

## NEXT STEP: STUDY &amp; SHARE

## READINGS

Isaiah 60:1-6

Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14

*All kings shall bow down before him. (v11)*

Ephesians 3:1-12

Matthew 2:1-12

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, on this day you revealed your Son to the nations by the leading of a star. Lead us now by faith to know your presence in our lives, & bring us at last to the full vision of your glory, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives & reigns with you & the Holy Spirit, one God, now & forever. Amen.

SERMON TEXT- Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14 (*Lutheran Book of Worship translation*)

<sup>1</sup>Give the king your justice, O God, & your righteousness to the king's son; <sup>2</sup>that he may rule your people righteously & the poor with justice; <sup>3</sup>that the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, & the little hills bring righteousness. <sup>4</sup>He shall defend the needy among the people; he shall rescue the poor & crush the oppressor. <sup>5</sup>He shall live as long as the sun & moon endure, from one generation to another. <sup>6</sup>He shall come down like rain upon the mown field, like showers that water the earth. <sup>7</sup>In his time shall the righteous flourish; there shall be abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more. <sup>10</sup>The kings of Tarshish & of the isles shall pay tribute, & the kings of Arabia & Saba offer gifts. <sup>11</sup>All kings shall bow down before him, & all the nations do him service. <sup>12</sup>For he shall deliver the poor who cries out in distress, & the oppressed who has no helper. <sup>13</sup>He shall have pity on the lowly & poor; he shall preserve the lives of the needy. <sup>14</sup>He shall redeem their lives from oppression & violence, & dear shall their blood be in his sight.

## LISTENING TO . . .

**GOD-** *Christian life is rooted in the Father, Son, & Holy Spirit*

1. Consider vv10-11 & Isaiah 1:3, 60:3, 6. What do they explain about our nativity scenes/creches? See *Matthew 12:1, 16; Luke 2:4-6*. Hint: carefully read *Matthew & Luke*; what's not listed/named in the stories? Nativities are intended to be symbolic, representing much more scripture than *Luke 2:7-17*.
2. This psalm is credited to King Solomon. It seems his intent was to teach ancient Israel to pray for their king (2 *Samuel 7:11-29*). How does this psalm fit with his vision (1 *Kings 5:3-14*) & his dedication prayer (2 *Chronicles 6:12-21, 26-33, 40-42, 7:11-22*). Does Solomon want Israel to hold their king to a high standard, or to watch for a future messiah, & how so? See *Exodus 21:6, 22:7-8; Deuteronomy 1:17; Proverbs 8:15; 2 Chronicles 19:6*

**EACH OTHER-** *Sharing & growing with our brothers & sisters in Christ*

3. As far as our faithful, religious, "church" celebration of Christmas goes, it begins on December 25 (or the evening of December 24) & continues for 12 days, crowned with Epiphany (on January 6). How does such contrast with the world's Christmas (beginning after Labor Day, ending Christmas Day) help you stay focused & joyful for the "reason for the season" (*Luke 2:10-13, Matthew 2:2*)?
4. Of all the congregations near you, why do you come & worship & give offerings at a particular one? Name at least 5 reasons (10 is better) beyond personal taste/opinion/likes & family history. In fact, the more you humbly & meekly do these things (come, worship, give) the better that congregation gets (almost miraculously). Conversely the less you do these things the worse the congregation gets (almost demonically). Who do you think is the beneficiary (or victim) of those behaviors?

**NEIGHBORS-** *Bearing fruit for those not yet our brothers & sisters*

5. The (messianic) king of Psalm 72 is concerned with justice for the weak, powerless, & poor, as was Jesus (e.g. *Luke 6:17-26*). What about your congregation, the body of King Jesus the Messiah; how does it serve the weak & lowly, the troubled & harassed outside its walls? How can you offer servant-leadership in these matters?
6. What leads new people to find Jesus, the light of the world, in your congregation? What's your role in this? How can you help folks find Jesus? By the way, do we take credit for the success? See *Small Catechism: Creed 3; Psalm 119:105; John 3:19, 8:12, 12:46; 1 Corinthians 3:5-8; Galatians 5:13-14 SC available < bookofconcord.org >*

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Festival of Our Lord's Epiphany

01.02.22

Series: What a Mess!

Rev. Jared Stillions, STS

Packing Up

*It's time to pack up the mess & go back to "regular life,"  
this time by a different road*

-Notes-

KEY VERSE: The kings of Tarshish & of the isles shall pay tribute,  
& the kings of Arabia & Saba offer gifts. All kings shall bow down before  
him, & all the nations do him service. (*vv10-11*)

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-NEXT STEPS MEMORY VERSE-

We have observed his star at its rising,  
& have come to worship him. (*Matthew 2:2*)

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