

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL
Red Bud, Illinois

The Epiphany of Our Lord
January 6-7, 2018

AS WE GATHER: The Light of the world who is our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ has been born. He now is made known to a world burdened by the darkness of our selfish sin. Jesus has come to give the light of His salvation to the world through His perfect life, innocent death and glorious resurrection. In grateful response to God's love for us in Jesus we, like the Magi of old, have come to worship Jesus.

WE CELEBRATE HOLY COMMUNION TODAY: In this Supper of our Lord we receive the true body and blood of our Savior Jesus Christ in, with and under the bread and wine for the forgiveness of our sins and the strengthening of our faith. Since this sacrament is also a common confession of our Christian faith, we welcome to the Lord's Table all those who are confirmed members of congregations of our Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. The cups of white non-alcoholic wine in the center of the tray are for those who would prefer this. Please place a finger to your lips if you would like to use an individual cup.

The Festival Order of Worship

The Prelude:

The Ringing of the Bell calls us to joyful worship.

The Opening Hymn: 399 "The Star Proclaims the King Is Here"
(please stand for the last stanza if you are able)

The Invocation, Confession and Absolution

P: In the name of the Father who sent His Light into the world; in the name of the Son (+)
who is that Light of life; in the name of the Holy Spirit who gives us that Light.

C: Amen. Let there be that Light in our lives.

P: The darkness of sin and slavery to the devil is all around us.

C: We live in the darkness of a sinful and rebellious world.

P: This darkness of sin controls us from the moment of our birth.

C: We live in the darkness of sinful and rebellious lives.

P: In the darkness of our sin we have disobeyed our God in thought, word, and deed, by
what we have done and by what we have left undone.

**C: We confess that we have sinned against God in what we think, say and do in the
darkness of our sinful lives. We beg God's mercy for the sake of His Son Jesus Christ
who died to forgive us our sins and who rose to give us His light of life.**

P: God's Light has come into the world to forgive us of our sins. Upon this your confession,
I, as a called and ordained servant of God's Word, announce the grace of God unto all of
you. In the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in
the name of the Father and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit.

Page 2

C: Amen. Let there be that Light in our lives.

The Psalm of the Day: Psalm 72:1-2, 11-14, 17

P: Endow the king with Your justice, O God,

C: the royal son with Your righteousness.

P: He will judge Your people in righteousness,

C: Your afflicted ones with justice.

P: All kings will bow down to him

C: and all nations will serve him.

P: For he will deliver the needy who cry out,

C: the afflicted who have no one to help.

P: He will take pity on the weak and the needy

C: and save the needy from death.

P: He will rescue them from oppression and violence,

C: for precious is their blood in his sight.

P: May his name endure forever; may it continue as long as the sun.

C: Nations will be blessed through him, they will call him blessed.

**ALL: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the
beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

The Salutation and Collect of the Day:

P: The Lord be with you. **C: And also with you.**

P: Let us pray. **C: O God, by the leading of a star You once made known to all
nations 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 Jesus Christ, our Lord,
who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

(please be seated)

(8 a.m.) Anthem: "Oh, How Beautiful the Sky"

Choir

The Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 60:1-6

Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord rises upon you. See,
darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples, but the Lord rises upon you
and His glory appears over you. Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness
of your dawn. 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 arm. Then you will look and be
radiant, your heart will throb and swell with joy; the wealth of the seas will be brought to
you, to you the riches of the nations will come. Herds of camels will cover your

Page 3

land, young camels of Midian and Ephah. And all from Sheba will come, bearing gold and incense and proclaiming the praise of the Lord.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Verse: (sung)

**We three kings of O-ri-ent are, bear-ing gifts we trav-erse a-far
Field and fount-ain, moor and moun-tain, Fol-low-ing yon-der star.
O star of won-der, star of night, star with roy-al beau-ty bright,
West-ward lead-ing, still pro-ceed-ing, Guide us to thy per-fect light.**

The Epistle Reading: Ephesians 3:2-12

Surely you have heard about the administration of God's grace that was given to me for you, that is, the mystery made known to me by revelation, as I have already written briefly. In reading this, then, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, which was not made known to men in other generations as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to God's holy apostles and prophets. This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus. I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God's grace given me through the working of His power. Although I am less than the least of all God's people, this grace was given me: to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, and to make plain to everyone the administration of this mystery, which for ages past was kept hidden in God, who created all things. His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, according to His eternal purpose which He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. In Him and through faith in Him we may approach God with freedom and confidence.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Verse: (sung)

**Born a king on Beth-le-hem's plain, Gold I bring to crown Him a-gain,
King for-ev-er, ceas-ing ne-ver O-ver us all to reign.
O star of won-der, star of night, star with roy-al beau-ty bright,
West-ward lead-ing, still pro-ceed-ing, Guide us to thy per-fect light.**

The Gospel Reading: (please stand if you are able)

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

C: Glory to You, O Lord. (Matthew 2:1-12 is read.)

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, "Where is the one who has been born

Page 4

king of the Jews? We saw His star in the east and have come to worship Him." When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Christ was to be born. "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written: "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 be the shepherd of My people Israel.'" Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and make a careful search for the Child. As soon as you find Him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship Him." After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen in the east went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the Child was. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. 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 and of incense and of myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

P: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

Verse: (sung)

**Frank-in-cense to of-fer have I, In-cense owns a De-i-ty nigh,
Prayer and prais-ing, all men rais-ing, Wor-ship Him, God most high.
O star of won-der, star of night, star with roy-al beau-ty bright,
West-ward lead-ing, still pro-ceed-ing, Guide us to thy per-fect light.**

Our Confession of Faith:

I believe that our God has sent the Light of life into the world in the person of His Son, Jesus Christ. This Light who is Jesus has come into my life. I confess that Jesus is my Savior from sin. He has lived, died and risen from the dead for God's forgiveness of my sins. I have come to worship Him. I offer Him the gifts of my praise, my service and my witness. Through the work of the Holy Spirit in me, I promise to show His Light in my life for all to see. Amen. (please be seated)

The Festival Hymn: 397 "As With Gladness Men of Old"

The Festival Sermon: "The Mysterious Star" Matthew 2:1-12

P: Most gracious Father: may the words of my mouth,

C: and the meditation of our hearts,

ALL: be acceptable in Thy sight, O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer. Amen.

Page 5

Verse: *(sung)*

**Myrrh is mine, its bit-ter per-fume Breathes a life of gath-er-ing gloom:
Sor-r'wing, sigh-ing, bleed-ing, dy-ing, Sealed in the stone-cold tomb.
O star of won-der, star of night, star with roy-al beau-ty bright,
West-ward lead-ing, still pro-ceed-ing, Guide us to thy per-fect light.**

Offering:

The Prayer of the Church: *(please stand if you are able)*

HEALING AND COMFORT: Wilma Uffelmann, Bill Smith, Alvin Moeller, Cecelia Lautenschlaeger, Nina Guebert, Dorothy Peters, C. John Prigge, Edward Luttman, Donald Kueker, Paulette Kueker, Pat Malik, Jane Donjon, David W. Stellhorn; *Family and Friends of St. John's Members:* Lori Voges, Elaine Goetting, Jamie Brandt, Eric Frazier, Rev. Mike and Melanie Maddick, Ethel Montroy, Dwain Schrader, Brian Ulione, Brenda Manning, Bobby Wood, Derrick DeWilde, Donna Sandersfeld, Dan Krebel, Michelle Gibbs, Caleb Oakley, Collin Ratliff, Con Healey, Dorothy F. Gross. *Help us keep this list current!*

MILITARY: (Please call with the names to include in prayer.) Army- Nathan Koen, Jonathan Koen, Tim Healy, Christopher Dupertius, Jacob Adams, Donald Roberts, Casey Vallet, Matthew Kraus, Paul Craft, Jr., Dustin Krack, Austin Scheibe, Trevor Buckner; Navy- Brad Koester, Carl Muehler; Air Force- Brian Hubbard, Jason Nehrt, Curt Hatten, Terry Koester, David Livingston, Matt Sabo, Ryan Kozarich, Christina Cavan, Tanner Hackstadt, Ched Wagner; Marines- Alex Renner, Cody Koch, Josh Butterworth, Garrett Carnahan, Brent Knop, Thomas Lewis

+for those who mourn: the family of Harlan Burmester, father of our member Darla Cowell
+for Glenn, Kristin, Anna and Alan Wolter who lost their house in a fire Thursday evening

P: This is a day for us to praise God for His love. Let us thank the Lord:

C: for the gift of Jesus Christ, His Son, our Savior from sin.

P: This is a day for us to celebrate God's goodness. Let us thank the Lord:

C: for the faith which He has instilled within us through our holy baptism.

P: This is a day for us to lift up our voices in joy. Let us thank the Lord:

C: for our military members who defend our freedom to hear the truth of His Word.

P: This is a day for us to pray for those who are in need of healing and comfort including....

Let us ask the Lord:

C: to support the lonely, to heal the sick, and to feed the hungry.

P: This is a day for us to comfort those who are mourning, including.... Let us ask the Lord:

C: to work through us to help those who are hurting and grieving.

P: This is a day for us to rejoice in God's gifts of life. Let us praise the Lord:

C: for His gifts of love in marriage, new life in the birth of children and our birthdays.

P: This is a day for us to come to our God in the name of His Son Jesus Christ,

C: for He is our Savior who has taught us all to pray, Our Father who...

Page 6

The Liturgy of Holy Communion:

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts in praise to God.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is good and right so to do.

P: It is truly good, right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, and now we praise You that You sent us Your only-begotten Son and that in Him, being found in fashion as a man, You manifested the fullness of Your glory. Therefore, with angels and archangels and with all Your company of heaven, we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

**Glo-rious now be-hold Him a-rise, King and God and Sac-ri-fice;
Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia! Earth to heav'n re-plies.**

**O star of won-der, star of night, star with roy-al beau-ty bright,
West-ward lead-ing, still pro-ceed-ing, Guide us to thy per-fect light.**

The Words of Institution:

P:The peace of our Lord be with you always. **C: And also with you.**

The Distribution: *(please be seated)*

(Lord Jesus, I pray You to make me, unworthy as I am, worthy through Your grace;
so that Your body and Your blood may be for me a strengthening of my faith,
a proof of my forgiveness, a closer union with You and Your people, an increase of holiness, the
basis of a glad resurrection, and a pledge of everlasting life. Amen.)

(8 a.m.) ANTHEM: "Hail to the Lord's Anointed"

370 "What Child Is This"

394 "Songs of Thankfulness and Praise"

400 "Brightest and Best of the Stars of the Morning"

The Post-Communion Song: *(please stand if you are able)*

(sung to the tune: "I Love to Tell the Story")

I love to tell the sto-ry, of wise men from a-far,

With gifts to hon-or Je-sus, As they fol-lowed Beth-le-hem's star.

I love to tell their sto-ry, be-cause they came you see,

To see their Lord and Sa-vior, and wor-ship Christ the King.

I love to tell the sto-ry, 'twill be my theme in glo-ry

To tell the Christ-mas sto-ry of Je-sus and His love.

Page 7

The Post-Communion Prayer:

P: O God our Father, through the body and blood of Your Son, our Savior Jesus, given to us here, You have shown to us the light of Your salvation. Strengthened now by this sacrament may we be a light of Your love and peace to people all around us.

C: We pray this through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

The Benediction:

P: God has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light. May His blessing go with you to be strong in faith, hope and love. The Father, the Son (+) and the Holy Spirit be and abide with you now and always. **C: Amen.**

The Closing Hymn: 409 “Hail, Thou Source of Every Blessing”

The Postlude:

Acknowledgments: Unless otherwise indicated, all scripture quotations are from *The Holy Bible, English Standard Version*, copyright © 2001 by Crossway Bibles, a division of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

+++++

Over Bethlehem

Over Bethlehem appeared a star Clear and bright with heavenly light,
And in the darkness of a land afar Wisemen saw this with delight.

On they traveled by day and by night Over stream and hill and dale,
Following true the guiding light Of the star’s prophetic tale.

And in Jerusalem questioning they came: “Do you know where we will find
The King-child Israel will name? He who will wear the crown? Be kind.”

Today, now, let us with the wise men go, Looking for God’s kingly Son;
See His eyes with holy love aglow He left His throne in heaven, come!

“Balaam’s sayings are now fulfilled, For the star of Jacob has appeared;
All hope and waiting can now be stilled, Let us go to Jerusalem full of cheer!”

(an English translation of an old German hymn for Epiphany)

