

HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH MINNEAPOLIS

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**The Epiphany of Our Lord
January 9, 2022**

Silent Prayer Before Worship: Merciful God, I do not presume to come to your table trusting in my own righteousness, but in your abundant mercy. Grant me, therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat and drink the body and blood of your dear Son, Jesus Christ, that I may live in him and he in me, now and forever. Amen.

GATHERING

Welcome

Opening Hymn, "As with Gladness Men of Old"

[ELW 302, LSB 397, TLH 127. Text and Tune: Public Domain]



1 As with glad-ness men of old Did the guid-ing star be-hold;
2 As with joy-ful steps they sped, Sav-ior, to Thy low-ly bed,
3 As they of-fered gifts most rare At Thy cra-dle, rude and bare,



As with joy they hailed its light, Lead-ing on-ward, beam-ing bright;
There to bend the knee be-fore Thee, whom heav'n and earth a-dore;
So may we with ho-ly joy, Pure and free from sin's al-loy,



So, most gra-cious Lord, may we Ev-er-more be led by Thee.
So may we with will-ing feet Ev-er seek Thy mer-cy seat.
All our cost-liest trea-sures bring, Christ, to Thee, our heav'n-ly King.

Invocation

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

C **Amen**

Confession of Sins

P 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.

C Amen

P Gracious God,

C have mercy on us. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone. Uphold us by your Spirit so that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Forgiveness of Sins

P In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. 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

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. Lead us, who know You by faith, to enjoy in heaven the fullness of Your divine presence; 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, "The Star Proclaims the King Is Here"

[No ELW, LSB 399, TLH 131; Text and Tune: Public Domain]



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.

WORD

The Old Testament Reading, Isaiah 60:1-6 (NRSV)

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. 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. Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. 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. 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. 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.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

The Epistle Reading, Ephesians 3:1-12 (NRSV)

This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles— for surely you have already heard of the commission of God’s grace that was given me for you, and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. In 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: that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

Of 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. Although 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, and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; so 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. This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Choir, "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light" by Kathleen Thomerson

The Gospel Reading, Matthew 2:1-12 (NRSV)

P The Gospel according to John:

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

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.

This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise be to Thee, O Christ.**

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.

Sermon Hymn, "O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright"

(ELW 308, LSB 395, TLH 343. Text © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License # 110003021. Tune: Public Domain]



1 O Morn-ing Star, how fair and bright! You shine with God's
2 Come, heav'n-ly Bride-groom, Light di-vine, And deep with - in
3 Lord, when You look on us in love, At once there falls
4 Al - might - y Fa - ther, in Your Son You loved us when



own truth and light, A - glow with grace and mer - cy!
our hearts now shine; There light a flame un - dy - ing!
from God a - bove A ray of pur - est plea - sure.
not yet be - gun Was this old earth's foun - da - tion!



Of Ja - cob's race, King Da - vid's son, Our Lord and mas -
In Your one bod - y let us be As liv - ing branch -
Your Word and Spir - it, flesh and blood Re - fresh our souls
Your Son has ran - somed us in love To live in Him



ter, You have won Our hearts to serve You on - ly!
es of a tree, Your life our lives sup - ply - ing.
with heav'n - ly food. You are our dear - est trea - sure!
here and a - bove: This is Your great sal - va - tion.



Low - ly, ho - ly! Great and glo - rious, All vic - to - rious,
Now, though dai - ly Earth's deep sad - ness May per - plex us
Let Your mer - cy Warm and cheer us! O draw near us!
Al - le - lu - ia! Christ the liv - ing, To us giv - ing



Rich in bless - ing! Rule and might o'er all pos - sess - ing!
And dis - tress us, Yet with heav'n - ly joy You bless us.
For You teach us God's own love through You has reached us.
Life for - ev - er, Keeps us Yours and fails us nev - er!

Sermon, Rev. David Lippitt

Prayers

Lord's Prayer

P Let us pray with confidence in the words our Savior gave us:

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.**

Communion Distribution

Choir, "Oh, Love, How Deep" by Thomas Keesecker

Communion Reception

Communion Dismissal

SENDING

Blessing

P Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Hymn to Depart, "Brightest and Best of the Stars"

[ELW 303, LSB 400, TLH 128. Text and Tune: Public Domain]



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.

Spoken Announcements

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Offering Plates are not being passed at this time. You can give by sending your envelope to HCLC. You can give online from the Holy Cross homepage (holycrossmpls.org). Click on the blue button or directly via the Holy Cross online donation form. You can give to the General Fund, Building Fund, We Care, Synod or Trinity First. Donations are processed through faith based Vanco. Payments are deposited directly into the Holy Cross bank account.

Thank You

Our thanks to Rev. David Lippitt for filling in for Pastor Don who is ill.

Un-decorating

We will be taking down the tree and other Christmas decorations following the service today.

Annual Altar Guild Meeting

The annual meeting of the Altar Guild will be on Saturday, January 22 at 9:30 AM here at the church.

Now Available

- 2022 Offering Envelopes
- Portals of Prayer (January – March Edition)
- January Newsletter

Prayer Requests

- Harold Sand on the death of his wife Evelyn
- Jack McConley, who had open heart surgery on January 3.

Celebrations this Week

- Happy Birthday to Joyce Baago (1/9).
- Happy Anniversary to David and Tena Ubl (1/13)

SERVING THE LORD

Serving Today, January 9

January Altar Guild: Linda Scanlon

January Elder/Deacon: Becky Swenson-Dennis

Choir Director: David Hinrichs

Choir Accompanist: Wendy Kofoot

Counter: Adam Horrmann

Lector: Kimberly Blomberg

Organist: Julie Wright

Vacancy Pastor: Rev. Don Mulfinger

Recorder: James Blomberg

Treats: No one is signed up

Ushers: Lynn Oolman & Andy Tatham

Serving Next Sunday, January 16

January Altar Guild: Linda Scanlon

January Elder/Deacon: Becky Swenson-Dennis

Choir Director: David Hinrichs

Choir Accompanist: Wendy Kofoot

Counter: Lynn Oolman

Lector: Jean Anderson

Organist: Julie Wright

Vacancy Pastor: Rev. Don Mulfinger

Recorder: James Blomberg

Treats: No one is signed up

Ushers: Tim Phelon & Keith Lange