

LIVING THE LECTIONARY

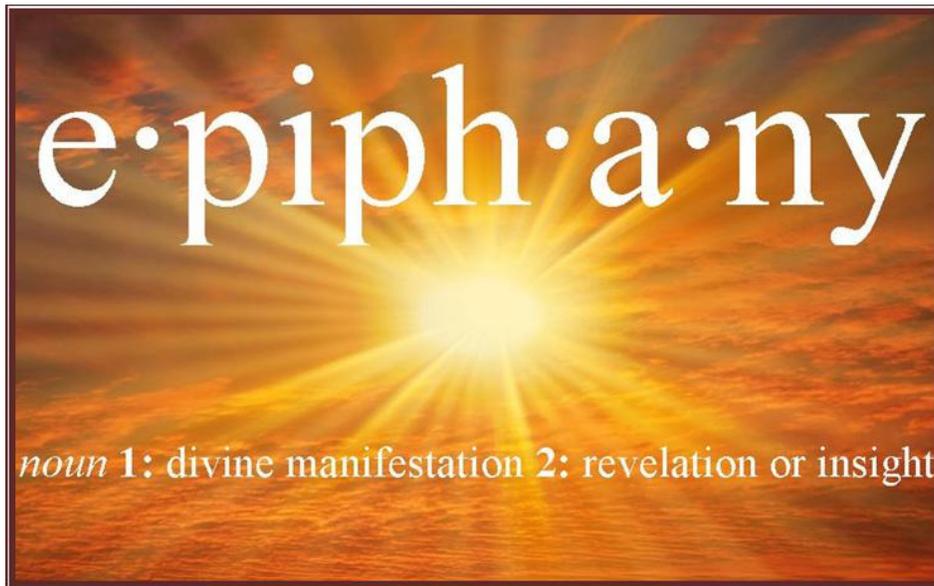
A weekly study of the Scriptures assigned for the coming Sunday.
An opportunity to make the rhythms of the readings become a part of the rhythms of your life.

available on line at

www.bethlehemplutheranchurchparma.com/biblestudies

January 8, 10, 2014 Bethlehem Lutheran Church 7500 State Road, Parma
Thursdays at 10:00 AM, Saturdays at 7:00 pm
(Also presented as a part of the worship service at Puritas Lutheran Church,
13812 Bellaire Road, Cleveland Sundays at 11:30am and 6:00pm.)

Baptism of Our Lord January 11, 2015 White



<http://4lifesuccess.info>

Feast of the Epiphany January 6, 2015 White

Isaiah 60:1-6, Psalm 72:1-11 (12-15), Ephesians 3:1-12, Matthew 2:1-12

The Magi Visit the Messiah

² After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi^[a] (traditionally *wise men*) from the east came to Jerusalem ² 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.”...

⁹ 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. ¹⁰ When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. ¹¹ 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. ¹² And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

Baptism of Our Lord January 11, 2015 White

Hymn of the Day LSB 406/7 TLH No listing

“To Jordan came the Christ, our Lord”

Only published in three Lutheran Hymnals: LBW, LSB and Christian Worship, a Lutheran Hymnal (WELS)

NIV will be the standard reference for Year B’s lessons. Look for possible changes made for the 2011 edition. Reference the ESV (English Standard Version) for alternate translations.

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Genesis 1:1-5 (*next week – 1 Samuel 3:1-10 [11-20]*)

The Beginning

¹ In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. ² Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.

³ And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. ⁴ God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness. ⁵ God called the light “day,” and the darkness he called “night.” And there was evening, and there was morning—the first day.

Apollo 8 Genesis reading

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

On December 24, 1968, in what was the most watched television broadcast at the time, the crew of [Apollo 8](#) read in turn from the [Book of Genesis](#) as they orbited the moon. [Bill Anders](#), [Jim Lovell](#), and [Frank Borman](#) recited verses 1 through 10, using the [King James Version](#) text.

Bill Anders

"We are now approaching lunar sunrise, and for all the people back on Earth, the crew of Apollo 8 has a message that we would like to send to you.

'In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.

'And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep.

'And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. And God said, Let there be light: and there was light.

'And God saw the light, that it was good: and God divided the light from the darkness.'"

Jim Lovell

"'And God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And the evening and the morning were the first day.

'And God said, Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters.

'And God made the firmament, and divided the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament: and it was so.

'And God called the firmament Heaven. And the evening and the morning were the second day.'"

Frank Borman

"'And God said, Let the waters under the heaven be gathered together unto one place, and let the dry land appear: and it was so.

'And God called the dry land Earth; and the gathering together of the waters called t he Seas: and God saw that it was good.'

And from the crew of Apollo 8, we close with good night, good luck, a Merry Christmas – and God bless all of you, all of you on the good Earth."

Lawsuit

[Madalyn Murray O'Hair](#), founder of [American Atheists](#), responded by suing the United States government, alleging violations of the First Amendment . The Supreme Court dismissed the suit due to lack of jurisdiction.



Psalm 29 (*Psalm 139:1-10*)

A psalm of David.

- ¹ Ascribe to the LORD, you heavenly beings,
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.
- ² Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name;
worship the LORD in the splendor of his^[a] holiness.
- ³ The voice of the LORD is over the waters;
the God of glory thunders,
the LORD thunders over the mighty waters.
- ⁴ The voice of the LORD is powerful;
the voice of the LORD is majestic.
- ⁵ The voice of the LORD breaks the cedars;
the LORD breaks in pieces the cedars of Lebanon.
- ⁶ He makes Lebanon leap like a calf,
Sirion^[b] like a young wild ox.
- ⁷ The voice of the LORD strikes
with flashes of lightning.
- ⁸ The voice of the LORD shakes the desert;
the LORD shakes the Desert of Kadesh.
- ⁹ The voice of the LORD twists the oaks^[c]
and strips the forests bare.
And in his temple all cry, “Glory!”
- ¹⁰ The LORD sits enthroned over the flood;
the LORD is enthroned as King forever.
- ¹¹ The LORD gives strength to his people;
the LORD blesses his people with peace.

Footnotes:

- a. [Psalm 29:2](#) Or *Lord with the splendor of*
- b. [Psalm 29:6](#) That is, Mount Hermon
- c. [Psalm 29:9](#) Or *Lord makes the deer give birth*

“Ascribe to the Lord” can also be translated as:

Honor the LORD;

Give unto the LORD;

Acknowledge the majesty of the LORD's reputation!;

Bring Lord Jehovah honor for his Name;

Give to the LORD;

Bring to the Lord.

Acts 19: 1-7 (*1 Corinthians 6:12-20*)

Paul in Ephesus

19 While Apollos was at Corinth, Paul took the road through the interior and arrived at Ephesus. There he found some disciples ² and asked them, “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when^[a] you believed?”

They answered, “No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.”

³ So Paul asked, “Then what baptism did you receive?”

“John’s baptism,” they replied.

⁴ Paul said, “John’s baptism was a baptism of repentance. He told the people to believe in the one coming after him, that is, in Jesus.” ⁵ On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. ⁶ When Paul placed his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in

tongues^[b] and prophesied. ⁷ There were about twelve men in all.

Footnotes:

- a. [Acts 19:2](#) Or after
- b. [Acts 19:6](#) Or other languages

Question: “Who was Apollos?”

Answer: Apollos was an evangelist, apologist, church leader, and friend of the apostle Paul. Apollos was a Jew from Alexandria, Egypt, described as “eloquent,” “mighty in the Scriptures,” “fervent in the spirit” and “instructed in the way of the Lord” ([Acts 18:24](#)). In A.D. 54, he traveled to Ephesus, where he taught boldly in the synagogue there. However, at that time, Apollos’ understanding of the gospel was incomplete, since he was “acquainted only with the baptism of John” ([Acts 18:25](#)). This probably means that Apollos preached repentance and faith in the Messiah—he maybe even believed that Jesus of Nazareth was the Messiah—but he did not know the full magnitude of Jesus’ death and resurrection. Aquila and Priscilla, friends of Paul, spent some time with Apollos and filled in the gaps in his understanding of Jesus Christ ([Acts 18:26](#)). Apollos, now armed with the complete message, immediately began a preaching ministry and was used of God as an effective apologist for the gospel ([Acts 18:28](#)).

Apollos traveled through Achaia and eventually found his way to Corinth ([Acts 19:1](#)), where he “watered” where Paul had “sown” ([1 Corinthians 3:6](#)). This is important to remember when studying the first Epistle to Corinth. Apollos, with his natural gifts, had attracted a following among the church in Corinth, but simple admiration was growing into divisiveness. Against Apollos’ wishes, there was a faction in Corinth that claimed him as their spiritual mentor, to the exclusion of Paul and Peter. Paul deals with this partisanship in [1 Corinthians 1:12-13](#). Christ is not divided, and neither should we be. We cannot love personality over truth.

The last mention of Apollos in the Bible comes in Paul’s letter to Titus: “Do everything you can to help Zenas the lawyer and Apollos on their way and see that they have everything they need” ([Titus 3:13](#)). Obviously, Apollos was on his way through Crete (where Titus was) at this time. And, just as obviously, Paul still considered Apollos to be a valuable co-laborer and friend.

Some believe that Apollos eventually returned to Ephesus to serve the church there. It’s very possible that he did, although there’s no biblical confirmation of this detail. Also, some identify Apollos as the unknown author of the book of Hebrews; again, there is no biblical support for such an identification. The [author of Hebrews](#) remains unknown.

In summary, Apollos was a man of letters with a zeal for the Lord and a talent for preaching. He labored in the Lord's work, aiding the ministry of the apostles and faithfully building up the church. His life should encourage each of us to "grow in the grace and knowledge of the Lord" ([2 Peter 3:18](#)) and to use our God-given gifts to promote truth.

Recommended Resources: [The Great Lives from God's Word Series by Chuck Swindoll](#) and [Logos Bible Software](#).

Read more: <http://www.gotquestions.org/who-Apollos.html#ixzz3NyYOCIsT>

www.gotquestions.org continues its title as:

"The Bible has answers! We'll help you find them"



Mark 1: 4-11 (*John 1:43-51*)

⁴And so John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River. ⁶John wore clothing made of camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷And this was his message: "After me comes the one more powerful than I, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. ⁸I baptize you with^[a] water, but he will baptize you with^[b] the Holy Spirit."

“Guided Bible Studies for Hungry Christians

The Foundation of Jesus Christ Lesson 16

What is the Baptism of John? (Part 2)

John baptized the multitude in the baptism of repentance. This type of baptism required sinners to repent of their sins, then do good works to prove their repentance. This baptism of repentance was used as a beginning point and made the path straight toward Jesus Christ's baptism of redemption which would come later. “ <http://guidedbiblestudies.com>

The Baptism and Testing of Jesus

⁹ At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰ Just as Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. ¹¹ And a voice came from heaven: “You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.”

Footnotes:

- a. [Mark 1:8](#) Or in
- b. [Mark 1:8](#) Or in

Compare verse 11 to a similar “voice from heaven “in the Transfiguration story. The [Synoptic Gospels \(Matthew 17:1–9, Mark 9:2-8, Luke 9:28–36\)](#) describe it, and [2 Peter 1:16–18](#) refers to it.

⁵ While he was still speaking, a bright cloud covered them, and a voice from the cloud said, “This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him!” Matthew 17:5

A Concordia Publishing House choral piece, “This is my Beloved Son” by Knut Nystedt provides an interesting way to “hear” this event.



Knut Nystedt (1915-2014) held a central position throughout a long period of rapidly shifting musical currents. With unflinching artistry he showed a remarkable ability to adapt essential new discoveries to his own, highly personal, style, which is rich in colours and, at the same time, delicately nuanced. Nystedt composed music for virtually all kinds of instrumentations and is recognized world wide as a key composer of choral and church music, particularly in the USA where the Augsburg College in Minneapolis awarded him their Distinguished Service Citation 1975, and his choral work *De Profundis* was elected “Best work of the year 1984” by the US Choral Association.

http://www.mic.no/symfoni/kontakt.nsf/pub_e/per2000062811014387357289

One reviewer describes it this way:

David Spring Difficulty Level: Early intermediate

This is a very short, ethereal setting of the Gospel of the Transfiguration. Although not difficult, it presents some intonation challenges for singers. It can be very effective as a short anthem, or as a musical telling of the gospel. www.sheetmusicplus.com

It can also be heard at: [Choir – Mother of God Catholic Church](http://www.mother-of-god.org/parish-life/choir/)
www.mother-of-god.org/parish-life/choir/
This Is My Beloved Son (Nystedt).

