

Epiphany – January 6, 2015  
Text: Isaiah 60:1-6  
Theme: "Glory Risen Upon You"

**When I look in the mirror in the morning, I don't feel very glorious. I'm a middle-aged, over-weight, suburban clergyman serving one of the many struggling mainline churches in a community known primarily for what used to be. My hair and my bank account are the only things about me that are thin and glorious is not the word that pops into mind.**

**I imagine that none of us are all too thrilled with ourselves for all kinds of reasons and many of us look at our neighbor and think, why Lord? Why does he get every break in the world? We compare everything and everyone all the time and get so caught up in comparisons that we forget what the Lord so clearly says to us today through his prophet Isaiah.**

**"Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you."**

**YOU! The glory of the Lord has risen upon YOU of all people. St. Paul was just as shocked when he found out that he had been chosen to be the apostle to the Gentiles. Isaiah was shocked that he had been chosen to proclaim God's word to Judah and King Herod was irritated when he discovered that he had been circumvented in**

**the whole process of the Savior's birth. But God chooses whom he chooses and he chooses you.**

**Today begins the season of Epiphany and the word "epiphany" means to make known, to shine the light into the darkness and brighten up the world. Scare away all the vermin in the corners and brighten everything with the light of Christ. For the next six weeks we are going to watch the Lord show us exactly who he is. Each week we will grow together in wisdom and understanding of exactly whom we serve. This coming Sunday we will see him Baptized. The following week we will hear the Confession of St. Peter, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God!" The next week we will witness the conversion of St. Paul as the chief of sinners is made into the greatest of the Apostles. The fourth week we will witness the Lord Christ casting out a demon and proving his superiority over the forces of Hell and the fifth week we will watch as he heals people of every illness known to the world and finally, on the sixth week we will stand atop the Mount of Transfiguration with Peter, James and John and see our Lord give us just a glimpse of his magnificent glory before descending into the dark valley of Lent where he will finally and for all time conquer Satan on our behalf.**

**So over the next six weeks we will see his glory exponentially increase and we will see the people he healed, the people he helped**

**and the people he called and we will understand that we are they. The glory of the Lord has risen upon us. We are his army. I know we don't look like much but we are more powerful than anyone assumes. We are more powerful than we even know. I think that is why he called us. No one will see us coming. We don't drive tanks and carry armor piercing weapons. We are each however gifted to play our role in his mission to proclaim his saving name throughout the earth. Just answer this simple question. Do you know any people who do not know Christ, have drifted away from him or are currently drifting away? If your answer is yes, then we have work to do.**

**"Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you."**