

THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD
ILLUMINATING JESUS SERMON SERIES
SATURDAY, JANUARY 1, 2022 5:00 PM
SUNDAY, JANUARY 2, 2022 8:15 AM

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LOVED BY CHRIST
SHARING CHRIST'S LOVE

Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
Word of Life Lutheran School

WEEKEND WORSHIP TIMES

5:00 pm Saturday Worship

8:15 am Sunday Worship

9:45 am Sunday School and Bible Class

11:00 am Sunday Worship (Contemporary Music)

THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD

ILLUMINATING JESUS

JANUARY 1 & 2, 2022

5:00 PM & 8:15 AM

AS WE GATHER

Israel's fate seemed dark in Isaiah's day, but he provided a vision of the future: God would shed on them His glory and light, bright enough to attract other nations with their wealth and treasures. Likewise, until it dawned on Saul/Paul, God had sent the Messiah only to Israel. But Paul's ministry was to bring to light for everyone the mystery of Christ, that the Gentiles be partakers in the Gospel. The Magi saw a physical light in a certain portion of the sky and realized they should find the King it announced. And now our light has come, the light of God's love in Christ shining in our hearts. Today is a day to celebrate that God has left no one out of the Gospel message.

PRELUDE

Organ

RINGING OF THE BELLS

WELCOME

OPENING HYMN: O LORD, YOUR SERVANT LISTENS

LSB 589

(Please Stand)

INVOCATION *Matthew 28:19b; 18:20*

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES

P Arise, shine, for your light has come!

C **Jesus Christ is the Light of the world.**

P All the nations shall come to the light of Christ.

C **Kings shall bring Him gifts.**

P For Christ reveals the mystery hidden through the ages,

C **that all nations are partakers of the promise in Jesus Christ.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P Through the Gospel, all people are fellow heirs of salvation and members of the same Body. Yet there have been times when we have failed to live in unity, when we have failed to treat our brothers and sisters in Christ with respect and love. Our heavenly Father invites us to return to Him and ask for His forgiveness.

Silence for reflection.

P Heavenly Father,

C we confess that we have not loved You with our whole heart. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have created division and discord. We have hidden the light of Christ from others. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us with the light of Christ, that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways. Amen.

P Almighty God in His mercy sent His Son, Jesus, into our world to shine as a light for all people, including You. Jesus has died for your sins and is risen for your righteousness. Therefore, 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.

C Amen. We are partakers of the promise. We are forgiven in Christ.

(or)

A 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.

C Amen. We are partakers of the promise. We are forgiven in Christ.

SALUTATION

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

O God, by the leading of a star You made known Your only-begotten Son to the Gentiles.

C Lead us, who know You by faith, to enjoy in heaven the fullness of Your divine presence;

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

C Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE: INFANT HOLY, INFANT LOWLY

LSB 393

Infant holy, Infant lowly, For His bed a cattle stall;
Oxen lowing, Little knowing Christ the child is Lord of all.
Swiftly winging, Angels singing, Bells are ringing, tidings bringing:
Christ the child is Lord of all! Christ the child is Lord of all!

Flocks were sleeping, Shepherds keeping Vigil till the morning new
Saw the glory, Heard the story, Tidings of a Gospel true.
Thus rejoicing, Free from sorrow, Praises voicing, Greet the morrow:
Christ the child was born for you! Christ the child was born for you!

(Please Be Seated)

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Isaiah 60:1–6*

¹Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.

²For 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.

³And nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your rising.

⁴Lift 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.

⁵Then 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.

⁶A 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.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE *Ephesians 3:1–12*

¹For this reason I, Paul, a prisoner for Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles— ²assuming that you have heard of the stewardship of God’s grace that was given to me for you, ³how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I have written briefly. ⁴When you read this, you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ, ⁵which 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. ⁶This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

⁷Of 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. ⁸To 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, ⁹and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things, ¹⁰so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. ¹¹This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord, ¹²in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in him.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

(Please Stand)

GOSPEL VERSE *Matthew 2:2b*

P Alleluia. Where is He who has been born king of the Jews?

C **For we saw His star when it rose and have come to worship Him. Alleluia.**

HOLY GOSPEL *Matthew 2:1–12*

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

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

¹Now 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.”

⁷Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. ⁸And 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.” ⁹After 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. ¹⁰When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. ¹¹And 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. ¹²And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

NICENE CREED

C **I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven**

and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life ✠ of the world to come. Amen.

(Please Be Seated)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE 8:15 AM

HYMN OF THE DAY: WITHIN THE FATHER'S HOUSE

LSB 410

SERMON

(Please Stand)

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH *Response from LSB 400:1*

P Lord Jesus Christ, You are the Light of the world,
C dawn on our darkness and lend us Thine aid.

P Lord, there are many divisions in the church, divisions based on class, race, wealth, and age,
divisions that need not exist. Bring unity where there is division, peace where there is discord, and
reconciliation where there is conflict. Light of the world,
C dawn on our darkness and lend us Thine aid.

P Lord, comfort all those who are suffering in the darkness of grief, [*especially . . .*]. Comfort them
with the hope and promise of the resurrection to eternal life. Light of the world,
C dawn on our darkness and lend us Thine aid.

P Lord, strengthen all marriages, encourage those who are single, and help us to recognize the value
of each person, for Your redemption stretches to all people. Light of the world,
C dawn on our darkness and lend us Thine aid.

P Lord, bless all pastors, teachers, church planters, missionaries, musicians, and servants in Your Church. Embolden them as they seek to reflect Your light to all the nations. Light of the world,

C **dawn on our darkness and lend us Thine aid.**

P Lord, look with favor upon all who are sick, injured, and recovering, [*especially . . .*]. Have mercy upon them, and heal them according to Your good and gracious will. Light of the world,

C **dawn on our darkness and lend us Thine aid.**

P Lord, shine Your light of hope upon all those who are caregivers. Send them rest and peace, knowing that in You their labor is not in vain. Light of the world,

C **dawn on our darkness and lend us Thine aid.**

(Special Petitions)

P Lord, we commend all of these things to Your caring hands, trusting in Your mercy to all people. Light of the world,

C **dawn on our darkness and lend us Thine aid.**

(Please Be Seated)

✠ SACRAMENT ✠

We believe Holy Communion is the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ under the bread and wine, instituted by Christ Himself for us Christians to eat and to drink. If you are a communicant member of a Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod congregation, please feel free to commune with us. If not, please speak with the pastor before receiving the Lord's Supper.

How should we each examine ourselves before coming to Holy Communion?

- 1. Be aware of our sins and be sorry for them*
- 2. Believe in our Savior, Jesus Christ, and in His words in the Sacrament*
- 3. Intend, by the help of the Holy Spirit, to live as God's forgiven people walking in newness of life*

PREFACE

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

C **We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

PROPER PREFACE

P 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, who became flesh and dwelt among us on earth, light in a dark world, so that we might dwell with Him in everlasting life and light. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

**Rise, shine, you people! Christ the Lord has entered
Our human story; God in Him is centered.
He comes to us, by death and sin surrounded, With grace unbounded.**

**Tell how the Father sent His Son to save us.
Tell of the Son, who life and freedom gave us.
Tell how the Spirit calls from ev'ry nation His new creation.**

LORD'S PRAYER

P And now, in the words of our Lord, we are bold to pray:

C **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.**

WORDS OF OUR LORD

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

PAX DOMINI

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

✠ DISTRIBUTION HYMNS ✠

THE INFANT PRIEST WAS BORN

LSB 624

LET ALL MORTAL FLESH KEEP SILENCE

LSB 621

LET US ALL WITH GLADSOME VOICE

LSB 390

(Please Stand)

DISMISSAL

CLOSING SENTENCES

P Arise, shine, for your light has come!

C **Jesus Christ is the Light of the world.**

P All the nations shall come to the light of Christ.

C **Kings shall bring Him gifts.**

P For Christ reveals the mystery hidden through the ages,

C **that all nations are partakers of the promise in Jesus Christ.**

BENEDICTION

P 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.

C **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN: SENT FORTH BY GOD'S BLESSING

LSB 643

POSTLUDE

Organ

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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