

Notes:

Sermon Text

Subject

“The Magi teach us true faith,” said Martin Luther. Given the obstacles they encountered, we would understand if they had given up altogether!

First, the travelers were “off the mark,” coming to Jerusalem to seek a newborn king in a “royal palace.” Then, directed to Bethlehem, the wise men found a sight “so utterly out of keeping with a king” — a poor young woman and child, in a “poor hut” — that one might expect them to head straight home. “But,” declares Luther, “with a great, strong and full faith they ... follow the word of the prophet and the witness of the star in all purity of heart,” bowing to worship and honor the Savior.

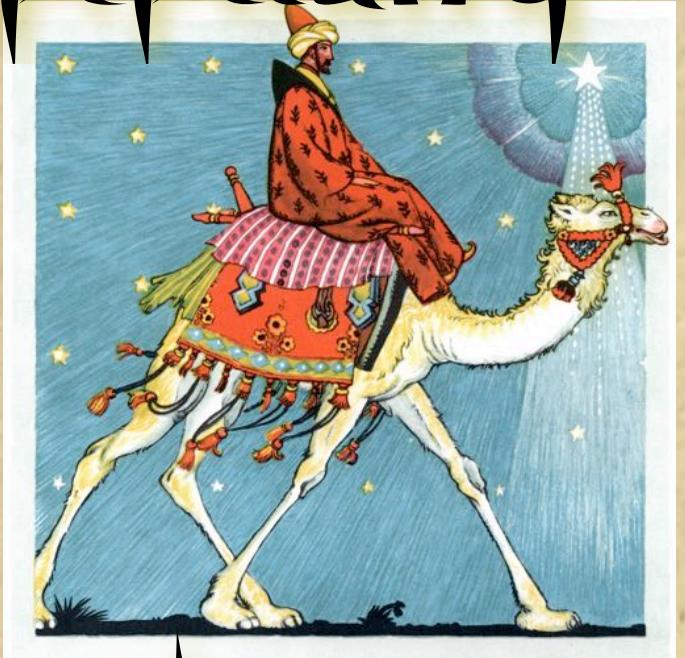
—Based on Luther’s sermon for the Festival of the Epiphany (1522), *Luther’s Works*

Spiritual “To Do List”
(things God has shown me today)

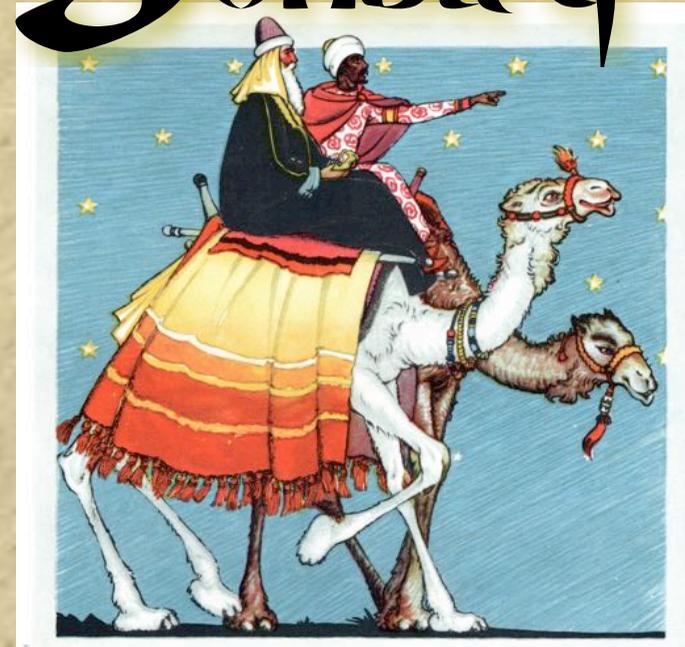
Today the Magi gaze in deep wonder at what they see: heaven on earth, earth in heaven, humanity in God, God in humanity, one whom the whole universe cannot contain now enclosed in a tiny body. As they look ... their symbolic gifts bear witness: incense for God, gold for a king, myrrh for one who is to die.

—Peter Chrysologus (5th century)

Epiphany



Sunday



The Light of the World Is Jesus

LIGHT OF THE WORLD

Philip P. Bliss, 1838-1876

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1. The whole world was lost in the dark-ness of sin; The
2. No dark-ness have we who in Je-sus a-bide; The
3. Ye dwell-ers in dark-ness with sin-blind-ed eyes- The
4. No need of the sun-light in heav-en we're told; The

Light of the world is Je-sus. Like sun-shine at noon-day His
Light of the world is Je-sus. We walk in the Light when we
Light of the world is Je-sus-Go, wash at His bid-ding, and
Light of the world is Je-sus. The Lamb is the Light in the

glo-ry shone in;
fol-low our Guide; The Light of the world is Je-sus.
light will a-rise.
cit-y of gold;

REFRAIN

Come to the Light; 'tis shin-ing for thee. Sweet-ly the Light has dawned upon me.

Once I was blind, but now I can see. The Light of the world is Je-sus.

Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne

MARGARET

Emily E. S. Elliott, 1836-1897

Timothy R. Matthews, 1826-1910

1. Thou didst leave Thy throne and Thy king-ly crown, When Thou
2. Heav-en's arch-es rang when the an-gels sang. Pro-
3. The fox-es found rest, and the birds their nest In the
4. Thou cam'st, O Lord, with the liv-ing word That should
5. When the heav-ens shall ring and her choir shall sing At Thy

cam-est to earth for me; But in Beth-le-hem's home there was
claim-ing Thy roy-al de-gree; But in low-ly birth didst Thou
shade of the for-est tree; But Thy couch was the sod, O Thou
set Thy peo-ple free; But with mock-ing scorn, and with
com-ing to vic-to-ry, Let Thy voice call me home, say-ing.

REFRAIN

found no room For Thy ho-ly Na-tiv-i-ty. 1-4. O
come to earth, And in great hu-mil-i-ty.
Son of God, In the des-erts of Gal-i-lee.
crown of thorn, They bore Thee to Cal-va-ry.
"Yet there is room; There is room at My side for thee!" 5. My

come to my heart, Lord Je-sus; There is room in my heart for Thee.
heart shall re-joice, Lord Je-sus, When Thou com-est and callest for me.

As with Gladness Men of Old

DIX

William C. Dix, 1837-1898

Conrad Kocher, 1786-1872

1. As with glad - ness men of old Did the guid - ing
2. As with joy - ous steps they sped To that low - ly
3. As they of - fered gifts most rare At that man - ger
4. Ho - ly Je - sus, ev - 'ry day Keep us in the

star be - hold; As with joy they hailed its light,
man - ger bed, There to bend the knee be - fore
rude and bare, So may we with ho - ly joy,
nar - row way; And, when earth - ly things are past,

Lead - ing on - ward, beam - ing bright; So, most gra - cious
Him whom heaven and earth a - dore, So may we with
Pure, and free from sin's al - loy, All our cost - liest
Bring our ran - somed souls at last Where they need no

Lord, may we Ev - er - more be led to Thee,
will - ing feet Ev - er seek Thy mer - cy seat.
treas - ures bring, Christ, to Thee, our heaven - ly King.
star to guide, Where no clouds Thy glo - ry hide.

Seek ye first the kingdom of God,
and his righteousness;
and all these things shall be added unto you.
Allelu, Alleluia.

Ask, and it shall be given you;
seek, and ye shall find;
knock, and it shall be opened unto you:
Allelu, Alleluia.

—Matthew 6:33, 7:7