

THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD

January 5 & 6, 2019

5:00 pm & 8:15 am



AS WE GATHER

The star that once led the Magi to the Christ Child is a type of the light that God has caused to shine so that all of us may know Christ Jesus as Savior and Redeemer. We would not have known Him except that the Lord made the light to shine in our darkness to reveal Jesus Christ to us and to lead our fearful hearts to faith. The star still shines through the light of God's Word and leads us into the presence of Him whom the Father sent to be our Savior. The glory of God is His steadfast love and mercy, which He has revealed in Jesus Christ.

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELLS - *We Prepare our hearts and minds for worship*



WELCOME

✠ PREPARATION ✠

OPENING HYMN "Brightest and Best of the Stars of the Morning" *LSB 400*

Brightest and best of the stars 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.

Cold on His cradle the dewdrops are shining; Low lies His head with the beasts of the stall;

Angels adore Him in slumber reclining, Maker and Monarch and Savior of all.

Shall we not yield Him, in costly devotion, Fragrance of Edom and off'rings divine,

Gems of the mountain and pearls of the ocean, Myrrh from the forest and gold from the mine?

**Vainly we offer each ample oblation, Vainly with gifts would His favor secure.
Richer by far is the heart's adoration; Dearer to God are the prayers of the
poor.**

**Brightest and best of the stars 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.**

(Please Stand)

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**



CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION Based on *Isaiah 60:1-6*
*(If you would like private confession and absolution, please call the
office at(314) 832-5600 to make an appointment with Pastor Clark)*

Pastor: Arise, shine, for your light has come,

People: **and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.**

We take a moment for silent prayer and meditation upon God's Word.

Pastor: Almighty God, thick darkness covers the whole earth, and the darkness of
sin is on us, Your people.

People: **We confess that we have walked in darkness instead of Your light. In
our thoughts, words, and actions, we have turned away from Your
face and have broken Your commands.**

Pastor: You alone, O Lord, invite all nations to come to Your light. You beckon
those who are broken to find wholeness in the brightness of Your rising.

People: **Guide us again to the mercy of our Savior Jesus Christ, that He may
dispel the darkness of our sin and renew us in the light of Your
presence. Amen.**

Pastor: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

[OR]

Seminary Student: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for His sake God forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ He gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit. May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. *John 1:12, Philippians 1:6*

People: Amen.

☩ WORD ☩

HYMN OF PRAISE “Glory to God, We Give You Thanks and Praise” *LSB 946*, v. 1 & 3

Glory to God, we give You thanks and praise; Of heav’nly joy and earthly peace we sing.

We worship You, to You our hearts we raise, Lord God, almighty Father, heav’nly King.

Alone, O Christ, You only are the Lord, At God’s right hand in majesty most high:

Who with the Spirit worshiped and adored, With all the heavn’ly host we glorify.

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray. O God, by the leading of a star You made known Your only-begotten Son to the nations.

People: Lead us, who follow Your Son by faith, to rejoice in the brightness of Your eternal kingdom;

Pastor through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

(Please Be Seated)



OLD TESTAMENT READING *Isaiah 60:1–6*

(Nations shall come to the light of the Lord.)

¹ Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. ² For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you. ³ And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising. ⁴ Lift up your eyes all around, and see; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from afar, and your daughters shall be carried on the hip. ⁵ Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and exult, because the abundance of the sea shall be turned to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. ⁶ A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall bring good news, the praises of the LORD.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.



EPISTLE *Ephesians 3:1–12*

(Hidden for ages, the mystery of the Gospel is now revealed.)

³ For this reason I, Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles— ² assuming that you have heard of the stewardship of God's grace that was given to me for you, ³ how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I have written briefly. ⁴ When you read this, you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ, ⁵ which was not made known to the sons of men in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the

Spirit. ⁶ This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. ⁷ Of this gospel I was made a minister according to the gift of God's grace, which was given me by the working of his power. ⁸ To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, ⁹ and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God, who created all things, ¹⁰ so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. ¹¹ This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord, ¹² in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in him.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

(Please Stand)

GOSPEL VERSE “What Child is This”

LSB 370, v. 3

**So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh; Come, peasant, king to own Him.
The King of kings salvation brings; Let loving hearts enthrone Him.
Raise, raise the song on high, The virgin sings her lullaby;
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, The babe, the son of Mary!**



HOLY GOSPEL *Matthew 2:1–12*

(The Wise Men follow the star and come to worship Jesus.)

The congregation is invited to read the words in bold

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the second chapter.

People: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

²Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, ²saying, “**Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.**” ³When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. ⁵They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet: ⁶“‘And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.’”⁷ Then Herod summoned the wise men

secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. ⁸ And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him.”⁹ After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. ¹¹ And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. ¹² And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

(Please Be Seated)



APOSTLES' CREED

LSB 159

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.



CHILDREN'S MESSAGE “This Little Gospel Light of Mine”

**This little gospel light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.
This little gospel light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.
This little gospel light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.
Let it shine all the time let it shine.**

HYMN OF THE DAY “O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright” *LSB* 395

**O Morning Star, how fair and bright! You shine with God’s own truth and light,
Aglow with grace and mercy! Of Jacob’s race, King David’s son,
Our Lord and Master, You have won Our hearts to serve You only!
Lowly, holy! Great and glorious, All victorious,
Rich in blessing! Rule and might o’er all possessing!**

**Come, heav’nly Bridegroom, Light divine, And deep within our hearts now shine;
There light a flame undying! In Your one body let us be
As living branches of a tree, Your life our lives supplying.
Now, though daily Earth’s deep sadness May perplex us
And distress us, Yet, with heav’nly joy You bless us.**

**Lord, when You look on us in love, At once there falls from God above
A ray of purest pleasure. Your Word and Spirit, flesh and blood
Refresh our souls with heav’nly food You are our dearest treasure!
Let Your mercy Warm and cheer us! O draw near us!
For You teach us God’s own love through You has reached us.**

**Almighty Father, in Your Son You loved us when not yet begun
Was this old earth’s foundation! Your Son has ransomed us in love
To live in Him here and above: This is Your great salvation.
Alleluia! Christ the living, To us giving
Life forever, Keeps us Yours and fails us never!**

**O let the harps break forth in sound! Our joy be all with music crowned,
Our voices gladly blending! For Christ goes with us all the way
Today, tomorrow, ev’ry day! His love is never ending!
Sing out! Ring out! Jubilation! Exultation!
Tell the story! Great is He, the King of Glory!**

**What joy to know, when life is past, The Lord we love is first and last,
The end and the beginning! He will one day, oh, glorious grace,
Transport us to that happy place Beyond all tears and sinning!
Amen! Amen! Come, Lord Jesus! Crown of gladness!
We are yearning For the day of Your returning!**



SERMON

(Please Stand)



PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs. For the peace of the whole world, that wars cease and that people of every nation find lasting, perfect peace in Jesus, the Prince of Peace, let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Lord, let Your light shine upon all nations.**

Pastor: For those who profess faith in Jesus Christ, here at Ascension and in every corner of creation, that the journey of the Wise Men inspires us to follow the light of the Gospel and spread the Word of salvation throughout the world, let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Lord, let Your light shine upon Your Church.**

Pastor: For those who bring their tithes and offerings to this altar that, like the gold, frankincense, and myrrh of the Wise Men, these gifts be pleasing in God's sight and provide many blessings to His Church, let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Lord, let Your light shine upon all who give.**

Pastor: For those who lay down their lives for their fellow men and women, including first responders, members of law enforcement, doctors and nurses, and those who wear the uniform of our country, that they take shelter in the arms of our Savior, let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Lord, let Your light shine upon those who sacrifice their lives.**

Pastor: For those who are sick and hospitalized, shut-in and homebound, and for all who are sick in heart, mind, and body, [*especially . . .*], that their lives be touched by our Father's healing mercy, let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Lord, let Your light shine upon all those who suffer.**

(Special Petitions)

Pastor: For these and all other prayers and intercessions we have, that the petitions of our hearts may be known to the One who knows and loves us all, let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Lord, let Your light lead us to You. In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.**

(Please Be Seated)



OFFERING

(Please Stand)



✠ SACRAMENT ✠

PREFACE

Pastor: The Lord be with you. *[2 Timothy 4:22]*

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts. *[Colossians 3:1]*

People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. *[Psalm 136]*

People: **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

PROPER PREFACE

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; for what had been hidden from before the foundation of the world You have made known to the nations in Your Son. As You by a star once guided Wise Men from the East, You now guide Your sons and daughters from every corner of the earth to come to Him who is the Light of the world. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

SANCTUS

LSB 208

**Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth adored;
Heav'n and earth with full acclaim shout the glory of Your name.
Sing hosanna in the highest, sing hosanna to the Lord;
Truly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!**

LORD'S PRAYER *(Matthew 6:9–13)*

LSB 208

Pastor: Hear us as we pray in His name as He has taught us:

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD *Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24;
Luke 22:19–20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–25*

PAX DOMINI

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: Amen.

AGNUS DEI

LSB 210

**O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away;
O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.**

**O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away;
Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ, And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.**

(Please Be Seated)

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS “I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light” LSB 411

**I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to follow Jesus.
God set the stars to give light to the world. The star of my life is Jesus.**

***Refrain:* In Him there is no darkness at all. The night and the day are both alike.
The Lamb is the light of the city of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.**

**I want to see the brightness of God. I want to look at Jesus.
Clear Sun of Righteousness, shine on my path, And show me the way to the Father. *Refrain***

**I’m looking for the coming of Christ. I want to be with Jesus.
When we have run with patience the race, We shall know the joy of Jesus.
*Refrain***

“As with Gladness Men of Old” *LSB 397*

**As with gladness men of old Did the guiding star behold;
As with joy they hailed its light, Leading onward, beaming bright;
So, most gracious Lord, may we Evermore be led by Thee.**

**As with joyful steps they sped, Savior, to Thy lowly bed,
There to bend the knee before Thee, Whom heav’n and earth adore;
So may we with willing feet Ever seek Thy mercy seat.**

**As they offered gifts most rare At Thy cradle, rude and bare,
So may we with holy joy, Pure and free from sin’s alloy,
All our costliest treasures bring, Christ, to Thee, our heav’nly King.**

**Holy Jesus, ev’ry day Keep us in the narrow way;
And when earthly things are past, Bring our ransomed souls at last
Where they need no star to guide, Where no clouds Thy glory hide.**

**In the heav’nly country bright Need they no created light;
Thou its light, its joy, its crown, Thou its sun which goes not down;
There forever may we sing Alleluias to our King.**

**The star proclaims the King is here; But, Herod, why this senseless fear?
For He who offers heav’nly birth Seeks not the kingdoms of this earth.**

**The eastern sages saw from far And followed on His guiding star;
And, led by light, to light they trod And by their gifts confessed their God.**

**Within the Jordan=s sacred flood The heav’nly Lamb in meekness stood
That He, of whom no sin was known, Might cleanse His people from their own.**

**And oh, what miracle divine, When water reddened into wine!
He spoke the word, and forth it flowed In streams that nature ne’er bestowed.**

**△ For this Thy glad epiphany All glory, Jesus, be to Thee,
Whom with the Father we adore, And Holy Spirit evermore.**

(Please Stand)



BENEDICTION *Isaiah 60:1*

Pastor: Arise, shine, for your light has come,

People: **and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.**

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

Numbers 6:24–26

People: **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN “Angels from the Realms of Glory” *LSB 367*

**Angels from the realms of glory, Wing your flight o’er all the earth;
Ye who sang creation’s story, Now proclaim Messiah’s birth.
Come and worship, come and worship; Worship Christ, the newborn King.**

**Shepherd’s in the field abiding, Watching o’er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing Yonder shines the Infant Light.
Come and worship, come and worship; Worship Christ, the newborn King.**

**Sages, leave your contemplations, Brighter visions beam afar;
Seek the great Desire of nations, Ye have seen His natal star.
Come and worship, come and worship; Worship Christ, the newborn King.**

**Saints before the altar bending, Watching long in hope and fear,
Suddenly the Lord, descending, In His temple shall appear.
Come and worship, come and worship; Worship Christ, the newborn King.**

**All creation, join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son,
Evermore your voices raising To the eternal Three in One.
Come and worship, come and worship; Worship Christ, the newborn King.**

POSTLUDE

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