

There's a Psalm for This

There's a lot of things we celebrate around Epiphany Sunday. It's the end of the Christmas season and the beginning of the time in which we see the early parts of Jesus' ministry. And it's the coming of the Magi, wise men who traveled to pay homage to the infant king, Jesus. Through that aspect of Epiphany, we consider this day the time of revelation of God's chosen Messiah to all nations, not just one, because of these Gentiles who followed a star to bring gifts to Jesus.

Psalm 72:1-14, 17 (CEB)

Of Solomon.

God, give your judgments to the king. Give your righteousness to the king's son.
Let him judge your people with righteousness and your poor ones with justice.
Let the mountains bring peace to the people; let the hills bring righteousness.
Let the king bring justice to people who are poor;
 let him save the children of those who are needy, but let him crush oppressors!
Let the king live as long as the sun, as long as the moon, generation to generation.
Let him fall like rain upon fresh-cut grass, like showers that water the earth.
Let the righteous flourish throughout their lives,
 and let peace prosper until the moon is no more.
Let the king rule from sea to sea, from the river to the ends of the earth.
Let the desert dwellers bow low before him; let his enemies lick the dust.
Let the kings of Tarshish and the islands bring tribute;
 let the kings of Sheba and Seba present gifts.
Let all the kings bow down before him; let all the nations serve him.

Let it be so, because he delivers the needy who cry out,
 the poor, and those who have no helper.
He has compassion on the weak and the needy;
 he saves the lives of those who are in need.
He redeems their lives from oppression and violence;
 their blood is precious in his eyes.

Let the king's name last forever. Let his name endure as long as the sun.
Let all the nations be blessed through him and call him happy.

Even though Jesus was promised to one section of God's people, this king was prophesied in Psalm 72 to be honored by *all* humanity, and to be a blessing to all nations. And this is what Jesus did! It didn't take long for the message of the good news of Jesus to spread from Jerusalem, to Syria, and into Greece and Italy, and finally into the whole world.

That mission hasn't changed in the millennia since Jesus' arrival either. We are still called to spread the good news of Jesus to all. One of the ways we do that is by looking out for "the needy who cry out", as the Psalm mentions. The poor, weak, and needy are all priorities for God's chosen king – and they should be our priority as well – for when we fight against oppression we fight for God's kingdom, and the world will see what the God and King we worship are like.

Pastor Mike Galica

Holy Cross Announcements

This Sunday we celebrate **Epiphany**, the conclusion to the Christmas season and the revelation of Christ to the world. We remember the visit of the Magi from the East, bringing gifts to Jesus; and, in our readings this week, we remember Jesus' discussion with the elders of his community at the Temple. Our paraments are white in celebration of our Lord and Savior.



Because of our county's "High" Transmission Level, **we will be meeting online-only until that Transmission Level changes**. We feel this is our best path forward to show love to all our neighbors, especially as our hospitals and medical works are overwhelmed.

Our state and local health departments' COVID-19 Transmission Level for our county is "High". This means social gatherings are limited and mask-wearing is required in public spaces. This is in addition to all the regular recommendations of practicing physical distancing, good hygiene practices, and staying home when sick. For more information visit coronavirus.utah.gov.

Katie Kihlstadius has started a "**Marco Polo**" **Prayer Group**. If you'd like to join an online group devoted to praying for our churches, communities, and world, reach out to her at 801-675-6279 for more info!

In lieu of collecting coats, **Box Elder Interfaith Council** is collecting money to purchase new coats during spring sales to donate to schools in the fall. If you'd like to donate to the coat drive, send it to the church marked "Interfaith Council Coat Drive".

If you're a Thrivent member, you may have **Thrivent Choice Dollars** to distribute! Visit thrivent.com/thriventchoice or call 800-847-4836 to find out if you are eligible.

If, while we can't meet together, you want to still give an offering to the church, you can mail it to PO Box 732, Brigham City UT, 84302. The post office box gets checked regularly and your giving will be secure.

Sunday School for children is recessed. Adult Sunday is posted to YouTube on Sunday mornings.

Holy Cross Quilters will continue refraining from meeting.

This Week's Readings:

Epiphany Sunday – *Boy in the Temple* – Psalm 2; Luke 2:41-52

Next Week's Readings:

Baptism of our Lord – *Jesus' Baptism* – Psalm 51:6-17; Luke 3:1-22

Prayer List

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God." — Phil 4:6

Keep the following in your prayers

Byron Quick for a successful and safe heart bypass surgery next week.

Family & Friends of Ty Jordan, a University of Utah football player, who passed away.

Robert Quick, for healing from ulcers.

Ryan, Kendra, and family, friends of Lexa. Prayers for comfort and peace after **Brooks** passed away.

Bobby Morstadt, for healing from severe acid reflux.

Jeff & Darlene Hoedt, for safe travels and for staying healthy over the holiday.

Mary, daughter-in-law of Pastor Mike's friends, prayers for healing.

Lisa Weaver, friend of Kosbabs, is home but still has a long recovery ahead.

Sherri Rackham recovering after a dog bite.

Chris, Ashley, and family, Jeff Hoedt's son and daughter-in-law, for health and safety during pregnancy.

Our vulnerable populations, especially those with underlying health conditions, the homeless, and those lacking access to proper medical care in this time.

Nora Greer, for healing.

Trudee Klein, friend of Deborah Kay, for healing from cancer.

Tom & Jeanette Croft, friend of Kosbabs, for healing.

Abby Rasmussen and family, friends of Kosbabs, as she struggles with cystic fibrosis.

John Buist, our custodian, for continued health problems.

Lynne, Robert Quick's wife, with health issues.

Aleasa, Robert Quick's daughter, with health issues.

Mark Sparkman, Quick's son-in-law, recurring health problems.

Gloria Perry, for healing from health problems.

Box Elder County Jail Ministry, that the inmates may respond to the Gospel.

Deborah Kay Hansen, prayers for healing from recurring health problems.

Give thanks to God

Brittany, friend of Pastor Mike, seems to be recovering well from COVID-19. Prayers for continued healing.

Elias, Pastor Mike's friend's son, is doing much better!

Bryce and Emily Herman and newborn daughter, nephew & family of the Kosbabs, have recovered well.

Claudia Long, Andrea's mom, is doing much better but still needs prayer for strength and health.

Tripp, newborn son of Lexa and Kyler, is off oxygen and doing much better.

Keep those in prayer who are in harm's way

Medical professionals and all who are continuing to work during this pandemic.

Braxton Jeppsen, serving in the US Navy.

Let Pastor Mike know if there are any petitions you wish to add to our Prayer List. If you added someone to the prayer list, please update us on how they are doing! We love to celebrate praises as well as petitions. Out of concern for people's privacy, we haven't been adding specific prayers to our church live-stream, but we continue to pray for all those needs and concerns.