

## Epiphany/Theophany

January 10, 2021

Luke 3:1-21

This day is also called the Feast of the Theophany. The feast of the revelation of Jesus Christ as the Son of God. Christmas seems to be the season of revelations and manifestations. Today makes it very clear that the One born in Bethlehem is truly God. He has come to restore our fallen nature and to renew the entire creation here on earth. We often neglect to think that creation is renewed and restored by Christ's coming. Yet today reminds us that it is. Everything is included in God's salvific plan.

Everything that is physical, spiritual, visible and invisible are encouraged to participate in the Divine Glory that Our Lord has brought into our world. Today's revelation encourages us to participate in the new Heaven and earth of God's Kingdom amongst us. Our Lord's baptism demonstrates that we also are saved with the rest of creation because it is through the waters of the Jordan that we share in His life. At our own baptisms we received the garment of light that Adam and Eve lost when they distorted themselves and the entire creation with sin and death.

So often as Christians we express our salvation story through fabric. It is a tangible way that we can express our roles physically and spiritually in God's salvation plan. It helps us to understand the Divine in a concrete human way. That is why at a baptism we use a white gown to dress the child in. It reminds us of the garment of light. We begin our

Christian life in a white garment of light and we will wear it again when we meet Our Lord. The white garment reminds us of Whose we are and the call to live a pure and sanctified life. The white alb worn by clergy reminds them of the meaning of their white baptism gown. It also reminds those in attendance of their call and Whose they are.

In many parts of the Middle East, Epiphany is a festival of light. Many Christians process with lighted candles in their churches and in their towns. Sounds similar to our Christmas Eve practices. We often say that when we fully understand something, that the light went on in my head. Or that I have become enlightened. In cartoons we express it with a light bulb over the persons head. So how would the early Christians express their understanding of the revelation that Jesus is the Son of God. The most simplest would be with a lighted candle. The candle expresses the light going on in their heads. That now we know and understand that Jesus is the Son of God. That is also why we give a lighted candle to the child's Godparent at a baptism. It is done on the child's behalf. They are responsible to reveal the faith to this child. That Jesus is the Son of God. They are to help make that light go on in that child's head. It makes you look at candles in a new way.

Baptisms are a powerful experience. The Heavens open up over that small bowl that is the font. Just as they opened up over the Jordan as Jesus Christ came out of the waters. His baptism was so different at that time because of the presence of the Father revealing Jesus's true identity and the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove. There should be no confusion about who this person is.

The incarnate Son of God sanctified our flesh and blood at His birth at Christmas. Now at His baptism creation is sanctified by the waters of

the Jordan. It is revealed to us that we are sanctified twice. The Third sanctification will come at Easter. Epiphany is a mini Easter. It points to the Resurrection that is to come. However we do not full understand that until Easter Sunday morning. Then we will have a better understanding of Epiphany in the light of Easter. The waters of our baptism call us to the fullness of the divine image we all are created in. To live the divine life in our human bodies here on earth. That we and all of creation have been sanctified by Christ in the waters of the Jordan. God bless and take care, Pastor D