

The Epiphany of Our Lord

1-4-26

Theme - We Seek the King -- Matthew 2:1-12

Matthew 2 is a story about two kings. Herod is the first king. Jesus is the second King. Herod was consumed about going up by elevating himself. Jesus was just as passionate about going down by living as our humble King. And its Christ's life of giving and serving and loving that we celebrate and believe this Epiphany!

† GOD CALLS †

OPENING SONG
"This Is Jesus"

Night of wonder
Still and silent
Heavn's brilliance from above
Light of glory
Pierced the darkness
Mercy pierced my heart with love

This is Jeus
King of glory
Here to rescue from the fall
Son of God who
Comes to save us
Prince of peace and Lord of all

O the mystery
Who could fathom
God would leave His Holy throne
For a manger
For a sinner
For us all to be His own

This is Jesus
King of glory
Here to rescue from the fall
Son of God who
Comes to save us
Prince of peace and Lord of all

For the hearts so
Prone to wander
For these feet so quick to flee
God is here and
Love is reaching
For the lost and least of these

This is Jesus
King of glory
Here to rescue from the fall
Son of God who
Comes to save us
Prince of peace and Lord of all

INVOCATION

Pastor: Arise! Shine! For your Light has come and the glory of the Lord rises upon you! In the name of the Father and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
ALL: Amen!

SHARING OF THE PEACE

Isaiah 9:6

Pastor: For unto us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of peace. So may the peace of Christ be with you always!
ALL: And also with you!

† GOD SPEAKS †

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

FIRST READING

Isaiah 60:1-6

“Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the Lord rises upon you.

² See, darkness covers the earth
and thick darkness is over the peoples,
but the Lord rises upon you
and his glory appears over you.

³ Nations will come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

⁴ “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 hip.
⁵ 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.
⁶ 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.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.
People: **Thanks be to God!**

HOLY GOSPEL Matthew 2:1-12

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi^[a] from the east came to Jerusalem ² and asked, “Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.”

³ When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. ⁴ When he had called together all the people’s chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵ “In Bethlehem in Judea,” they replied, “for this is what the prophet has written:

⁶ “‘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 shepherd my people Israel.’^[b]”

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

⁹ After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. ¹¹ 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, frankincense and myrrh. ¹²And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

Reader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ!

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH - The 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.

BRINGING OUR BLESSING *with Thanksgiving in our Offering*

PRAYERS

THE 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.

SONG

“Angels from the Realms of Glory” (LSB 367 v. 1, 3, 5)

Angels from the realms of glory, Wing your flight o’er all the earth;
Once you sang creation’s story; Now proclaim Messiah’s birth:
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, You have seen his natal star.
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 th’ eternal Three in One.
Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the newborn king.

MESSAGE

† GOD GIVES †

Here our Lord gives to us His own Body and Blood for the forgiveness of all our sins.

TIME OF CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

- Pastor: God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble. We humbly come before our God, and confess our sins.
- ALL: Almighty God, I ask Your forgiveness today. I stumble in the darkness. Lord Jesus, give me Your Holy Spirit to guide and correct me. You are the Light of the World, and I worship You alone. Amen.
- Pastor: Arise! Shine! For your light has come, and the glory of the Lord rises upon you. Darkness does cover the earth, but the LORD JESUS rises upon you and His glory appears over you. As Isaiah has proclaimed it, so it is that Jesus came for sinners who were in darkness, and in His pure love, He shed His blood to conquer death and hell. Your sins are fully forgiven through His sacrifice on the cross. Now rejoice in your salvation and let your light so shine that others will be drawn to Him.

All: Amen

SONG
"Christmas Alleluia"

Alleluia, alleluia
Christ, the Savior of the world
He has come!
Alleluia, alleluia
To the highest name of all:
Alleluia

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

DISTRIBUTION
"What Child Is This" (Big Blue Book 344)

What Child is this, who, laid to rest,
On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
While shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ, the King,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing.
Haste, haste to bring Him laud,
The Babe, the Son of Mary.

Why lies He in such mean estate
Where oxen now are feeding?
Good Christian, fear, for sinners here
The silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spears shall pierce him through,
The cross be borne for me, for you;
Hail, hail the Word made flesh,
The babe, the son of Mary!

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!

“We Thee Kings of Orient Are” (CH 288)

We three kings of Orient are; Bearing gifts we traverse a-far
Fields and fountain, moor and mountain-Following yonder star.
Refrain O star of wonder, star of night, Star with royal beauty bright,
West-ward leading, still proceeding, Guide us to thy perfect light.

Born a King on Bethlehem’s plain; Gold I bring to crown Him again,
King forever, ceasing never Over us all to reign.
Refrain O star of wonder, star of night, Star with royal beauty bright,
West-ward leading, still proceeding, Guide us to thy perfect light.

Frankincense to offer have I; Incense owns a Deity nigh.
Prayer and praising, all men raising, Worship Him, God on high.
Refrain O star of wonder, star of night, Star with royal beauty bright,
West-ward leading, still proceeding, Guide us to thy perfect light.

Myrrh is mine: its bitter perfume Breathes a life of gathering gloom-
Sorr’wing, sighing, bleeding, dying, Sealed in the stone-cold tomb.
Refrain O star of wonder, star of night, Star with royal beauty bright,
West-ward leading, still proceeding, Guide us to thy perfect light.

Glorious now behold Him a-rise, King and God and Sacrifice;
Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia! Earth to heav’n replies.
Refrain O star of wonder, star of night, Star with royal beauty bright,
West-ward leading, still proceeding, Guide us to thy perfect light.

DISMISSAL

CLOSING SONG

“O Sing of Christ” (LSB 362, v. 1, 3, 4)

O sing of Christ, whose birth made known
The kindness of the Lord,
Eternal Word made flesh and bone
So we could be restored.
Upon our frail humanity
God’s finger chose to trace
The fullness of His deity,
The icon of His grace.

He came to that which was His own,

But He was not received;
Yet still through Him God's glory shone,
And some His name believed.
To these He gave the right to be
The heirs of heav'n above,
Born not of human ancestry
But born of God in love.

Lord Jesus Christ, You deigned to dwell
Among us here on earth
As God with us, Emmanuel,
To bring this holy birth
Though rich, You willingly became
One with our poverty,
That we might share Your wealth and name
For all eternity!

† GOD BLESSES †

BENEDICTION

Pastor As you depart, may the light of Christ illumine your life and shine through you - that others may know of Christ our Lord and King. .

ALL: Amen.

Pastor: Go in peace, serve the Lord!

ALL: Thanks be to God!