

Opening Our Gifts: Gifts of the Wise Men

Matthew 2:1-12

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him."

When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written:

"But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for out of you will come a ruler
who will shepherd my people Israel."

Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him."

After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

L: The Word of God for the People of God.

P: Thanks be to God.

- We are in a series called, "Opening Our Gifts."
- Today is Epiphany Sunday and today's sermon is entitled, "The Gifts of the Wise Men."
- The gifts of the Wise Men help us understand who Jesus is.
 - Gold is a symbol of royalty that signifies that Jesus is King.
 - Frankincense is incense burned in worship and signifies that Jesus is God.
 - Myrrh is a balm that was used to embalm dead bodies and signifies Jesus' coming death and resurrection.
- Today we open the gifts of the Wise Men and discover who Jesus is... Our King, our God, our Savior.