Sunday, January 6, 2019
The Epiphany of Our Lord

GATHERING
The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

INTRODUCTION
Epiphany means “manifestation.” On this day we celebrate the revelation of Christ to the Gentiles—that is, to all nations. Some Christian traditions celebrate three great epiphanies on this day: the magi’s adoration of the Christ child, Jesus’ baptism in the Jordan River, and his first miracle, in which he changes water into wine. The word and sacraments are for us the great epiphany of God’s grace and mercy. We go forth to witness to the light that shines brightly in our midst.

PRELUDE

PROCESSIONAL HYMN The First Noel – ELW 300

1 The first No - el, the an - gel did say was to
2 They look - ed up and saw . . a star shin - ing
3 And by the light of that . . same star three . .
4 This star drew near to the . . north - west, o’er . .
5 Then en - tered in those wise . . men three, full . .
Good Morning. Welcome to Salem Lutheran Church. We welcome all of you to worship today, especially those of you who are visiting, or are worshiping with us on Big Dog radio 98.9, KHUB 1340, or viewing on Spectrum cable. Please join us for coffee and fellowship following the service today. Our intergenerational Sunday School group meets in the lounge at 9:40, and all are welcome.

Whether this is your first time here or your hundredth, we hope that you find here hope, joy, and peace. May your time in worship inspire your service to the world God loves!
CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Most merciful God, we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.
GREETING (ALTAR) – ELW S138
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

KYRIE – ELW S138

In peace, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord. Amen.
CANTICLE OF PRAISE - Angels, from the Realms of Glory – ELW 275

1. Angels, from the realms of glory, wing your flight o’er all the earth;
2. Shepherds, in the fields a-biding, watch-ing o’er your flocks by night,
3. Sages, leave your con-templations, bright-er vi-sions beam a-far;
4. All cre-a-tion, join in prais-ing God, the Fa-ther, Spir-it, Son,

once you sang cre-a-tion’s sto-ry, now pro-claim Mes-si-ah’s birth:
God with us is now re-sid-ing, yon-der shines the in-fant light,
seek the great de-sire of na-tions, you have seen his na-tal star,
ev-er-more your voic-es rais-ing to the e-ter-nal Three in One.

Refrain

Come and wor-ship, come and wor-ship, wor-ship Christ, the new-born king.

PRAYER OF THE DAY (ALTAR)
O God, on this day you revealed your Son to the nations by the leading of a star. Lead us now by faith to know your presence in our lives, and bring us at last to the full vision of your glory, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

WORD
God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.
A reading from the book of Isaiah.

Jerusalem is assured that nations will make a pilgrimage to her, because the light of God’s presence is in her midst. The bountiful food of the sea and the profits of international trade will come streaming to Jerusalem and thereby declare God’s praise.

1 Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.
2 For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you.
3 Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

4 Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses’ arms.
5 Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought 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 proclaim the praise of the LORD.

Word of God, word of life.
Thanks be to God.
Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to the king’s son; that he may rule your people righteously and the poor with justice; that the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, and the hills, in righteousness. Let him defend the needy among the people, rescue the poor, and crush the oppressor. May he live as long as the sun and moon endure, from one generation to another. Let him come down like rain upon the mown field, like showers that water the earth. In his time may the righteous flourish; and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more. May the kings of Tarshish and of the isles pay tribute, and the kings of Sheba and Seba offer gifts. May all kings bow down before him, and all the nations do him service. For the king delivers the poor who cry out in distress, the oppressed, and those who have no helper. He has compassion on the lowly and poor, and preserves the lives of the needy. From oppression and violence he redeems their lives, and precious is their blood in his sight.
SECOND READING: Ephesians 3:1-12

*The gospel’s promise extends to all*

A reading from the book of Ephesians.

What had been hidden from previous generations is now made known through the gospel ministry of Paul and others. In Christ both Jews and Gentiles participate in the richness of God’s promised salvation.

1This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles—

2for surely you have already heard of the commission of God’s grace that was given me for you, 

3and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, 

4a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. 

5In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: 

6that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

7Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God’s grace that was given me by the working of his power. 

8Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, 

9and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; 

10so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. 

11This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, 

12in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.
The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION – Alleluia – ELW S142

Revelation of Christ to the nations of the earth

God’s promise shines bright in the night as magi follow a star to honor a new king. Strangers from a faraway land, they welcome the long-awaited messiah of Israel.

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.” When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel.’’

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him
homage.” When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN’S SERMON Vicar Shari Schwedhelm

SERMON Vicar Shari Schwedhelm

HYMN OF THE DAY What Child Is This?

What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary’s lap is sleeping?
Why lies he in such mean estate where ox and ass are feeding?
So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh; come, peasant, king, to own him.

Whom angels greet with anthems sweet while shepherds watch are keeping?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here the silent Word is pleading.
The King of kings salvation brings; let loving hearts en-throne him.
INSTALLATION OF LEADERS IN THE CONGREGATION

The following people have been elected by the congregation to positions of leadership. We give thanks for their willingness to serve. In baptism we are welcomed into the body of Christ and sent to share in the mission of God; we rejoice now that these sisters and brothers will lead us in our common life and our mutual mission as a congregation.

_The offices and names of those who are to be installed are read._

Sandy Terry, President
Donely Ruether, Vice President
Tammy Flittie, Secretary
Melissa Godfrey
Jaki Heinrich
Pat Luedeke
Mark Remington
Fred Steinmates
Matt Wilson
A reading from First Corinthians: There are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. *(1 Corinthians 12:4-7)*

You have been elected to positions of leadership and trust in this congregation. You are to see that the words and deeds of this household of faith bear witness to God, who gathers us into one together with the whole church. You are to seek to involve all members of this congregation in worship, learning, witness, service, and support, so that the mission of Christ is carried out in this congregation, in the wider church, in this community, and in the whole world. You are to be faithful in your specific area of serving, that the Spirit who empowers you may be glorified. You are to be examples of faith active in love, fostering peace, harmony, and mutual understanding in this congregation.

On behalf of your sisters and brothers in Christ, I ask you:

Will you accept and faithfully carry out the duties of the offices to which you have been elected?

*Response:* I will, and I ask God to help me.

*The assembly stands. Those being installed face the assembly. The presiding minister addresses the assembly.*

People of God, I ask you:

Will you support these, your elected leaders, and will you share in the mutual ministry that Christ has given to all who are baptized?

**We will, and we ask God to help us.**

*Those being installed face the presiding minister, who addresses them.*
I now declare you installed as officers and council members of this congregation.

Almighty God bless you, and direct your days and your deeds in peace, that you may be faithful servants of Christ.

Amen.

*CREED - ELW p. 206

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the
virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the
living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,*
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped
and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic
church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness
of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION (ALTAR)
Dwelling in the presence of God with us, let us boldly pray
for the church, the world, and all in any need.

A brief silence.

Drawn into the light of God, we pray for the proclamation of
the grace of Jesus Christ. We pray especially for our
brothers and sisters at St. Timothy Lutheran Church. Give
us courage and boldness to go forth into the world to tell the
good news of what God has done. Hear us, O God. Your
mercy is great.

Drawn into the glory of creation, we pray for the earth.
Sustain every living thing with abundant resources, clean
water, and sustainable harvests. Help us to steward all that
you have provided. Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.

Drawn into the brightness of God’s presence, we pray for
the nations of the world. Reveal your compassion and peace
for the sake of all who live in the shadow of oppression,
violemp, and fear. Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.

Drawn into the light of healing mercy, we pray for all who
wait for healing and relief of suffering (especially). Give us
hope in the promise of new life where pain and suffering will
be no more. Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.
Drawn into the dawn of a new day, we pray for the ongoing reconciliation between people. Make us bold to name sin in our lives and unite us in the promise of forgiveness and mercy. Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.

_Here other intercessions may be offered._

Drawn into the promise of everlasting light, we pray for those who mourn and give thanks for all the saints who now rest in the brightness of God’s presence (especially). Make us confident in our worship as we reflect the light of God with eternal praise. Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.

Trusting in the presence of God by the power of the Holy Spirit, we commend all for whom we pray, dwelling in the light and hope of Christ, our Savior. Amen.

*PEACE (ALTAR)*
The peace of Christ be with you always.
_And also with you._

**OFFERING** We Have Come to Find the Child – Mary Kaye Beall – Adult Choir

**OFFERTORY** – Create In Me – ELW 186

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of
**OFFERING PRAYER (ALTAR)**

Holy God, your beauty shines forth from the manger and your love flows from the cross. As you gather us around these signs of your love come among us, warm us to extend your care among the hungry and all in need. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

**DIALOGUE (ALTAR)**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all nations; in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son; and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:
Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:
Blessed are you for the birth of creation.
Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.
Blessed are you for your promise to your people.
Blessed are you in the prophets’ hopes and dreams.
Blessed are you for Mary’s openness to your will.
Blessed are you for your Son Jesus,
the Word made flesh.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith: Christ has died.
Christ has risen. Christ will come again.
With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming. **Come, Lord Jesus.**

Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth. **Come, Holy Spirit.**

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

* **LORD’S PRAYER (ALTAR)**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**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.**

**INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Come to the table where Christ meets you. Eat, rejoice, and be glad!

**COMMUNION**
COMMUNION HYMN - Lamb of God – ELW S154

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMN – We Three Kings – WOV 646

1 We three kings of O - ri - ent are; bearing gifts we traverse afar,
2 Born a king on Beth - le - hem's plain, field and fountain,
3 Frank - incense to of - fer have I; bring to crown him again;
4 Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume owns a de - i - ty high;
5 Glorious now behold him arise, life of gathering gloom;
6 King and God and Sac - ri - fice; ceasing never, over us all to reign.
7 m oor and moun - tain, follow - ing yon - der star, glad - ly rais - ing, wor - ship - ing God Most High.
8 bleed - ing, dy - ing, sealed in the stone - cold tomb, bleed - ing, dy - ing, sealed in the stone - cold tomb.
9 lu - dia: al - le - lu - ia the earth re - plies.
COMMUNION HYMN – O Morning Star – ELW 308 – verses 1, 2, 3, 5

Oh, star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright;
west-ward lead-ing, still pro-ceed-ing, guide us to thy per-fect light!

1 O Morn-ing Star, how fair and bright! You shine with
2 Come, pre-cious dia-mond, light di-vine, and deep with-
3 Lord, when you look on us in love, at once there
4 Al-might-y Fa-ther, in your Son you loved us,

God’s own truth and light, a-glow with grace and mer-cy!
in our hearts now shine; there light a flame un-dy-ing!
falls from God a-bove a ray of pur-est plea-sure,
when not yet be-gun was this old earth’s foun-da-tion!

Of Ja-cob’s line, King Da-vid’s son, our Lord and Sav-i-or,
In your one bod- y let us be as liv-ing branch-es
Your word and Spir-it, flesh and blood re-fresh our souls with
Your Son has ransomed us in love to live in him here

you have won our hearts to serve you only! Low-ly,
of a tree, your life our lives sup-ply-ing. Now, though
heav’n-ly food. You are our dearest trea-sure! Let your
and a-bove; this is your great salva-tion. Al-le-
BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION

SONG AFTER COMMUNION – ELW #313
PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION (ALTAR)

God of wonder, in Jesus we behold the light of the world come near. As you have come among us now, send us out in joy, hastening to share the good news of your love. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit dwelling among us now and forever. Amen.

SENDING OF COMMUNION:

Gracious God, loving all your family with a mother’s tender care: As you sent the angel to feed Elijah with heavenly bread, assist those who set forth to share your word and sacrament with those who are sick and homebound. In your love and care, nourish and strengthen those who will receive this sacrament, and give us all the comfort of your abiding presence through the body and blood of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.
ANNOUNCEMENTS (CHANCEL)
Please take a look at the announcements insert in the bulletin to see how you might serve the Lord at Salem.

*BLESSING
The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord’s face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. Amen.

*SENDING HYMN – As With Gladness, Men of Old – ELW 302
*DISMISSAL (ENTRANCE TO SANCTUARY)
Go in peace. Share the joy of Christ.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE