

## The Epiphany of our Lord 2010

**S**tepping into a new year can be both exhilarating and fearful. I suppose that a lot depends on your perspective. It does seem that the younger you are the more exciting is the prospect of a new fresh year to make your mark in. On the contrary, with the more years one has experienced there seems good reason to give pause. Circumstances that no one can imagine lead people in directions never thought of.

Going into a year alone without someone to guide is a truly daunting task. Time and time again people think they can do it on their own. There are many wrecks along the way that show us just how difficult and well nigh impossible it is to venture life alone. In the midst of our torment and troubles, foisted on us day after day by the mundane tasks of life, we need something or rather someone to hold on to.

People I know are experiencing despair as all around them it looks as though the wrong people are winning. Many wish to cry out with the psalmist "My tears have been my food day and night, while they say to me all the day long, 'Where is your God?'" Some even ask themselves the same question. The big "Why?" is in their heart and on their lips.

On the one hand we know that God cares for every human need: physical, emotional, and spiritual. There is nothing about us that He does not care for and nothing that he cannot grant us. Then again we have the Devil and his demons working to convince us that we need something different than what God gives us.

As we venture into this new year it is good to remember that God always gives us what we need, and He also gives it to us in the best possible way. Our Redeemer

congregation has experienced this for 75 years. For every one of these years His Word and His sacraments have been our daily sustenance. Our faith has been refreshed and

strengthened and becomes stronger and stronger. In every year we look for our faith to continually increase and progress.

We have Someone to guide us - for with out Him this year would be an unmitigated catastrophe. Even if 2010 brings some of life's most frightening situations we know we don't have to go it alone. Our dear Jesus is with us all the way. Even if we do not recognize that all that this year can bring can come from Him and instead focus on the things we want and do not need, He will not withhold His blessings from us.

He cares for our needs now just as He has cared for us in the past. God the Father sent His Son into the world. Pray together with me that the dear Father opens our eyes to see His blessings and our ears to hear His voice and our hearts to love Him.

I guess that this means that it is possible to step into the year without reservation but with confidence and youthful enthusiasm trusting in God by faith.

We lift up our hearts to honour Him and we look to rejoice in His gracious presence with us.

Rejoicing In His days  
Pastor

