

# The Epiphany of Our Lord

January 5 & 6, 2019

5:00 p.m., 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.

## 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. In Him we have been bidden, and in Him we come.

## PRELUDE

Variations on "As with Gladness Men of Old"

Mark Bloedow

Variation I – "Leading onward, beaming bright"

Variation II – "As with joyful steps they sped"

Variation IV – "In the heavenly country bright"

Variation V – "There forever may we sing, Alleluias to our King"

*The congregation turns and faces the cross as the procession approaches the altar reminding us that Christ leads us into the presence of God.*

## ✠ PREPARATION ✠

## ENTRANCE HYMN

397 As with Gladness Men of Old

## INVOCATION

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

People: **Amen.**

## LITANY FOR EPIPHANY

Pastor: We remember, O Lord, a bush brightened by flames on Mount Horeb.

People: **Oh Light of the Gentiles and glory of Israel; You have called us from darkness to light.**

Pastor: We remember, O Lord, a pillar of fire in the wilderness of Sinai.

People: **Oh Light of the Gentiles and glory of Israel; You have led us from darkness to light.**

Pastor: We remember, O Lord, a fiery chariot for a prophet taken to heaven.

People: **Oh Light of the Gentiles and glory of Israel; You have gathered us from darkness to light.**

Pastor: We remember, O Lord, a star that guided men from the East of Bethlehem.

People: **Oh Light of the Gentiles and glory of Israel; You have guided us from darkness to light.**

Pastor: We remember, O Lord, the fire-light of Pentecost.

People: **Oh Light of the Gentiles and glory of Israel; You have lifted us from darkness to light.**

Pastor: We remember, O Lord, the Word made flesh, God in man made manifest.

People: **Oh Light of the Gentiles and glory of Israel; You have borne us from darkness to light.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Lord God, You once revealed Your Son to the world by the leading of a star. Lead us now by faith to know Your presence in our lives; through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

People: **Amen.**

## HYMN OF RESPONSE

533 Jesus Has Come and Brings Pleasure

- 1 Jesus has come and brings pleasure eternal,  
Alpha, Omega, Beginning and End;  
Godhead, humanity, union supernal,  
O great Redeemer, You come as our friend!  
Heaven and earth, now proclaim this great wonder:  
Jesus has come and brings pleasure eternal!
- 4 Jesus has come as the King of all glory!  
Heaven and earth, O declare His great pow'r,  
Capturing hearts with the heavenly story;  
Welcome Him now in this fast-fleeting hour!  
Ponder His love! Take the crown He has for you!  
Jesus has come! He, the King of all glory!

## EXCHANGE OF PEACE

*During this cold and flu season, it is important to recognize that some people are especially susceptible to the viruses that can be spread by contact and that some immune systems are very sensitive. Please understand that some people may choose not to shake hands during the Exchange of Peace, but might simply greet you with a verbal greeting, a wave, or a smile.*

## WELCOME

✂ WORD ✂

## OLD TESTAMENT

Isaiah 60:1-6

*(The future of Israel is to be glorious.)*

<sup>1</sup> "Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD rises upon you.

<sup>2</sup> See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples, but the LORD rises upon you and his glory appears over you. <sup>3</sup> Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

*(continued on next page)*

<sup>4</sup> “Lift up your eyes and look about you: All assemble and come to you; your sons come from afar, and your daughters are carried on the arm. <sup>5</sup> Then you will look and be radiant, your heart will throb and swell with joy; the wealth on the seas will be brought to you, to you the riches of the nations will come. <sup>6</sup> Herds of camels will cover your land, young camels of Midian and Ephah. And all from Sheba will come, bearing gold and incense and proclaiming the praise of the LORD.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

## EPISTLE

Ephesians 3:1-12

*(St. Paul writes that Christ has been sent for all people.)*

<sup>1</sup> For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles —

<sup>2</sup> Surely you have heard about the administration of God’s grace that was given to me for you, <sup>3</sup> that is, the mystery made known to me by revelation, as I have already written briefly. <sup>4</sup> In reading this, then, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, <sup>5</sup> which was not made known to men in other generations as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to God’s holy apostles and prophets. <sup>6</sup> This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus.

<sup>7</sup> I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God’s grace given me through the working of his power. <sup>8</sup> Although I am less than the least of all God’s people, this grace was given me: to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, <sup>9</sup> and to make plain to everyone the administration of this mystery, which for ages past was kept hidden in God, who created all things. <sup>10</sup> His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, <sup>11</sup> according to his eternal purpose which he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. <sup>12</sup> In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

**HOLY GOSPEL**

Matthew 2:1-12

*(The Magi from the East worship Jesus.)*

<sup>1</sup> After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem <sup>2</sup> and asked, “Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him.”

<sup>3</sup> When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. <sup>4</sup> When he had called together all the people’s chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Christ was to be born. <sup>5</sup> “In Bethlehem in Judea,” they replied, “for this is what the prophet has written: <sup>6</sup> ““But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will be the shepherd of my people Israel.””

<sup>7</sup> Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup> He sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and make a careful search for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him.”

<sup>9</sup> After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen in the east went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup> When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. <sup>11</sup> On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh. <sup>12</sup> And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

**HYMN OF THE WORD**

**400**    Brightest and Best of the Stars of the Morning

**PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD**

*Please stand*

## **NICENE CREED**

**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.**

**11:00 A.M. INSTALLATION OF BOARD OF ELDERS AND DIRECTORS**

## **OFFERING**

*“O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright”*

Charles Ore

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Creator of Light, we praise You during these darkest weeks of the year that You do not leave us in spiritual darkness. When you spoke the word at creation, there was light. When Your people wandered in the valleys of deep spiritual darkness, You sent Your Son Jesus as the Light of the word.

**People: Let the Light of Your grace shine upon Your people, O Lord.**

Pastor: Beautiful Savior, Lord of the Nations, You were not afraid to enter the darkness of our world, sharing the plight of Your people and the temptation that plague us all. You willingly endured the darkness of the cross so that we might be forgiven of our sins and live in the light of Your resurrection.

**People: Let the Light of Your grace shine upon Your people, O Lord.**

Pastor: Holy Spirit, You enlighten us with Your gifts. We ask Your blessing upon our congregation. We ask You to guide our congregation to many with whom we can share the light of the Gospel. And we ask that You empower us to share Your Word and love at home, at work, and in our neighborhoods.

**People: Let the Light of Your grace shine upon Your people, O Lord.**

Pastor: Lord God Almighty, give Your healing grace to the sick, the suffering, the dying, and those who mourn, especially ... Bring them Your comfort and peace.

**People: Let the light of Your grace shine upon Your people, O Lord.**

Pastor: Holy Trinity, source of all light, You give us more than we desire or deserve.

**People: Provide us with what we need, for You live and rule as the source of our life – Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

## ✠ SACRAMENT ✠

### CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Let us ask God to light our hearts with the light of the Epiphany star.  
May its brightness dispel the darkness of our sins.  
Lord Jesus, radiant morning star, who rises in the hearts of those who  
seek You,

**People: have mercy on us and forgive us.**

Pastor: Lord Jesus, dazzling light of the Father's glory, who shines brightly in the  
midst of Your Church,

**People: have mercy on us and forgive us.**

Pastor: Lord Jesus, Light of the world, who came to take away the sin of the  
world,

**People: have mercy on us and forgive us.**

Pastor: "You shall look and be radiant; your heart shall swell with joy." (*Isaiah 60:5*)  
Upon this, your confession, I, as a called and ordained servant of the  
Word, announce the grace of God to all of you. In the stead and by the  
command of our Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins, in the  
name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen. Thanks be to God!**

Pastor: Arise, shine, for your Light has come, and the glory of the Lord rises  
upon you. The light of the Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Pastor: Lord God, we praise and thank You for the mercy You share with us  
in the gift of Jesus Christ. Through His Word and Baptism He  
brought us salvation, and through this Holy Meal He gives us the  
gift of Himself – His true body and blood in, with, and under the  
bread and wine. In His Sacraments there is forgiveness of sins; so  
also there is life and salvation. We come joyfully to the light of Jesus  
Christ who has come to us today. Lord, remember us in Your  
kingdom, and teach us to pray:

## LORD'S PRAYER

**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 INSTITUTION

**Pastor:** 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 is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

## PEACE OF THE LORD

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

**People:** **And also with you.**

*In the Lord's Supper we receive Christ's body and blood in and with the bread and wine. The two great blessings of the Lord's Supper are the forgiveness of sins and strength to live an improved Christian life. In response to the Lord's command we are to examine ourselves privately prior to partaking of the Sacrament. There are three basic questions on which we should examine ourselves, all of which we should be able to answer in the affirmative if we are to partake of the Sacrament worthily: 1) Am I truly sorry for my sins? 2) Do I believe Jesus Christ is my Savior? 3) Do I promise with God's help to live a Christian life? If you agree with the above statement, we invite you to the Sacrament.*

*When the wine is distributed, individual glasses will be offered first, then the common cup. Communicants may take whichever is preferred. If taking the individual glass, please keep the glass visible so that the communion assistant with the common cup will know who has already communed.*

*Non-alcoholic wine is available in the center of the communion tray for those who have sensitivity to the alcohol in wine.*

## DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

“We Three Kings”

*(Soloist) We three kings of Orient are; bearing gifts we traverse afar,  
Field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star. Refrain*

**(All) Refrain:**

**Oh, star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright;  
Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light!**

*(Soloist) Born a king on Bethlehem’s plain, gold I bring to crown him again;  
King forever, ceasing never, over us all to reign. Refrain*

*(Soloist) Frankincense to offer have I; incense owns a deity nigh;  
Prayer and praising, gladly raising, worshiping God Most High. Refrain*

*(Soloist) Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume breathes a life of gathering gloom;  
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying, sealed in the stone-cold tomb. Refrain*

**(All) Glorious now behold him arise, King and God and Sacrifice;  
Heav’n sings alleluia: alleluia the earth replies. Refrain**

**395** O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright

*Please stand*

### PRAYER

**Pastor:** Gracious God, our heavenly Father, You have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of Your Son’s body and blood. Keep us firm in the true faith throughout our days of pilgrimage that, on the day of His coming, we may, together with all Your saints, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom which has no end; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

## **BENEDICTION**

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.

**People:**       **Amen.**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*Please turn towards the cross as it is carried out of the church, and remain facing it until the hymn is completed. This symbolizes our following Christ into the world as we leave.*

## **RECESSIONAL HYMN**

**810**   O God of God, O Light of Light

## **POSTLUDE**

“We Wish You a Merry Christmas”

Dan Miler

## Life Thought from Lutherans For Life

The Heavenly Father welcomed outsiders into His household at Christmas (*Matthew 2:1, 11*). He even escorted them toward His nativity and incarnation by an extraordinary gesture. His loving grace held the magi as precious as His own Son, regardless of their origin and location. God's favor shines the same way upon unborn ones, even in their sometimes unfavorable circumstances. And His forgiveness embraces all sinners—even those with histories checkered by violence against life.

*The month of January is when we focus on and celebrate the sanctity of human life.*

Prepare for next weekend's worship by reading:

Isaiah 43:1-7; Romans 6:1-11; Luke 3:15-22

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## Serving at Chapel

Preacher:	Theodore Laesch	
Liturgists:	5:00 p.m.	Clifford Bischoff
	8:30 a.m.	James Marriott
	11:00 a.m.	Norman Meyer
Lectors:	8:30 a.m.	Bill Westbrook
	11:00 a.m.	Ken Gerler
Acolytes:	8:30 a.m.	Keeley Ambler
	11:00 a.m.	Zachary Oliver
Three Magi:	Jeff Arnold, Matt McEuen, Johnnie Spears	
Instrumentalists:	Lynda Christian, oboe	
	Nate Laesch & Denise Koch, percussion	
Organist & Accompanist:	Carolyn Rusnak	
Director:	Ryan Meyer	
Radio Announcer:	Leon Steinbrueck	
Costumes:	Designed & made by	
	Jeff Arnold & Marla Ackerman	