



Sermon Study Guide for January 7, 2024

Our Savior Lutheran Church and School

Theme: The Magi were not part of Israel. The Magi were not part of God's chosen people. But as the Magi appear, offer gifts, and worship Christ the King, we see Christ came not just for the people of Israel, but for all nations!

Getting Started: (sharing with each other)

1. What is the best gift that you ever received? Why?
2. What is the farthest you have ever traveled for a one-time thing? (A restaurant, a Baptism, the birth of a child, etc.)

In the Word: Isaiah 60:1-6

3. Verse 2 is a beautiful use of a Hebrew poetic device called *intensification*. How does the threat of darkness intensify? And on the contrary, how does what the Lord does intensify?
4. Verse 6 foreshadows something of the coming of the Magi. What is that, and why is it so important not just for the prophecy, but for us today?

In the Word: Matthew 2:1-12

5. Why is Herod so disturbed by the news that the Magi bring? Was Herod "right" in his feelings toward this, "newborn king?"

6. Herod truly doesn't want to worship the newborn king. He wants the Magi to report back to him so that he can kill this newborn king. The Magi are told to go back a different route, and Herod ends up doing what he wanted to do in Matthew 2:16. How does Herod's rage show the earthly struggle that he and others are going to have with Jesus?
7. The gifts that the Magi bring are fit for a King. Jesus is our King. He is not just king of the Jews, but King of all. How does that continue to give us peace and joy throughout our lives?

Putting it all Together (what do we believe or do as disciples?)

8. King of Kings, and Lord of Lords. Hallelujah! Jesus is our King, our Savior, and our Lord. That doesn't mean that we completely disregard earthly authorities. How can we live as Christians knowing our King reigns in heaven above, and that our eternity, our kingdom is not of this world?
9. The *gold*, represents Jesus as King. The *frankincense*, represents Jesus as our High Priest. The *myrrh*, represents Jesus having to give up his life as a sacrifice. All of these gifts fit perfectly for Jesus life, ministry, and death and resurrection. The gift of eternal life that we receive through faith in Jesus is the best gift we could ever receive. How do we go and share that message with all?

Prayer: Ask God that He would help you to cherish the King, His Son, whom He sent for us. Ask God that He would help you to keep King Jesus as the focal point of your life. Ask God to give you the courage to share the love and hope that you have from Jesus. Give thanks to God that your eternity is set through the King of Kings!

Next Week: We are starting a 5-week sermon series before Lent, on the 5 Love languages. Next week, as we celebrate the Baptism of our Lord, we see that God loves to give us gifts, and Baptism is a wonderful gift of God that we can cherish our whole lives.