

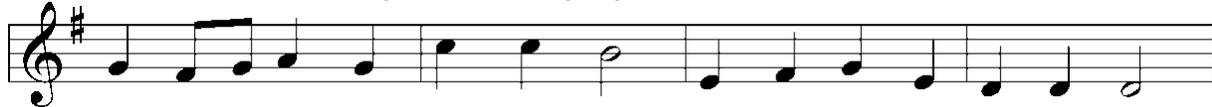


An Observance of the Epiphany of Our Lord
January 3, 2021

Opening Hymn

As with Gladness Men of Old

LSB 397 or TLH 127, verses 1, 4, 5



1 As with glad-ness men of old Did the guid-ing star be-hold;
4 Ho-ly Je-sus, ev-'ry day Keep us in the nar-row way;
5 In the heav'n-ly coun-try bright Need they no cre-at-ed light;



As with joy they hailed its light, Lead-ing on-ward, beam-ing bright;
And when earth-ly things are past, Bring our ran-somed souls at last
Thou its light, its joy, its crown, Thou its sun which goes not down;



So, most gra-cious Lord, may we Ev-er-more be led by Thee.
Where they need no star to guide, Where no clouds Thy glo-ry hide.
There for-ev-er may we sing Al-le-lu-ias to our King.

Tune and text: Public domain

Invocation

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

C **Amen.**

Confession of Sins

P Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto You that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against You by thought, word, and deed. Wherefore we flee for refuge to Your infinite

mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

- C **O most merciful God, who hast given Your only-begotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon us and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Thy Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of You and of Your will and true obedience to Your Word, to the end that by Your grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

Absolution

- P Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and has given His only Son to die for us and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To those that believe in His name He gives power to become the children of God and has promised us His Holy Spirit. He that believes and is baptized shall be saved. Grant this, Lord, unto us all.
- C **Amen.**

Psalm, *Psalm 72:1–11*

P Give the king your justice, O God,

C and your righteousness to the royal son!

P May he judge your people with righteousness,

C and your poor with justice!

P Let the mountains bear prosperity for the people,

C and the hills, in righteousness!

P May he defend the cause of the poor of the people,

C give deliverance to the children of the needy, and crush the oppressor!

P May they fear you while the sun endures,

C and as long as the moon, throughout all generations!

P May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass,
C like showers that water the earth!

P In his days may the righteous flourish,
C and peace abound, till the moon be no more!

P May he have dominion from sea to sea,
C and from the River to the ends of the earth!

P May desert tribes bow down before him
C and his enemies lick the dust!

P May the kings of Tarshish and of the coastlands
C render him tribute; may the kings of Sheba and Seba bring
gifts!

P May all kings fall down before him,
C all nations serve him!

Old Testament, *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.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel, *Matthew 2:1–12*

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 2nd chapter.

C **Glory be to Thee, 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 be to Thee, O Christ.**

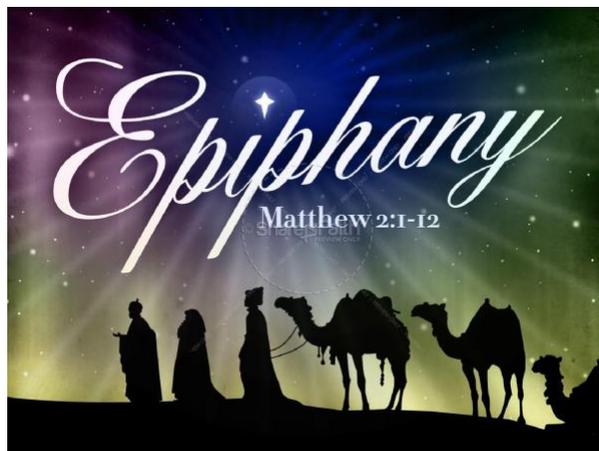
Apostles' Creed

**C 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.**



Sermon Hymn

Brightest and Best of the Stars of the Morning

LSB 400 or TLH 128, Verses 1, 3,4



1 Bright - est and best of the stars of the morn - ing,
3 Shall we not yield Him, in cost - ly de - vo - tion,
4 Vain - ly we of - fer each am - ple ob - la - tion,



Dawn on our dark - ness and lend us thine aid;
Fra - grance of E - dom and of - f' rings di - vine,
Vain - ly with gifts would His fa - vor se - cure.



Star of the East, the ho - ri - zon a - dorn - ing,
Gems of the moun - tain and pearls of the o - cean,
Rich - er by far is the heart's ad - o - ra - tion;



Guide where our in - fant Re - deem - er is laid.
Myrrh from the for - est and gold from the mine?
Dear - er to God are the prayers of the poor.

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Sermon

Prayers of the Church

Lord's Prayer

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.

Benediction

P The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God the Father and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C **Amen.**

Closing Hymn

The Star Proclaims the King Is Here

LSB 399



1 The star pro - claims the King is here; But, Her - od,
2 The east - ern sa - ges saw from far And fol - lowed
△ 5 For this Thy glad e - piph - a - ny All glo - ry,



why this sense - less fear? For He who of - fers heav'n - ly
on His guid - ing star; And, led by light, to light they
Je - sus, be to Thee, Whom with the Fa - ther we a -



birth Seeks not the king - doms of this earth.
trod And by their gifts con - fessed their God.
dore, And Ho - ly Spir - it ev - er - more.

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Acknowledgments

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thank You to Those Serving Today:

January Altar Guild: Linda Scanlon
Choir Director: David Hinrichs
Choir Accompanist: Wendy Kofoot
Counters for today: Keith and Mary Lange
Organist: Julie Wright
Pastor: Rev. Don Mulfinger
Recorder: James Blomberg

Prayer Request

Prayers are requested for the family of Durwood Witt who passed away on this past weekend. The funeral service will be held at Holy Cross on Monday, January 4th at 11:00 AM. Covid rules will apply – social distancing and masks.

Thank You

Thank you to all who helped put together the Christmas services: David Hinrichs, Trinda Jevne, Jon Kofoot and Wendy Kofoot, Caleb Likely, Jim and Sandi Likely, Sue Protzner, and Julie Wright, James Blomberg, and Pastor Mulfinger.

Happy Birthday

Happy Birthday to Kendra Jenson (1/7) and Joyce Baago (1/9)

Portals of Prayer

The January – March edition of Portals of Prayer is available in the office. Please pick it up or contact the office to have one mailed to you.

Office Contact

Call: 612-722-1083
Email: admin@holycrossmpls.org

WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Holy Cross: Go to the church website (holycrossmpls.org) and watch our recorded service.

Main Street Living is an hour-long Lutheran television program that airs new episodes each Sunday morning.

The Twin Cities program is broadcast at 9 a.m. Central time on WFTC channel 29/9-2. Or you can watch it online at mainstreetliving.com/twincities

Each Sunday, viewers enjoy a 30-minute remastered episode of "This is the Life," a popular Lutheran Hour Ministries series from the 70s and 80s. The episode is followed by a modified Lutheran worship service—led by a different local pastor each week.