

February 2025 – The Season after Epiphany

Dear Friends in Christ:

Easter is late this year. The Alexandrian formula which most of the church uses puts Easter on the first Sunday after the first full moon after the Spring equinox unless that is before Passover, which means that Easter will not happen until April 20th of this year. That means that Ash Wednesday is also late—not happening until March 5. That means that February is all Sundays after Epiphany. The texts are chosen to elucidate the person and office of Jesus as the Messiah of God.

On Feb. 2, we have the crowd's reaction to Jesus sermon at the synagogue in Nazareth. He seems to have forgotten that he works for them. He seems to think he works for God and not them. They try to throw him off a cliff.

On Feb. 9, we see a huge catch of fish at the beginning of Luke's Gospel (as opposed to the story's being put at the end of John's Gospel). The upshot is that from now on the followers of Jesus will catch people.

On Feb. 16, we have the beginning of the Sermon on the Plain from Luke's Gospel. It includes the beatitudes.

On Feb. 23, we have some of Jesus' most radical teachings regarding love for one's enemies and lending without expectation of return.

On March 2, we celebrate the Transfiguration of our Lord. Jesus is revealed to his disciples in all of his glory from out of eternity.

Of course, knowing who Jesus is is not the same as owning him as Lord and Savior. It is a glancing acknowledgement versus a relationship. It is a cursory idea of paying attention over against full obedience to the Lord. That is why we are given the voice on the mountain of Transfiguration saying, "This is my son. Listen to Him."

It turns out that the values, expectations, aims, goals, preferences and promises of Jesus are exactly the values, expectations, aims, goals, preferences and promises of God the Father. Any distinctions we make are distinctions without a difference. Any failure or refusal to listen to Jesus, the son, is a failure or refusal to listen to God the Father.

As we allow our persons to be integrated with the person of Jesus, we are, by the grace of God shaped and molded into the people we will become when Christ comes again in glory to judge the quick and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

Yours, in Christ,

John S. McKenzie