

Three Reactions, Three Reasons

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St. Paul's Lutheran Church
Oconomowoc, Wisconsin

The Epiphany of Our Lord
7 January, A.D. 2018
Is. 60:1-6; Eph. 3:1-12; Matt. 2:1-12

What is the definition of epiphany?

John 3:16, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life."

How did King Herod receive the news of the birth of Jesus?

How did the chief priests and scribes receive the news of the birth of Jesus?

How did the wise men receive the news of the birth of Jesus?

John 8:12, "Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, 'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.'"

The wise men gave gifts to Jesus. What were their meanings?

Gold:

Frankincense:

Psalm 141:2, "Let my prayer be counted as incense before you, and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice!"

Without Jesus, why can't we be in the presence of God?

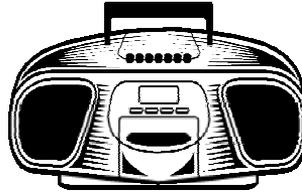
Isaiah 64:6, "We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away."

Myrrh:

Which comes first, giving or receiving?

Ephesians 2:8-10, "For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not a result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰ For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them."

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| Feb. 18 | Apr. 29 | Aug. 5 | Nov. 25 | |
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LUTHERAN CHURCH

LIFE THOUGHTS IN THE CHURCH YEAR

Baptism of Our Lord – John's Baptism convicted every human being – "all the country of Judea" (Mark 1:5). No physical incapacities excused anyone. Jesus' Baptism consecrates every human being. God, in giving His Son, identifies with us at our weakest and embraces us at our worst. Even when we don't resemble anything our Maker intended, He doesn't call us "unwanted" or "better off dead." Instead He declares, "You are my beloved [child]; with you I am well pleased" (Mark 1:11). In this newness of life (Romans 6:4), Christians can also welcome the least among us. *Lord, construct Your kingdom of little ones like us. Amen.*