

News and Notes of Interest

Please use our new Narthex to enter and exit the Sanctuary! after the early Service, join us from 9:15am-9:30am for Coffee & Goodies in the new Fellowship Hall! Stick around for Sunday School and Adult Bible Class from 9:30am-10:15am! We are currently studying the New Testament book of Hebrews in our Adult study.

SUNDAY SCHOOL and WEDNESDAY FAMILY NIGHT

May the Lord richly bless all parents, youth, children, teachers and volunteers!

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK: 1/06 Arlene Carlson, Ethan Hoins, Wayne Archer, Lisa Carllson 1/07 Mark Thurin 1/09 Elik O'Shea, Annette Steiner 1/10 Kari Wolfe, Diana Troutd 1/11 Grace Gnagy, Haidyn Russell 1/12 Rev. Marcus Mackay, Joan Primrose

BAPTISMAL ANNIVERSARIES: 1/11 Dan Witt, Mary Wolzen

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES: 1/09 Rick & Sonya Latta

HIGER THINGS DEVOTIONS & PORTALS OF PRAYER

available in the Narthex January 6-February 9, 2018. Please check in this weeks bulletin for Bulletin Study Notes for the Christian Layperson.

MEN'S STEAK NIGHT: A reminder that there will be no Men's Steak Night for the month of January.

LEADERSHIP PLANNING MEETING-- Tuesday, January 8th at 6:00pm all Chairpersons and Members of Boards and Committees. Please contact the Church Office of group members attending.

ASKING FOR VOLUNTEERS:

Peace Lutheran Church is looking for volunteers to serve as a Chair person and Members for the Stewardship Committee. If you have a desire to serve on this board, please contact Roger Buck 308-390-3484 or personemlz@charter.net.

USHERS: Volunteers for both Services in 2019, sign-up sheet is in the Narthex, (table) please prayerfully consider serving.

ANNUAL VOTER'S MEETING - 9:30am Sunday, January 20th, also **Installation of new Leaders** - both Services-notify Church Office.

Poinsettias: If you sponsored a Poinsettia or just want to adopt one, you are welcome to take a plant home after church service.

LIFEQUOTE "For Christians, then, 'too many people' is impossible. Each additional person affords another opportunity to love and give in the way that brings God Himself the highest joys. And in the neediness of every neighbor more, we encounter and embrace Christ Jesus (Matthew 25:40)." *Rev. Michael W. Salemink, executive director of Lutherans For Life - A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • www.lutheransforlife.org*

SANCTIFYING YOUR DAILY ERRANDS WITH THE WORD OF GOD...

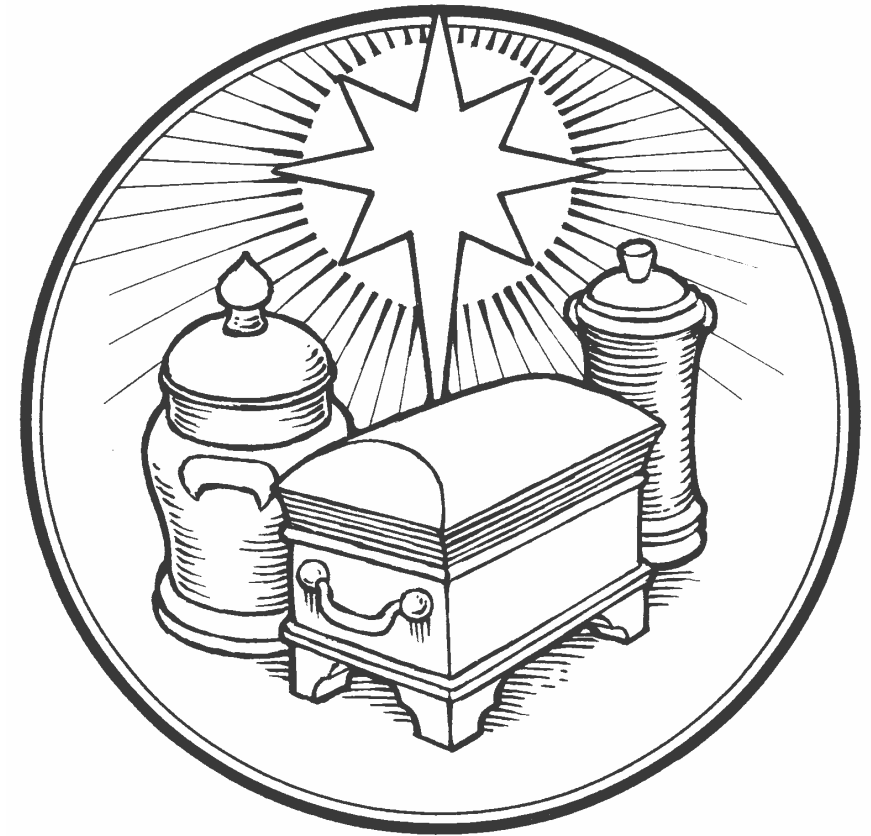
Issues, Etc. is a radio talk show and podcast produced by Lutheran Public Radio in Collinsville, IL and hosted by LCMS Pastor Todd Wilken. This week's teachings include: Discerning God's Will, Bearing False Witness, The Baptism of Jesus, Jonah, The Epiphany Season and more. You can listen live or on-demand at www.issuesetc.org and on the LPR mobile app.

LCMS (Epiphany)

Matt. 2:11 - "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." Worship and the giving of gifts go together. This makes sense because God is the great Giver of every good gift, and we worship Him and desire to grow into His image. We receive His gifts in worship and then, being conformed to the likeness of His image, we imitate His generosity.

The Epiphany of Our Lord

January 6th
8:00am & 10:30am



Peace Evangelical Lutheran Church

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

906 N. California Ave Hastings, NE 68901

402-462-9023

www.peacelutheranhastings.org

peacelutheranhastings@gmail.com

Welcome to Peace!

We are glad that you are here as we gather around the Word and Sacraments of our Lord Jesus Christ! If you have not already done so, we ask that you sign the Guest Book at the entrance to the church. Contact information can be written in the Fellowship Book located in the aisle side of each pew. If you do not have a church home and are interested in becoming a member here at Peace, please contact an Elder.

The Lord's Supper is a Gift . . . and as with all our Lord's gifts, we desire to give and receive them as He intends. The Lord's Supper is for our benefit, but it can be received unworthily. *"Therefore whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord"* (1 Corinthians 11:27). Therefore, in faithfulness to our Lord, and in love for you, Peace follows the practice of closed communion. If you are a fellow LCMS member, please let an Elder know beforehand!

All Guests should visit with any of our Elders before coming to the Altar to receive the Lord's Supper. If you do not have opportunity to visit with an Elder prior to the service check with our Head Elder, Roger Buck, during the week, see bottom of page for contact information.

The Divine Service utilizes beautiful Liturgies and Hymns that the Christian Church has passed down for generations, all the while retelling the story of salvation and enacting the work of Christ among us. This bulletin contains an outline to assist you in locating the various parts of the service within our Hymnal. The inserts have the Scriptures & Propers for the Day, as well as Notes about this particular Sunday or Festival of the church year. May God strengthen you today with His Word and Sacrament!

Prayers of the Church

Expecting + Kayla Reutzler **Hospice, Surgery, or Hospitalization** + Patt Lentfer + Peggy Sadler + Hudson Quandt (Infant) + Kobyn Morgan (Infant) + Rodney Rose + Deb Johnson + Al Kress **Health Issues** + LaVona Henkel + Dale Bauman + Carol Krause + Walt Irmer + Tammy Alber + Lindsay Brettman + Margret Herbert + Jean Thom + Randy Russell **Cancer** + Merna Urwin + Kent Cohagan + Angel Adz + Kathy Sneed + Barbara Classan + Andy Jacques + Ed Elshof + Marilyn Houston **Military** + Gary Thompson + Ross Peters

In His Service

Presiding Minister: Rev. John Schmidt
Organist: Dr. Phil Hesterman Cantor: Mr. David Witt A/V: Tim Yurk
Altar Guild: January: Mary Wolzen, Bertha Alvidrez
Ushers: 8:00am Craig W. 10:30am Glen K., Walt I.,
Elders: 01/06 Roger B. 308-390-3484 01/13 Dale G. 308-641-6658
Bus Drivers: 01/06 Gary O. 402-469-9797 01/13 Harold H. 402-984-9666

For emergencies during the Vacancy please contact Head Elder, Roger Buck at 308-390-3484 or email at personemlz@charter.net.

Gifts of Time and Treasure

Last Week's Attendance 93
Last Week's Offering \$ 3,431.00
Weekly Need \$ 2,250.28

OTD II Capital Campaign *Remaining Loan Balance as of 10/31/18* \$ 188,923

For more Financial Information see monthly newsletter

A complete accounting of all financials are provided at each Quarterly Voters' Meeting.

Questions? Contact our Bookkeeper, Mrs. Jan Hinze jan@balancedbooksllc.com

The Lord's Week

Sunday, January 6th	8:00am	Divine Service
	9:30am	Sunday School & Bible Study
	10:30am	Divine Service
Tuesday, January 8th	9:30am	Bible Study
	6:00pm	Leadership Planning Meeting/w supper (short) Council meeting to follow
Wednesday, January 9th	11:00am	Senior Bible Study/Lunch 11:30a GSV Diner
	5:30pm	Meal 6:00p Classes, Choir
	7:00pm	Worship 7:30p High School Youth
Thursday, January 10th	7:00pm	Trustee's Meeting
Sunday, January 13th	8:00am	Divine Service
	9:30am	Sunday School & Bible Study
	10:30am	Divine Service

Church Office hours are 9:00am to 12:00 noon and 1:00pm to 4:00pm, Monday through Friday. The office may be closed on occasion due to holidays and errands. Our Secretary is Mrs. Jeri Dush, Church Office 402-462-9023 or peacelutheranhastings@gmail.com

The Lord God Is Manifested in the Incarnate Son

The Feast of the Epiphany centers in the visit of the Magi from the East. In that respect, it is a "Thirteenth Day" of Christmas; and yet, it also marks the beginning of a new liturgical season. While Christmas has focused on the Incarnation of our Lord—that is, on God becoming flesh—the season of Epiphany emphasizes the manifestation or self-revelation of God in that same flesh of Christ. For the Lord Himself has entered our darkness and rises upon us with the brightness of His true light (Is. 60:1–2). He does so chiefly by His Word of the Gospel, which He causes to be preached within His Church on earth—not only to the Jews but also to Gentiles (Eph. 3:8–10). As the Magi were guided by the promises of Holy Scripture to find and worship the Christ Child with His mother in the house (Matt. 2:5–11), so does He call disciples from all nations by the preaching of His Word, to find and worship Him within His Church (Is. 60:3–6). With gold they confess His royalty; with incense, His deity; and with myrrh, His priestly sacrifice (Matt. 2:11).

Prelude & Ringing of Bells
Processional Hymn #412
Confession & Absolution p.184
Service of the Word
Introit *insert*
Gloria Patri p.186
Kyrie
Gloria in Excelsis
Salutation & Collect
Old Testament Reading
Gradual
Epistle Reading
Alleluia & Verse
Gospel Processional
Apostles' Creed
Hymn of the Day #395
Sermon Isaiah 60:1-6
"The Lord Is Yout Glory"
Offertory & Offering p.192
Prayer of the Church
Service of the Sacrament
Preface & Proper Preface p.194
Sanctus & Lord's Prayer
The Words of our Lord
Pax Domini & Agnus Dei
Distribution #622 #810 #399
Dismissal & Nunc Dimittis
Thanksgiving & Collect
Salutation & Benedicamus
Benediction
Recessional Hymn #397
Postlude

The Epiphany of Our Lord

6 January 2019

INTROIT (*Ps. 72:1-2, 10-11; antiphon: Liturgical text*)



Behold the Lord, the rul- | er, has come,
and the kingdom and the power and the glory are | in his
hand.*

**Give the king your justice, | O God,*
and your righteousness to the | royal son!
May he judge your people with | righteousness,*
and your poor with | justice!**

**May the kings of Tarshish and of the coastlands render him
| tribute;***
may the kings of Sheba and Seba | bring gifts!
May all kings fall down be- | fore him,
all nations | serve him!*

**Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be- | ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.**

Behold the Lord, the rul- | er, has come,
and the kingdom and the power and the glory are | in his
hand.*

COLLECT OF THE DAY

*O God, by the leading of a star You made known Your only-
begotten Son to the Gentiles. Lead us, who know You by faith,
to enjoy in heaven the fullness of Your divine presence; through
the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You
and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.*

GRADUAL (*Is. 60:6b, 1*)

**Those from She- | ba shall come.*
They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall bring
good news, the praises | of the LORD.
Arise, shine, for your | light has come,*
and the glory of the LORD has risen up- | on you.**

Old Testament: Isaiah 60:1–6

¹Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. ²For 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. ³And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising. ⁴Lift 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. ⁵Then 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. ⁶A 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.

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.

Holy Gospel: Matthew 2:1–12

¹Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, ²saying, "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." ³When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. ⁵They 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." ⁷Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. ⁸And 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." ⁹After 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. ¹⁰When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. ¹¹And 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. ¹²And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

*Created from Lutheran Service Builder
© 2006 Concordia Publishing House.*

The Epiphany of Our Lord

6 January 2019

INTROIT (*Ps. 72:1-2, 10-11; antiphon: Liturgical text*)



Behold the Lord, the rul- | er, has come,
and the kingdom and the power and the glory are | in his
hand.*

**Give the king your justice, | O God,*
and your righteousness to the | royal son!
May he judge your people with | righteousness,*
and your poor with | justice!**

**May the kings of Tarshish and of the coastlands render him
| tribute;***
may the kings of Sheba and Seba | bring gifts!
May all kings fall down be- | fore him,
all nations | serve him!*

**Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be- | ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.**

Behold the Lord, the rul- | er, has come,
and the kingdom and the power and the glory are | in his
hand.*

COLLECT OF THE DAY

*O God, by the leading of a star You made known Your only-
begotten Son to the Gentiles. Lead us, who know You by faith,
to enjoy in heaven the fullness of Your divine presence; through
the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You
and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.*

GRADUAL (*Is. 60:6b, 1*)

**Those from She- | ba shall come.*
They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall bring
good news, the praises | of the LORD.
Arise, shine, for your | light has come,*
and the glory of the LORD has risen up- | on you.**

Old Testament: Isaiah 60:1–6

¹Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. ²For 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. ³And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising. ⁴Lift 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. ⁵Then 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. ⁶A 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.

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.

Holy Gospel: Matthew 2:1–12

¹Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, ²saying, "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." ³When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. ⁵They 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." ⁷Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. ⁸And 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." ⁹After 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. ¹⁰When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. ¹¹And 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. ¹²And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

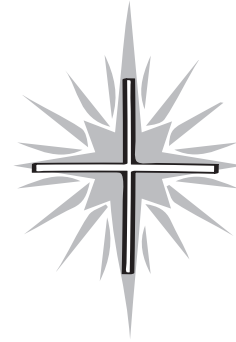
*Created from Lutheran Service Builder
© 2006 Concordia Publishing House.*

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.

- The star that the magi had seen before appears again, this time to lead them directly to Jesus. These men are filled with joy, awe, and reverence for the Child Jesus, the King of the Jews. Epiphany means manifestation, or appearance. When Jesus appears the response of these Gentiles stands in stark contrast with that of Herod and the Jews. Indeed, this is one of the chief themes of Epiphany: when the Messiah appears His people are those who receive Him in faith.
- Many have speculated that the gifts of the magi each have a specific meaning, however, the point is not the individual gifts, but rather that they came and worshipped this Child as the King. They believed the Holy Scriptures, they followed the star, and they gave honor to Jesus with their worship and gifts.

¹² And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

- God the Father protects His Son in the same way He protects us. “From this we learn how paternally God the Father dealt, and cared for His own, not letting them come into the hands of their enemies except at the hour provided by God; for even the hairs on our head are numbered, yes, before we endure trouble, God has sent His angel from heaven as our escort and protector.” (Spangenberg, *The Year of Christian Grace*, 54)



THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD

Study Notes for the Christian Layperson

by: Rev. Sean Willman

Collect of the Day:

O God, by the leading of a star You made known Your only-begotten Son to the Gentiles. Lead us, who know You by faith, to enjoy in heaven the fullness of Your divine presence; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Introit:

Psalm 72:1-2, 10-11 (antiphon: Liturgical text) — *Behold the Lord, the ruler has come*

Psalm:

Psalm 24 (antiphon: v. 7) — *The generation that seeks the Lord*

Old Testament Reading:

Isaiah 60:1-6 — *All those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense*

Gradual:

Isaiah 60:6b, 1 — *Arise, shine, for your light has come*

Epistle:

Ephesians 3:1-12 — *The mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs*

Verse:

Matthew 2:2b — *Alleluia. We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him. Alleluia.*

Matthew 2:1-12 ESV

Author and Date:

The Holy Spirit caused St. Matthew the Apostle and Evangelist to write this Gospel around AD 50.

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,

- Matthew makes clear the historical nature of Jesus' birth by naming both the ruler of Judea and the town in which Jesus is born. These details place the miraculous virgin birth into space and time and remind us that the gospels are records of actual events, namely the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus.
- The wise men, literally *magi*, are unnamed, unnumbered, and essentially unidentified in any way. Although often referred to as "three kings," we do not know where they came from, how they knew the Word of God, what their title was, or even how many of them there were. Magi is vague term that refers to those who were the most learned. Wherever in the east they come from, these magi were likely the local experts in the fields of medicine, science, the stars, interpretation of dreams, etc.

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."

- The magi make an assertion: Jesus, the Babe born in Bethlehem, is King of the Jews. The star that rose was His, put there to lead them to Jerusalem. These Gentiles are not in Jerusalem to find facts; they know these things are true, and they have come to worship this Child.

³ When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him;

- Herod had risen to power by use of force. He was, by all accounts, a ruthless and unmerciful ruler. As such, he had to always be on guard against any who would seek to unseat him by the same means he had gained superiority. That there might be a challenger to his reign caused him consternation. What is more, the Child born was supposedly King of the Jews. Herod, the foreigner, was aware that the Jews were constantly praying for a Messiah who was to come and rule His people. He feared that this One just born would quickly gain popularity, thereby robbing him of power.
- While those in Jerusalem longed to be out from under Herod's thumb, they feared that a king coming to challenge Herod would result in endless deaths and bloodshed. By this fear these Jews make their

unbelief clear. While praying for a Messiah, they did not recognize Him when He came. Instead of rejoicing that the promised one had finally come, they cower in the fear of unbelief.

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."

- Of course Herod did not believe the Holy Scriptures, but here makes use of them, and those called to proclaim them in order to gather information about Jesus. The chief priests and scribes know the prophecies concerning the Christ who was to come and quickly answer Herod's theological question by quoting Micah 5:2. Sadly, they later show that they have no faith in these prophecies when they reject their fulfillment, Jesus.
- Bethlehem was not a large city by any means, but from this city of David would come another king who was to rule over Israel. Unlike Herod, or even David, the Messiah would not be a warrior king, but rather a shepherd. Jesus would come to guide His people into the way of truth and guard them from any who would seek to harm them. He would ultimately give His own life for theirs.

⁷ Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared.

- Herod is careful not to make the leaders of the church suspicious by asking too many questions, so he speaks to the magi in private. He assumed that they first saw the star when the Child was born. By having this information, he would know exactly how old the Child was and could more easily find this tiny threat to the throne.

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."

- As friendly and inquisitive as Herod appeared, his intentions with the Child were evil. Not unlike those who only search the Holy Scriptures for promises of wealth and long-life, Herod was the consummate hypocrite and rank unbeliever. He desired to know the Scriptures, not to have life in Christ, but that his own life and evil desires might be fulfilled. The same can be said of anyone who sees the Holy Scriptures as a means to the end of personal gain rather than the only source of truth and life.