



St. Paul's Episcopal Church  
McHenry, IL



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Weekly ePistle  
January 2, 2019

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*New and Notable*

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Thoughts from Lori

Merry Ninth Day of Christmas! That's right. It's the ninth day of the Twelve Days of Christmas, which began on Christmas Day and goes through Saturday (which in turn is the traditional "Twelfth Night.") Sunday, then, is the Feast of Epiphany. Now, Epiphany, the date given for the arrival of the Magi, is always January 6th. It just happens to fall on Sunday this year.

So, whether you've still got your Christmas decorations up, or whether you took them down last week, come Sunday to really wrap up the season and celebrate Epiphany. It is a timeless story. It is our story.

*In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men\* from the East came to Jerusalem asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews. For we have observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." ...They set out; and there ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. [Matthew 2: 1-3, 9b-11] \*Gk Magi*

Come, let us adore him. And may you, too, be overwhelmed with joy.

Faithfully,

Lori



Our overflowing baby baskets, thanks to your generosity!



Our own precious baby, Jacob Zabor, zonked out after church!

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*The usual fare...*

***On the Calendar...***

**Men's Breakfast** - Saturday, January 5, 8:00 am

**Vestry** - Wednesday, January 16, 6:00 pm

**Annual Parish Meeting** - Sunday, January 20

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**Lessons and Hymns for this Sunday, January 6, 2019**

(Feast of Epiphany - Year C)

by the Rev. William P. McLemore

**THE SCRIPTURE LESSONS:**

**The First Reading:** Isaiah 60:1-6. **The Gradual:** Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14. **The Epistle:** Ephesians 3:1-12. **The Gospel:** Matthew 2:1-12.

**THE HYMNS:**

**Processional:** No. 135. "Songs of thankfulness and praise." Christopher Wordsworth, Bishop of London and nephew of the poet, William Wordsworth, wrote this hymn for the sixth Sunday I after the Epiphany. The fourth verse was written and added by Francis Bland Tucker, an Episcopal priest who authored and translated many hymns and helped develop the 1940 hymnal. The tune, "Salzburg," was composed by Jakob Hintze and later harmonized by Johann Sebastian Bach.

**Sequence:** No. 381. "Thy strong word did cleave the darkness." This hymn was written by Martin H. Franzman (1907-1976), a graduate of Northwestern College and later studied at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary. He served on the faculty of Northwestern College; Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, Missouri; and finally traveled to England where he served as a tutor at Westfield House, the theological college of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of England until his death in 1976. The tune, "Ton-y-Botel," was composed by Thomas John Williams (1869-1944), organist and choirmaster of two parishes in Llanelly, a

village in southeast Wales. The melody is moving and stately and perhaps one of the most sung at the heavenly banquet-every Christian should be able to sing this with spirit and joy.

**Presentation:** No. 117. "Brightest and best." This hymn was written by Reginald Heber, an Anglican priest who became Bishop of Calcutta, India in 1823. A prolific musician and author of hymns, the church has variously enjoyed a dozen of his hymns, the most popular being, "Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty (Hymn 362 in the 1982 Hymnal). "Brightest and best" was criticized by some hymnal editors for seeming to promote worship of the stars.

**Communion:** "O Lord, Hear My Prayer." This is another Taize community musical paraphrase to a psalm (102:1-2). It was set to music by Jacques Bertheur (1923-1994) in 1991, shortly before he died. The Psalm reads, "Lord, hear my prayer, and let my cry come before you; hide not your face from me in the day of my trouble."

**Recessional:** No. 119. "As with gladness." William Chatterton Dix wrote this hymn on his sick bed in the middle 19th century. He was reading the story of the visit of the Magi in the Gospel according to St. Matthew and came up with the words. The tune "Dix" was composed by Conrad Kocher who lived in Stuttgart, Germany.

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### **Servants for January 6th**

Rick Carlstedt, Don Jaworski - *Ushers*  
Judy Robel - *Lector*  
Terry Jaworski - *Intercessor*  
Al Robel, Charles Sterbis - *Eucharistic Ministers*  
Barb Moriarty - *Vestry Person of the Day*  
Christian Bell - *Children's Crucifer*  
Doris Gaic - *Altar Guild*  
Pam Dietmeyer - *Altar Guild*

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