

# Tuesday Tidings of Grace



This Tuesday is December 31, 2024

This past Sunday was:

1st Sunday after Christmas

[Sunday Worship on YouTube](#)

[Sunday Sermon on Website](#)

This past Sunday was the 5th day of Christmas and we celebrated by receiving our Lord's means of grace. We heard the words of Moses in Exodus 13 telling of how Israel was to remember their deliverance from Egypt by the redemption of their firstborn sons, a tradition pointing to Jesus, the firstborn of God, the Lamb of God sacrificed to save us all.

Next Sunday, January 5 is:

## The Epiphany of our Lord

On the Church Calendar January is the 2nd Sunday after Christmas. However, many churches, like Grace, choose to celebrate the Epiphany on this day instead. The Epiphany is always January 6. On this day we rejoice in the revealing ("epiphany") of Jesus to the magi and by extension to all the world, including us Gentiles.

*The readings are:*

[Isaiah 61:10 - 62:3](#)

[Galatians 4:4-7](#)

[Luke 2:22-40](#)

*The Hymn of the Day is:*

"Songs of Thankfulness and Praise" (LSB #394)

## Grace Events This Week

Tue 12/31 (6p) - New Year's Eve Worship

Wed 1/1 - Office Closed for New Year's

Fri 1/3 (6p) - Bunco Night

## Formula of Concord Readings For the Week of Jan. 5

Ep "Summary" 1-8 (p. 473-474)

Ep I 1 (p. 474)

AC II (p. 31-32)

# The Epiphany of our Lord

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January 5, 2025

**Psalm:** Psalm 72:1-11

**Old Testament Reading:** Isaiah 60:1-6

Isaiah's reading brings out two key themes for the day of Epiphany. The first is light. Light and Jesus go hand in hand. Jesus' epiphany (revealing) to the nations is frequently spoken of as a light shining in the darkness. Isaiah writes of "nations shall come to your light" (v.3). Jesus light shines such that it will draw all peoples to Him with the hopes that all will also come in faith and repentance. The other theme is that of giving gifts and praise. Isaiah 60:6 mentions two of the gifts, gold and frankincense, that were also part of the gifts brought by the magi to Mary, Joseph, and Jesus.

**Epistle Reading:** Ephesians 3:1-12

St. Paul speaks of the mystery that was revealed at Jesus' epiphany. That He was a Savior not just for the Jews but the Gentiles as well. In Jesus the chosen people of God was opened and expanded to include all the nations. Now all who follow Jesus by grace through faith are His chosen ones, His faithful Israel, sons of Abraham. In Ephesians 3:8 Paul speaks of his calling as apostle to "preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ." This should bring joy and a warm feeling to all our hearts to know these "riches" are being proclaimed and offered to us and to all.

**Gospel Reading:** Matthew 2:1-12

This passage is the primary text for telling us about the visit of the magi (wise men) to Mary, Joseph, and Jesus. There are a number of historical misunderstandings relating to this visit that have crept into our traditions over time. The biggest of which is around the timing of their visit. Our nativity scenes (perhaps for convenience sake) all portray the magi at the manger on the night of our Lord's birth. The clues in Matthew 2 make it almost certain that wasn't how the actual events played out. Rather, it is quite likely the magi visited many months, perhaps even over a year later. Mary and Joseph appear to be in a house in Bethlehem by then rather than in the stable.