

## St. Luke is All About Shepherds-St. Matthew Talks About Kings

### The Epiphany of the Lord – Matthew 2:1-12

To say that the St. Luke is all about shepherds and that St. Matthew is all about kings is a bit of a simplification surrounding the readings for Christmas and Epiphany. However, this is something worth noting. When we read the infancy narratives from each of these evangelists, we hear a different but profound truth about Jesus.

St. Luke is the primary gospel read during this particular Cycle C liturgical year which began on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent. St. Luke's infancy narrative (Lk 2:1-14) portrays Jesus as the one who ministers and mingles with the lowly of the world. In birth, Jesus' solidarity with the poor is emphasized with his birth in a manger, a feeding trough for animals. It is in this lowly place that shepherds are summoned, by angels, to come and adore this newborn child. **"And this will be a sign for you: you will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger."** The entire gospel of St. Luke proclaims Jesus' preferential treatment of the poor. Jesus will, throughout this gospel, minister to the blind, the lame and the displaced. He will minister to and with women, the widow, the orphan and the leper. He will seek the lost sheep and the lost soul. The gospel will focus on the mercy and love of God for all people.

St. Matthew, who we hear today, on the Epiphany of the Lord, emphasizes the kingship of Jesus, sending magi to ask the question, **"Where is the newborn King of the Jews?"** St. Matthew presents to us three different types of kings. There are the magi who search for the one **"who is to shepherd my people Israel."** They have seen his star **"and have come to do him homage."** These three kings are truth seekers.

The second type of king is Herod. He commands the magi to **"Go and search diligently for the child. When you have found him bring me word, that I too may go and do him homage."** This king is a dictator. He wishes to do away with the competition, to kill the new babe. His very essence is to do evil.

And then, there is the one true King, Jesus. The magi are in search of something true and pure. They know that this King is what they seek. **"They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage."**

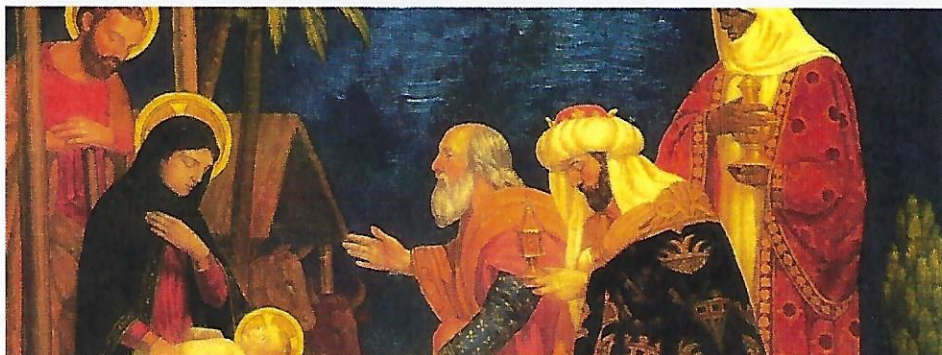
During this Christmas season, let us be like the magi who seek the living God, the Messianic King, who will guide his people to eternal safety and new life. The difference between the two gospels must be seen in the fullness of what they tell us about Jesus.

This King is the one who will care for the least, who will shepherd a lost people and will rule with justice, mercy and love. Let us celebrate this great celebration of Epiphany with the same desire to know the Christ who is proclaimed throughout the gospels as the Savior of the world.

Merry Christmas!

  
Sue Schettler

January 6, 2019



## The Epiphany of the Lord

### **Readings for the week of January 6, 2019**

Sunday: Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13 [cf. 11]/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12

Monday: 1 Jn 3:22—4:6/Ps 2:7bc-8, 10-12a [8ab]/Mt 4:12-17, 23-25

Tuesday: 1 Jn 4:7-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4, 7-8 [cf. 11]/Mk 6:34-44

Wednesday: 1 Jn 4:11-18/Ps 72:1-2, 10, 12-13 [cf. 11]/Mk 6:45-52

Thursday: 1 Jn 4:19—5:4/Ps 72:1-2, 14 and 15bc, 17 [cf. 11]/Lk 4:14-22a

Friday: 1 Jn 5:5-13/Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20 [12a]/Lk 5:12-16

Saturday: 1 Jn 5:14-21/Ps 149:1-2, 3-4, 5 and 6a and 9b [cf. 4a]/Jn 3:22-30

Next Sunday: Is 40:1-5, 9-11/Ps 104:1b-2, 3-4, 24-25, 27-28, 29-30 [1]/Ti 2:11-14; 3:4-7/Lk 3:15-16, 21-22

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