Law. The parents were required to present the first-born son (Exodus 13) and to offer a sacrifice for the mother's purification. After birth, the mother was ceremonially unclean and had to make a sacrifice after forty days (Leviticus 12). Eight days were required for circumcision, and then another thirty-three days were required for purification.

Joseph and Mary take Jesus to the Temple for presentation. They offer the sacrifice allowed for the poor: two birds (Leviticus 5).

Because they were poor, Joseph and Mary could not provide the required lamb. They brought two birds. Nevertheless, the Lamb was provided in Jesus. The Holy One—Jesus—enters the Temple in the arms of His mother. The Holy One—Jesus—who would fulfill the Law for all time by His death on the cross is presented and makes the Temple holy.



By the blood of Jesus, you are declared clean. He shed His blood as the Lamb of God for the sins of the world. Our Lord was presented in the Temple for you, that you might be holy in Him. As He makes the Temple holy, He makes His Church holy, feeding you with His Body and Blood at the Altar. In the font, He gives new life in the forgiveness of sins.

This connection of Jesus' presentation in the Temple to your salvation, which enables you to stand before Our Lord, is made especially clear in the beautiful words of a hymn we sing at Divine Service on February 2:

Jesus, by Your presentation,
When they blessed You, weak and poor,
Make us see Your great salvation,
Seal us with Your promise sure;
And present us in Your glory,
To Your Father, cleansed and pure. (LSB 519)

The theme of light throughout the Epiphany season is also a focus of the Feast of the Purification and Presentation. Simeon declares Jesus "a Light to lighten the Gentiles." This feast has also been called "Candlemas," because it is the Divine Service at which the candles for the following year are blessed.

In Epiphany, we celebrate the Light revealed to the Gentiles. At Candlemas, in the blessing and distribution of candles, Light is placed into our very hands.

Divine Service for the Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the Presentation of Our Lord is Saturday, February 2, at 7pm. ✠

DIVINE SERVICE is celebrated every Sunday at 10:30am and on Feast Days as announced.

DIVINE OFFICE: LAUDS (MORNING PRAYER) is prayed at 9:30am Tuesday – Thursday, and Feast Days as announced; **VESPERS** (EVENING PRAYER) is prayed at 4:30pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and at 6:30pm on Wednesdays.

PRIVATE CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION is offered the third Thursday of the month (*February 21*) from 5-6pm, or anytime by appointment. Vespers is prayed at 4:30pm prior to Confession.

SUNDAY SCHOOL AND ADULT BIBLE STUDY are at 9am.

ADULT CHOIR rehearses on Wednesdays from 7-8:30pm, and on Sundays from 9:45-10:20am.

“WORSHIP ANEW,” produced by Lutheran Media Ministries of Fort Wayne and supported by Immanuel’s special gift collection, airs every Sunday morning on WTWO at 8am.

WESTMINSTER BIBLE STUDY meets on the last Friday of the month at 1:30pm except when there is a holiday at the end of the month. All members are invited to attend. The next meeting will be February 22.

ESPRIT DEADLINE for March is Friday, February 15. Volunteers are needed to help with the mailing on Wednesday, February 20.

Serving in February at Divine Service

Altar Guild – Faith Fenner; Maddy Tate

Tellers – Mike & Sara Latta; Rick & Kathy Todd

Ushers – Larry Hayne; Matt Matthias; Terry Cummings

Acolytes – Feb 2: (*Sat*) Connor Howard; Noah Schulz; Eli Gibbens; Kole Mullins; Ian Crucitti
Feb 3: Kole Mullins; Austin Fitzgerald | Feb 10: Evan Pound; Ian Crucitti; Levi Altvater; Tony Altvater
Feb 17: Noah Sutton; Connor Howard | Feb 24: Austin Fitzgerald; Tony Altvater

Schedule of Divine Liturgies for February

February 2	(<i>Saturday</i>) Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary and Presentation of Our Lord, 7pm	Divine Service
February 3	Fourth Sunday after Epiphany, 10:30am	Divine Service
February 10	Transfiguration of Our Lord, 10:30am	Divine Service
February 17	Septuagesima, 10:30am	Divine Service
February 24	Sexagesima, 10:30am	Divine Service