

Worship, Praise and Thanksgiving

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In our first fellowship meeting of the year we explore Worship, Praise & Thanksgiving and as a starting point for our discussions we look at Epiphany celebrated in the Church calendar this month.

SCRIPTURE VERSES

The account of the wise men is recorded for us only in the Gospel of Matthew.

[Matthew 2:1-12](#)

¹ Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem,

² Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him.

³ When Herod the king had heard these things, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him.

⁴ And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he demanded of them where Christ should be born.

⁵ And they said unto him, In Bethlehem of Judaea: for thus it is written by the prophet,

⁶ And thou Bethlehem, in the land of Juda, art not the least among the princes of Juda: for out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel.

⁷ Then Herod, when he had privily called the wise men, enquired of them diligently what time the star appeared.

⁸ And he sent them to Bethlehem, and said, Go and search diligently for the young child; and when ye have found him, bring me word again, that I may come and worship him also.

⁹ When they had heard the king, they departed; and, lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was.

¹⁰ When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy.

¹¹ And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense and myrrh.

¹² And being warned of God in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed into their own country another way.

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DISCUSSION THOUGHTS:

1. In the Church's services we have in the "Gloria" of the Sung Eucharist:

"we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory"

and in Morning and Evening Prayer:

"we are come together in the presence of almighty God and of the whole company of heaven to offer unto him through our Lord Jesus Christ our worship and praise and thanksgiving"

2. The account of the wise men:

- It is commonplace to think there were three wise men but scripture makes no mention of the number.
- Who were the wise men ? and how did they know Jesus was the King of the Jews ? [Daniel 9:24-25](#)
- What prompted their journey ?
- Do the gifts of Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh have any significance ?

3. Worship

- The wise men came to Worship Jesus. Why would the wise men want to Worship Jesus ?
- What do we understand by Worship; what does Worship mean ?
- How are we to Worship ? [John 4:20-24](#)

4. Praise

- Is Praise different from Worship ?
- What constitutes Praise ?

5. Thanksgiving

- For what do we offer than thanksgiving ?
- Examples

6. Why do we offer to God our Worship, Praise and Thanksgiving?

- What does it demonstrate ? [Philippians 4:17-18](#)
- What are the benefits to us ?