

THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD

January 6, 2019

11:00 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

Instrumental

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



WELCOME

✘ PREPARATION ✘

OPENING SONG "We Believe"

Hooper/Fike/Ryan

**In this time of desperation, When all we know is doubt and fear.
There is only one foundation. We believe, we believe.
In this broken generation, When all is dark, You help us see.
There is only one salvation. We believe, we believe.**

**CHORUS: We believe in God the Father, We believe in Jesus Christ,
We believe in the Holy Spirit, And He's given us new life,
We believe in the crucifixion. We believe that He conquered death.
We believe in the resurrection, And He's coming back (again. We believe.)**

**So let our faith be more than anthems. Greater than the songs we sing.
In our weakness and temptations. We believe, we believe. CHORUS**

**Let the lost be found and the dead be raised. In the here and now let love invade.
Let the church live loud our God we'll say, We believe, we believe.
And the gates of hell will not prevail. For the pow'r of God has torn the veil.
Now we know Your love will never fail. We believe, we believe. CHORUS**

He's coming back again, He's coming back again, We believe, we believe.

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(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** ☩

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)



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.**

² Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, ² saying, **“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.”** ³ When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴ and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. ⁵ They 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.

1 हेरोद राजाको समयमा यहूदियाको बेथलेहेममा जब येशूको जन्म भयो, पूर्वका ज्योतिषीहरू यरूशलेममा आइपुगे र तिनीहरूले भने, 2 “यहूदीहरूका राजा भई जन्मने कहाँ हुनुहुन्छ? किनभने हामीले उहाँको तारा पूर्वमा देख्यौं र उहाँलाई दण्डवत् गर्नु आएका छौं।” 3 जब हेरोद राजाले यो सुने, तिनी बेचैन भए, र तिनीसँग सारा यरूशलेम पनि बेचैन भयो। 4 अनि तिनले सबै मुख्य पूजाहारीहरू र जनताका शास्त्रीहरूलाई भेला गरे, र “ख्रीष्टको जन्म कहाँ हुने हो?” भनी सोधपूछ गरे। 5 तिनीहरूले तिनलाई भने, “यहूदियाको बेथलेहेममा। किनभने अगमवक्ताले लेखेका छन्: 6 ‘ए बेथलेहेम, यहूदा मुलुकको गाउँ, तँ कुनै किसिमले यहूदाका शासकहरूका बीचमा कुनै भन्दा पनि तुच्छ छैनस्, किनकि तँबाट एक जना शासक निस्किएका छन्, जसले मेरा मानिस, इसाएलको हेरचाह गर्नेछन्।’” 7 तब हेरोदले ती ज्योतिषीहरूलाई गुपुतमा बोलाए र तारा कुन समय देखा परेको हो, सो तिनीहरूबाट पत्ता लगाए। 8 तिनले तिनीहरूलाई यसो भनेर बेथलेहेममा पठाए, “जाओ, र ठीकसँग त्यस बालकको खोजी गर। तिनलाई भेट्दा मलाई खबर गर, र म पनि तिनलाई दण्डवत् गर्नेछु।” 9 तब राजाको कुरा सुनेर तिनीहरू आफ्ना बाटो लागे। जुन तारा तिनीहरूले पूर्वमा देखेथे, त्यो तारा तिनीहरूका अगि-अगि गयो, र बालक भएको ठाउँमा पुगेपछि त्यो तारा त्यहीं अडियो। 10 जब तिनीहरूले त्यो तारा देखे, तब तिनीहरू अति आनन्दित भएर रमाए। 11 अनि घरभित्र पसेर तिनीहरूले बालकलाई उहाँकी आमा मरियमको साथमा देखे, र घोप्टो परेर उहाँलाई दण्डवत् गरे। तब आफ्ना कन्तुर खोलेर उहाँलाई सुन, सुगन्धित धूप र मूर्का भेटी चढाए। 12 अनि हेरोदकहाँ फर्की नजान्नु भन्ने सपनामा चेताउनी पाएर तिनीहरू अर्कै बाटो भएर आफ्नो देशमा फर्के।

(Please Be Seated)



APOSTLES' CREED

LSB 159

विश्वासको सार

**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.**

म विश्वास गर्दछु एक ईश्वर सर्वशक्तिमान पिता,
स्वर्ग र पृथ्वी सृजनेमाथि ।
अनि उहाँका एकलो पुत्र हाम्रा प्रभु येशू ख्रीष्टमाथि ।
उहाँ पवित्र आत्माको शक्तिले देहधारी हुनुभयो ।
कन्या मरियमदेखि जन्मनुभयो ।
पन्तियस पिलातसको अधिकारमा दुःख भोग्नुभयो ।
क्रूसमा टाँगिनुभयो ।
मारिनुभयो अनि गाडिनुभयो ।
आत्मा लोकमा उत्रनुभयो ।
तेश्रो दिनमा मरेकाहरूबाट विउँतनुभयो ।
स्वर्गमा चढिजानुभयो ।
सर्वशक्तिमान ईश्वर पिताको दाहिने हातपट्टि
बस्नुभएको छ ।
जहाँदेखि उहाँ जीउँदो र मरेकाहरूको
न्याय गर्नलाई आउनुहुनेछ ।

म विश्वास गर्दछु पवित्र आत्माथि,
पवित्र विश्व मण्डलीमाथि,
पवित्रहरूको संगतिमाथि,
पाप मोचनमाथि
शरीरको पुनरुत्थानमाथि
र अजम्बरी जीवनमाथि । आमेन ।



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.**

SONG OF THE DAY "Cornerstone" Mote/Liljero/Myrin/Morgan/Batchelder-Bradbury

**My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness
I dare not trust the sweetest frame
But wholly trust in Jesus' Name REPEAT**

**CHORUS: Christ alone cornerstone
Weak made strong in the Saviour's love
Through the storm He is Lord
Lord of all**

**When darkness seems to hide His face
I rest on His unchanging grace
In every high and stormy gale
My anchor holds within the veil
My anchor holds within the veil CHORUS**

He is Lord Lord of all CHORUS

**When He shall come with trumpet sound
Oh may I then in Him be found
Dressed in His righteousness alone
Faultless stand before the throne**

Faultless stand before the throne

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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)



GATHERING OF OFFERINGS "Give Thanks with a Grateful Heart" H. Smith LSB 806

Give thanks with a grateful heart, Give thanks to the Holy One.

Give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ His Son.

Give thanks with a grateful heart, Give thanks to the Holy One.

Give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ His Son.

**And now let the weak say "I am strong," Let the poor say "I am rich,"
Because of what the Lord has done for us.**

**And now let the weak say "I am strong," Let the poor say "I am rich,"
Because of what the Lord has done for us.**

Give thanks. Give thanks. Give thanks.

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(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.

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.**

हे हाम्रा स्वर्गमा बस्ने पिता,
तपाईको नाउँ पवित्र गरिओस्
तपाईको राज्य आओस् ।
तपाईको इच्छा स्वर्गमा भै यस पृथ्वीमा पूरा होस् ।
हाम्रो दिनभरिको भोजन आज हामीलाई दिनुहोस् ।
हाम्रा अपराध क्षमा गर्नुहोस्,
जसरी हामीले पनि आफ्ना अपराधीहरूलाई क्षमा गरेका छौं ।
हामीलाई परीक्षामा नल्याउनुहोस्,
तर दुष्टबाट छुटाउनुहोस् ।
किनभने राज्य, पराक्रम र महिमा सदा सर्वदा तपाईकै हुन् । आमेन ।

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- "Lamb of God" Maichel

**Lamb of God, Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world.
Lamb of God, Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world.
And have mercy on us. Have mercy on us and grant us your peace. Grant us your peace.
Have Mercy on us, O Lamb of God. Grant us your peace we pray.**

(Please Be Seated)

DISTRIBUTION SONGS “Grace Like Rain” Agnew/Collins/Excell/Newton

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me. I once was lost but now I'm found was blind but now I see so clearly.

CHORUS: Hallelujah, grace like rain falls down on me. Hallelujah, all my stains are washed away, they're washed away.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear and grace my fears relieved. How precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed. CHORUS

Interlude

When we've been there ten thousand years bright shining as the sun, We've no less days to sing Your praise than when we first begun. CHORUS X 2

... They're washed away.

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“My Victory” Mulligan/Crowder/Cash/Bentley

**You came for criminals And ev'ry Pharisee
You came for hypocrites Even one like me**

**You carried sin and shame The guilt of ev'ry man
The weight of all I've done Nailed into Your hands**

**CHORUS: Oh Your love bled for me
Oh Your blood in crimson streams
Oh Your death is Hell's defeat
A cross meant to kill is my victory**

**Oh Your amazing grace I've seen and tasted it
It's running through my veins I can't escape its grip
In You my soul is safe You cover ev'rything CHORUS**

**Behold the Lamb of God Who takes away our sin Who takes away our sin
The holy Lamb of God Makes us alive again Makes us alive again
REPEAT BRIDGE, CHORUS**

Oh a cross meant to kill is my victory

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(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 SONG “Mighty to Save”

Fielding/Morgan

**Everyone needs compassion. Love that's never failing. Let mercy fall on me.
Everyone needs forgiveness. The kindness of a Savior, the hope of nations.**

**CHORUS: Savior, He can move the mountains
My God is mighty to save. He is mighty to save.
Forever, Author of salvation.
He rose and conquered the grave. Jesus conquered the grave.**

Interlude

**So take me as You find me. All my fears and failures. Fill my life again.
I give my life to follow. Everything I believe in, now I surrender. CHORUS**

**Shine your light and let the whole world see.
We're singing for the glory of the risen King.
Jesus, Shine your light and let the whole world see.
We're singing for the glory of the risen King. CHORUS, BRIDGE**

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POSTLUDE *Instrumental Music*

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