

**HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH MINNEAPOLIS**  
**1720 E MINNEHAHA PARKWAY**  
**MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55407**



**EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD**  
**JANUARY 8, 2023**

**Silent Prayer Before Worship:** 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.

**Hymnals:** *Evangelical Lutheran Worship (ELW, the red cover hymnal), The Lutheran Hymnal (TLH, blue hardcover hymnal), and With One Voice (WOV, blue paperback cover)*

## **Welcome**

### **GATHERING HYMN, ELW 303, stanzas 1, 2 and 3**

*"Brightest and Best of the Stars"*

## **INVOCATION**

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

**C: Amen.**

## **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

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: Gracious God, have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from You and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In Your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to You, and uphold**

**us by Your Spirit, so that we may live and serve You in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and LORD. Amen.**

P: God, Who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace we have been saved. In the name of ✝ Jesus Christ, our sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen us all with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in our hearts through faith.

**C: Amen.**

**AGNUS DEI, "O Christ, Lamb of God" [ELW, page 196]**

O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;  
have mer - cy up - on us. O Christ, Lamb of God, you take  
a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy up - on us.  
O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;  
grant us your peace. A - - - men.

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

***We celebrate the great truth, O LORD, that You came to bring Your blessed light of love to this world – not just to a select few, but to***

***everyone who will open their hearts to let it shine within us. Thank You, Jesus!***

### **FIRST READING, ISAIAH 60:1-6 (NRSV)**

*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.*

<sup>1</sup>Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. <sup>2</sup>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. <sup>3</sup>Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

<sup>4</sup>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. <sup>5</sup>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. <sup>6</sup>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.**

### **SECOND READING, EPHESIANS 3:1-12 (NRSV)**

*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.*

<sup>1</sup>This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles—<sup>2</sup>for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you, <sup>3</sup>and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, <sup>4</sup>a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. <sup>5</sup>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: <sup>6</sup>that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

<sup>7</sup>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. <sup>8</sup>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, <sup>9</sup>and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; <sup>10</sup>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. <sup>11</sup>This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, <sup>12</sup>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.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** (ELW page 205]

*(Tune is Unser Herrscher, "Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty")*



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.



Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

## **GOSPEL READING, MATTHEW 2:1-12 (NIV)**

*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.*

<sup>1</sup>In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup>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." <sup>3</sup>When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; <sup>4</sup>and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. <sup>5</sup>They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: <sup>6</sup>'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.'"

<sup>7</sup>Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup>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.”<sup>9</sup> 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.<sup>10</sup> When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy.<sup>11</sup> 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.<sup>12</sup> And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

P: This is the Gospel of the LORD.

**C: Praise to You, O Christ.**

**NICENE CREED** (ELW, p. 104)

**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 Christian\* 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.** *\*catholic or universal*

### **HYMN OF THE DAY, ELW 302**

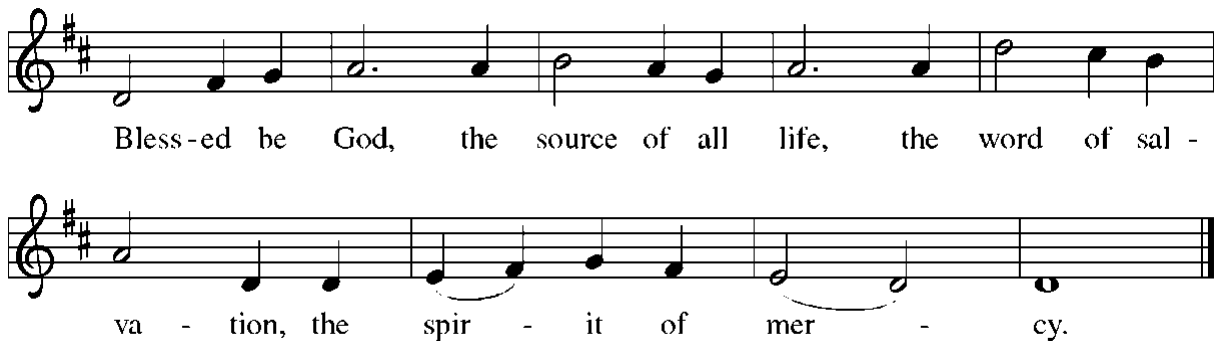
*"As With Gladness Men of Old"*

### **SERMON, "Exactly Who Is Included?"**

*"Nations shall come to your Light,  
and His glory will appear over you."*

*-- Isaiah 60:3*

### **OFFERTORY, "Blessed Be God, the Source of All Life" [ELW 210]**



The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of the hymn: "Bless-ed be God, the source of all life, the word of sal -". The second staff contains the melody for the second line: "va - tion, the spir - it of mer - cy." The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes.

### **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

**LORD'S PRAYER,** page 208 (right column, traditional)

***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 HYMN, ELW 487**

*"What Feast of Love"*

**BENEDICTION**

P: The LORD bless you and keep you. The LORD make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The LORD share His presence with you and give you peace.

**C: Amen.**

**SENDING HYMN, ELW 303, stanzas 4 and 5**

*"Brightest and Best of the Stars"*

**Spoken Announcements**

**Farewell to Pastor Don** -- It is with extreme gratitude and the most heartfelt thanks that we will say "so long" to Pastor Don on February 5. We will have a time of fellowship following the service on his final Sunday. Pastor Don has decided to formally join Holy Cross! So after some well deserved time off, he will be back – just in the pew instead of the pulpit.

**Copyright Acknowledgments**

- *From sundaysandseasons.com. Copyright © 2022 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.*
- *Reprinted/Podcast/Streamed with permission under One License A-740955. All rights reserved.*

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **Statistics**

The attendance on Sunday, January 1 was 26. The total offering for was \$2,922 including \$10 for the Building Fund, \$79 for Synod, \$100 for Trinity First, \$15 for LWML, and \$150 for Use of Church. \$448.80 was received electronically.

### **Annual Altar Guild Meeting**

The annual Altar Guild meeting will be held on Saturday, January 28, from 9:30 to 11:30. We will meet in the family room from 9:30 to 10:30 for the meeting and from 10:30 to 11:30 for our annual cleanup chores.

### **2022 Financial Statements**

Your record of financial giving for 2022 was emailed this past Thursday. Those without email will be receiving a statement in the mail. If you have NOT received a statement by January 15, be sure and let us know.

### **News about our New Pastor**

- Pastor Jay Carlson has accepted the call to be the new pastor of Holy Cross.
- His first day in the office will be February 6.
- His first Sunday in the pulpit will be February 12.
- His installation is scheduled for February 19 at 2:00 PM
- Bishop Ann Svennungsen of the Minneapolis Area Synod will be presiding at the installation.
- A reception for Pastor Jay and his family will follow the service.

## **Volunteers Needed**

- **Ushers and Counters:** We are in need of volunteers to usher and count. Please let the office know if you are available!
- **Snow Shoveling:** Our snow removal contract is for 1 inch or more. If we have LESS than an inch we still need to shovel the sidewalks. If this is something you can help with, there is a signup sheet in the narthex. Talk to Jerry Rusk for more information.

## **Home Expo Tickets**

Free tickets are available on the back table for the January 13-15, 2023 Home Building & Remodeling Expo. It will be at the Hyatt Regency in downtown Minneapolis

## **Pillar of Warmth and Love**

We are once again collecting warm socks, new or gently used hats, scarves, and mittens for the Holy Cross pillar throughout the winter. Your donations are greatly appreciated. The collection bin is in the Family room. We'll start putting items out in mid-December when the really cold weather sets in. *Hands in Ministry*

## **Administrative Assistant**

We will be in need of a new Administrative Assistant in the near future. Kevin will be leaving the position as soon as someone is hired. If you know of someone who would like the position, have them email a resumé to the office ([admin@holycrossmpls.org](mailto:admin@holycrossmpls.org)).

## **Celebrations this Week**

Birthdays: Joyce Baago (1/8)

Anniversary: Dave and Tina Ubl (1/13)

## **SERVING TODAY**

### **Today, January 8**

January Altar Guild: Linda Scanlon  
January Elder: Becky Dennis  
Choir Director: David Hinrichs  
Choir Accompanist: Wendy Kofoot  
Counters: Adam Horrmann & Gail Klatt  
Lector: Kim Blomberg  
Organist: Julie Wright  
Interim Pastor: Rev. Don Mulfinger  
Recorder: James Blomberg  
Treats: Judy Sorenson  
Usher: Adam Horrmann

### **Next Sunday, January 15**

January Altar Guild: Linda Scanlon  
January Elder: Becky Dennis  
Choir Director: David Hinrichs  
Choir Accompanist: Wendy Kofoot  
Counters: Keith and Mary Lange  
Lector: Linda Scanlon  
Organist: Julie Wright  
Interim Pastor: Rev. Don Mulfinger  
Recorder: James Blomberg  
Treats: Carol Rusk  
Usher: Andy Tatham