

## Sunday School Opening

### +The Invocation

### +The Song

### “Celebrate Nativity”

1. Celebrate nativity, angels sing on high.

God has entered history where a baby lies.

**Refrain:** Gloria, Gloria, glad news we tell.

Gloria, Gloria, Emmanuel.

2. See the baby, see the child, Branch of Jesse's tree.

He will be the King of kings and the Prince of peace.

### Refrain

3. Welcome Christmas, one and all; greet the day of grace.

True gift of light and life for the human race. **Refrain**

### +The Song

### “The Epiphany of Our Lord”

1. A star was brightly shining,

For all the world to see,

Revealing Christ, the newborn King,

That first Epiphany.

2. The Wise Men bowed before the child

And offered gifts most rare,

The incense for the great high priest

Was laid in worship there.

3. The gold was gladly given to

This infant King of kings

And myrrh for His great sacrifice,

Which our salvation brings.

4. With joy we also worship Christ

Whom God reveals this day.

He is the Word made manifest—

The light, the truth, the way.

### **+The Prayer**

Lord Jesus, as we prepare to celebrate Your birth and continue to wait for Your return, fill our hearts and mouths with "Glorias" that we with the angels, the shepherds, the wisemen and all who rejoice in Your birth might worship You—Emmanuel, King of kings, Prince of Peace, our great high priest, the Word made flesh; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

St. Mark 8:1-26  
Sunday, December 1, 2024

**The Memory Review & Assignment**

Review: St. John 17:17

Memorize: Psalm 119:18, "Open my eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of Your Word."

Assignment: Read St. Mark 8:27-38

**St. Mark 8:1-10 "Jesus Feeds the Four Thousand"**

What is shocking about the disciples' response to the situation in which they find themselves?

What is sometimes the problem with the question, "How?" when it comes to Jesus?

What does Jesus do and what do the disciples witness?

How are we very much like the disciples?

**St. Mark 8:11-13 "The Pharisees Demand a Sign"**

Signs, certainly in John's Gospel, are simply miracles—demonstration of the divine power and mercy that belong to Jesus. What is the point of a sign?

Jesus did signs. Why is it wrong to seek a sign?

Do we ever seek or even demand signs?

Does Jesus give us signs?

**St. Mark 8:14-21 "The Leaven of the Pharisees & Herod"**

Why is Jesus disgruntled and what is the gist of his questions in verses 17-20?

What is the "leaven of the Pharisees and the leaven of Herod" that Jesus refers to?

(Matthew 16:12, 1 Corinthians 5:6, Galatians 5:9)

**St. Mark 8:22-26 "Jesus Heals a Blindman at Bethsaida"**

This is a puzzling episode in Jesus' ministry. Why did Jesus need a "do-over" on the miracle. Surely is God. He gets it right the first time, doesn't He?

In the end, what happened for the blind man?

The double healing might teach us something about the eyes of faith and spiritual sight.

Look back again at Mark 8:1-10.

Do the disciples see Jesus with the eyes of faith?

Do the disciples see Jesus clearly with the eyes of faith?

Will Jesus restore them so that they see clearly who Jesus is and what He has come to do? (Luke 24, see the comment in the *The Lutheran Study Bible*)

Seems to me it's the old, "Lord I believe, help Thou my unbelief," thing that's going on.