

WELCOME TO WORSHIP!

The star...
came to
rest over
the place
where the
child was.



Matthew 2:9, ESV



A Savior is Born
For All the Nations

The Epiphany of the Lord

January 5, 2023

Welcome To Worship

If you are a visitor to our church, we extend you a warm welcome. We are happy you are here. Please fill out a Connect Card to let us know how we might continue to serve you.

It's encouraging to see parents bring their families to worship the Lord. If your child becomes restless, you can use the Family Room to calm them. Quiet bags and children's bulletins are also available to keep little ones busy. Restrooms are located in the hallways along either side of the worship space. For those with special needs, large print copies of the service folder and listening devices are available from the ushers. One of our ushers can help you find the restrooms or family room and answer any other questions.

Service Notes For This Sunday



The twelve days of Christmas culminate with the celebration of the Epiphany of our Lord. We commemorate the day when magi from afar worshiped the Christ Child. Before that day, Jesus had been worshiped by individuals of Jewish descent: the shepherds, elderly Simeon, the prophetess Anna. But Scripture said the coming Savior would be God's gift to all nations. Epiphany proves that God keeps his promises, as he miraculously led foreigners to worship their Savior. Thus, Epiphany is sometimes called the Gentile Christmas. (The celebration of Epiphany likely precedes that of Christmas. Evidence of the Festival of Epiphany dates to Clement of Alexandria at the end of the second century.)

Epiphany continues to play out to this very day. God worked through a special star to bring the magi into the presence of their Savior—for Christ's glory and the magi's blessing. Likewise, God has controlled time and space to bring you into the presence of your Savior—for Christ's glory and your blessing. Thus, the magi were only the first in a long line of Gentiles who would join Israel in worshipping Jesus as King. Indeed, a Savior is born for all the nations! Come, let us adore him!

Acknowledgements

Evening Hymn Tunes from Christian Worship. Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved worldwide. Software distributed in partnership with Northwestern Publishing House. Created by Christian Worship: Service Builder © 2022 Concordia Publishing House.

The Service: Evening Hymn Tunes

This service is not found in the hymnal. Please use the service folder or screens.

Welcome

Hymn

376 Rise Up and Shine

Stand

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

Amen.

Opening Dialogue

from Isaiah 49, selected verses

Listen to me, you coastlands.

Pay attention, you faraway peoples!

The Lord called me from the womb.

When I was inside my mother, he mentioned my name.

He made my mouth like a sharpened sword,

He hid me in the shadow of his hand.

He made me a polished arrow.

He concealed me in his quiver.

He said to me:

"You are my servant Israel, in whom I will display my glory."

And now the Lord says:

"It is too small a thing that you should just be my servant to raise up only the tribes of Jacob and to restore the ones I have preserved in Israel,

so I will appoint you to be a light for the nations,

so that my salvation will be known to the end of the earth."

Look, people will come from far away. Look, some will come from the north and the west, and some from the land of Sinim.

Shout for joy, O heavens, and rejoice, O earth!

Let mountains burst forth with shouts of joy, because the Lord is comforting his people, **and he is showing mercy to his afflicted ones.**

Glory to God in the Highest

Tune: *EVENTIDE*

1 Glo - ry to God in high - est heav'n a - bove;
2 O Lamb of God, you take all sin a - way;

peace on the earth through his re - deem - ing love.
show us your mer - cy, hear us as we pray.

Al - might - y Fa - ther, thanks and praise we bring;
With God the Spir - it at the Fa - ther's throne,

we wor - ship you, Lord God, our heav'n - ly King.
Christ Je - sus, you are Lord, and you a - lone.

Text: Michael D. Schultz. Text: © 2021 Northwestern Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 719903

The Word

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. Lord God, by the leading of a star, you once made known to the nations your one and only Son. Guide us, also, who know him now by faith to come at last to the perfect joy of your heavenly glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Be seated

First Reading

Isaiah 60:1–6

Isaiah foretold that a certain King of the Jews would draw kings from distant nations to the light of his glory.

¹ Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord is dawning upon you. Look, darkness covers the earth, and deep darkness covers the peoples, but the Lord will dawn upon you, and his glory will be seen over you. ³ Nations will walk to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

⁴ Look up. Look all around and see! All of them have been gathered. They are coming to you. Your sons will come from far away, and people will carry your daughters on their side. ⁵ Then you will look and be radiant. Your heart will race with excitement and burst with joy. For great riches from the sea will be delivered to you. The wealth of the nations will come to you. ⁶ Caravans of camels will cover your land, young camels from Midian and Ephah. All those from Sheba will come. They will carry gold and incense, and they will announce the good news of the praise of the Lord.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm of the Day

117B From All That Dwell below the Skies



1 From all that dwell below the skies let the Cre -
 2 In ev - 'ry land be - gin the song, to ev - 'ry
 3 E - ter - nal are your mer - cies, LORD; e - ter - nal

a - tor's praise a - rise. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
 land the strains be - long; Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
 truth at - tends your Word. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Let the Re - deem - er's name be sung through ev - 'ry
 In cheer - ful sound all voic - es raise and fill the
 Your praise shall sound from shore to shore till suns shall

land, by ev - 'ry tongue. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
 world with joy - ful praise. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
 rise and set no more. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Text (sts. 1, 3): Isaac Watts; (st. 2): A Pocket Hymn Book. Tune: Geistliche Kirchengesäng, Köln, 1623. Text and tune: Public domain

Second Reading

Ephesians 3:2–12

People of all nations are united as complete equals in the kingdom of Christ's grace.

² Surely you have heard of the administration of God's grace given to me for you, ³ namely, that the mystery was made known to me by revelation (as I have already written briefly). ⁴ When you read this, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ. ⁵ This mystery was not made known to people in past generations as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to his holy apostles and prophets. ⁶ This mystery is that in Christ Jesus the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and people who also share in the promise through the gospel.

⁷ I became a servant of this gospel, in keeping with the gift of God's grace that was given to me by the working of his power. ⁸ To me—even though I am the very least of all the saints—was given this grace: to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ ⁹ and to enlighten everyone about the administration of this mystery. In past ages this mystery remained hidden in God, who created all things. ¹⁰ He did this so that, through the church, the multifaceted wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. ¹¹ This was done according to the eternal purpose that he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. ¹² In him we can freely approach God with confidence through faith in him.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Stand

Gospel Acclamation

Matthew 2:2

Alleluia! Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews?

We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him. Alleluia!

Gospel

Matthew 2:1–12

Foreign Magi were the first of many who would join Israel in worshipping the Savior.

¹ After Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, when Herod was king, Wise Men from the east came to Jerusalem. They asked, ² “Where is he who has been born King of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.” ³ When King Herod heard this, he was alarmed, and all Jerusalem with him. ⁴ He gathered together all the people's chief priests and experts in the law. He asked them where the Christ was to be born. ⁵ They said to him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, because this was written through the prophet:

⁶ You, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are certainly not least among the rulers of Judah:
because out of you will come a ruler,
who will shepherd my people, Israel.”

⁷ Then Herod secretly summoned the Wise Men and found out from them exactly when the star had appeared. ⁸ He sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the child. When you find him, report to me, so that I may also go and worship him.”

⁹ After listening to the king, they went on their way. Then the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them, until it stood still over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw the star, they rejoiced with overwhelming joy. ¹¹ After they went into the house and saw the child with Mary, his mother, they bowed down and worshipped him. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹² Since they had been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they went back to their own country by another route.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated

Hymn of the Day

370 How Lovely Shines the Morning Star

Sermon

The Mystery of Christ is Revealed

Stand

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

I believe 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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there 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.

Be seated

Connect Card

Please take a moment now to fill out a Connect Card.

Prayer of the Church

Gracious Father, in Christ Jesus and through faith in him, we approach you with freedom and confidence. As you caused your light to shine that first Epiphany, shine in the darkness of our hearts. Drive far from us all our fears and all our doubts.

Give us a new confidence each day to live as children of the light.

Bless the work of your church here and throughout the world. By your Holy Spirit, make known far and wide the mystery of Christ Jesus. Give strength to all workers in your gospel ministry, and bless the Word they proclaim.

Bring those living in darkness into the light of life.

Remember missionaries and mission workers who bring the light of Christ to distant lands. Provide for their families and all their needs. Bless their work and continue to gather for yourself people from the four corners of the world to live as children of the light.

Renew our joy and give us new opportunities to make known the light of Christ.

Give guidance, wisdom, strength, and health to our government officials. Direct their rule for our good as it is pleasing to you.

Give us hearts and lips that honor those you have placed in authority over us.

These and all our needs are known to you, gracious Father. Mercifully hear our prayer. Guide us by the light of your Word until that day comes when you bring us home to yourself to join your people from every nation, tribe, people, and language, redeemed by the blood of Jesus.

In his holy name we pray. Amen.

Offering

Moved by God's love in Christ, we offer him our first and best gifts, purely out of thanks to him. If the gospel message has moved you to give and you would like an electronic option, you can scan this QR code with your mobile phone. It will connect you with our website's giving page. Today's offering will go to World Missions.



Hymn

372 As with Gladness Men of Old

Stand

Almighty God, we thank you for teaching us the things you want us to believe and do. Help us by your Holy Spirit to keep your Word in pure hearts that we may be strengthened in faith, guided in holiness, and comforted in life and in death, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.

Amen.

Be seated

Hymn

374 The Star Proclaims the King Is Here