

# Epiphany—The Third Season Of the Church Year

By LELA BARROW

The article I wrote on Seasons seemed to please lots of people. In that piece I told you how ignorant I was about that subject; but as I studied more I became more interested too. I have already written about Advent which is the first Church Season and Christmas Season which is second. Sunday, Jan. 1st was Second Sunday after Christmas Day.

The Epiphany Season, or third season does not come till January 6th. Which means an appearance. It is a Christian festival celebrated in commemoration of the manifestation of our Saviour's birth to the wise men of the East. One of the Hymns sung in Epiphany: (64)

*When from the East the wise-men came,  
Led by the Star of Bethlehem.  
The gifts they brought to Jesus were,  
Of gold and frankincense and myrrh.*

Prayer—O God, who by the leading of a star didst manifest the only begotten Son to the peoples of the earth: Lead us, who know thee now by faith, to thy presence, where we may behold thy glory face to face. Amen.

There are nine Sundays in the Epiphany Church Season. First Sunday after Epiphany: The Baptism of our Lord. Father in heaven, who at the baptism of Jesus in the River of Jordan didst proclaim him thy beloved Son and anoint him with the Holy Spirit: Grant that all who are baptized into His Name may

keep the covenant they have made, and confess him as Lord and Savior. Amen

*Brightest and best of the sons of the morning,  
Dawn on our darkness, and lend us thine aid;  
Star of the East, the horizon adorning.  
Guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.*

Second Sunday after the Epiphany: Jesus Christ is the light of the world: illumined by thy Word and Sacraments.

Third Sunday—Proclaim to all people the Good News of his salvation, that the whole world may see the glory of his marvelous works who liveth and reigneth ever and ever. (Amen)

Fourth Sunday—Mercifully hear the supplications of thy people and grant peace through Jesus Christ. (Amen)

Fifth Sunday—Set us free, O God, from the Bondage of our sins and give us liberty of that life which thou hast manifested to us through our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

Sixth Sunday—O God, Mercifully accept our prayers, grant us the help of thy grace, that in keeping thy commandments we may please thee, both in will and deed. Amen.

Seventh Sunday—A Lord, who hast taught us that all our doings without charity are nothing worth: Send thy Holy Ghost and pour into our hearts that most

excellent gift of charity, the bond of peace forever and ever. Amen.

Eighth Sunday—O most loving Father, may we give thanks for all things, cast all our cares on thee who carest for us. Preserve us from faithless fears and anxieties and let us realize the light of thy love, one God now and forever. Amen.

Ninth—Last Sunday after Epiphany—O God, thy only begotten Son didst reveal his glory upon the holy mount; Grant unto us that we, beholding the light of his countenance may be strengthened to bear our cross and be changed into his likeness from glory to glory, through Jesus Christ our Lord who liveth and reigneth with thee ever and ever. Amen.

Hymn 93

Earth has many a noble city, Bethlehem, thou dost all excel, Out of thee the Lord from heaven Came to rule His Israel. Fairer than the sun at morning, was the Star that told His birth, To the world its God announcing, Seen in fleshly form on earth. Jesus. Whom the Gentiles worshipped, At thy glad Epiphany, unto Thee, with God the Father, And the Spirit, glory be. Amen.

I hope I have written this in an understandable way. Anyway the Epiphany Season coincides with our Calendar Season which is Winter—cold-meaning December, January and February.

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