

St. Paul's Lutheran Church
January 5, 2020
Epiphany of Our Lord



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Gathering

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

The feast of Epiphany ("manifestation") concludes the Christmas season with a celebration of God's glory revealed in the person of Jesus Christ. In Isaiah and Ephesians, that glory is proclaimed for all nations and people. Like the light of the star that guided the magi to Jesus, the light of Christ reveals who we are: children of God who are claimed and washed in the waters of baptism. We are sent out to be beacons of the light of Christ, sharing the good news of God's love to all people.

EPIPHANY DIALOGUE

We give thanks on this holy day, adorned with epiphanies:
for the star that led the magi to the manger,
that the nations may see the light of Christ;
for the water turned to wine at Cana's wedding,
that the people taste the goodness of the Lord;
for the baptism of our Lord Jesus Christ in the Jordan,
that the Christ would save us all.
This is the day that the Lord has made,
we will rejoice and be glad in it. Alleluia.

GATHERING SONG

Brightest and Best of the Stars ELW 303

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,
Love from the beginning, Word made flesh, Breath of heaven.
Amen.

Let us confess our sinfulness before God and one another,
trusting in God's endless mercy and love.

Merciful God,

we confess that we are not perfect.
We have said and done things we regret.
We have tried to earn your redeeming grace,
while denying it to others.
We have resisted your call to be your voice in the world.
Forgive us, loving God.
Give us your righteousness the strength to put aside our failures,
and the courage to try again. Amen.

Dear people of God, hear the good news: Christ the Savior is born!
You are loved and forgiven in the name of ✝ Jesus, who has come among us.
You are freed from proving that you deserve to be loved,
because God's love is given to you as the most precious gift of all.
Rejoice in this love and share it with the world. **Amen.**

GREETING

God who sent the Light into our world,
God who shone in the Bethlehem manger,
God who spreads the Spirit's rays, be with you all.

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Everlasting God, the radiance of all faithful people, you brought the nations to the brightness of your rising. Fill the world with your glory, and show yourself to all the world through him who is the true light and the bright morning star, your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING

¹⁻⁷ "Get out of bed, Jerusalem!

Wake up. Put your face in the sunlight.

God's bright glory has risen for you.

The whole earth is wrapped in darkness,
all people sunk in deep darkness,

But God rises on you,

his sunrise glory breaks over you.

Nations will come to your light,

kings to your sunburst brightness.

Look up! Look around!

Watch as they gather, watch as they approach you:

Your sons coming from great distances,

your daughters carried by their nannies.

When you see them coming you'll smile—big smiles!

Your heart will swell and, yes, burst!

All those people returning by sea for the reunion,

a rich harvest of exiles gathered in from the nations!

And then streams of camel caravans as far as the eye can see,

young camels of nomads in Midian and Ephah,

Pouring in from the south from Sheba,

loaded with gold and frankincense,

preaching the praises of God.

And yes, a great roundup

of flocks from the nomads in Kedar and Nebaioth,

Welcome gifts for worship at my altar

as I bathe my glorious Temple in splendor.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALMODY

Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14

Give the gift of wise rule to the king, O God,
the gift of just rule to the crown prince.

**May he judge your people rightly,
be honorable to your meek and lowly.**

Let the mountains give exuberant witness;
shape the hills with the contours of right living.

**Please stand up for the poor,
help the children of the needy,
come down hard on the cruel tyrants.**

Outlast the sun, outlive the moon—
age after age after age.

**Be rainfall on cut grass,
earth-refreshing rain showers.**

Let righteousness burst into blossom
and peace abound until the moon fades to nothing.

Rule from sea to sea,
from the River to the Rim.

Foes will fall on their knees before God,
his enemies lick the dust.

**Kings remote and legendary will pay homage,
kings rich and resplendent will turn over their wealth.**

All kings will fall down and worship,
and godless nations sign up to serve him,

**Because he rescues the poor at the first sign of need,
the destitute who have run out of luck.**

He opens a place in his heart for the down-and-out,
he restores the wretched of the earth.

**He frees them from tyranny and torture—
when they bleed, he bleeds;
when they die, he dies.**

SECOND READING

Ephesians 3:1-13

¹⁻³ This is why I, Paul, am in jail for Christ, having taken up the cause of you outsiders, so-called. I take it that you're familiar with the part I was given in God's plan for including everybody. I got the inside story on this from God himself, as I just wrote you in brief.

⁴⁻⁶ As you read over what I have written to you, you'll be able to see for yourselves into the mystery of Christ. None of our ancestors understood this. Only in our time has it been made clear by God's Spirit through his holy apostles and prophets of this new order. The mystery is that people who have never heard of God and those who have heard of him all their lives (what I've been calling outsiders and insiders) stand on the same ground before God. They get the same offer, same help, same promises in Christ Jesus. The Message is accessible and welcoming to everyone, across the board.

⁷⁻⁸ This is my life work: helping people understand and respond to this Message. It came as a sheer gift to me, a real surprise, God handling all the details. When it came to presenting the Message to people who had no background in God's way, I was the least qualified of any of the available Christians. God saw to it that I was equipped, but you can be sure that it had nothing to do with my natural abilities.

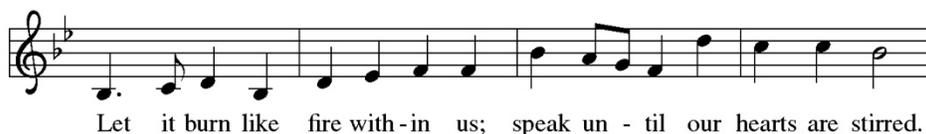
8-10 And so here I am, preaching and writing about things that are way over my head, the inexhaustible riches and generosity of Christ. My task is to bring out in the open and make plain what God, who created all this in the first place, has been doing in secret and behind the scenes all along. Through followers of Jesus like yourselves gathered in churches, this extraordinary plan of God is becoming known and talked about even among the angels!

11-13 All this is proceeding along lines planned all along by God and then executed in Christ Jesus. When we trust in him, we're free to say whatever needs to be said, bold to go wherever we need to go. So don't let my present trouble on your behalf get you down. Be proud!

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL

Matthew 2:1-12

Glory to You, O, Lord.

1-2 After Jesus was born in Bethlehem village, Judah territory— this was during Herod's kingship—a band of scholars arrived in Jerusalem from the East. They asked around, "Where can we find and pay homage to the newborn King of the Jews? We observed a star in the eastern sky that signaled his birth. We're on pilgrimage to worship him."

3-4 When word of their inquiry got to Herod, he was terrified—and not Herod alone, but most of Jerusalem as well. Herod lost no time. He gathered all the high priests and religion scholars in the city together and asked, "Where is the Messiah supposed to be born?"

5-6 They told him, "Bethlehem, Judah territory. The prophet Micah wrote it plainly:

It's you, Bethlehem, in Judah's land,

no longer bringing up the rear.

From you will come the leader

who will shepherd-rule my people, my Israel."

7-8 Herod then arranged a secret meeting with the scholars from the East. Pretending to be as devout as they were, he got them to tell him exactly when the birth-announcement star

appeared. Then he told them the prophecy about Bethlehem, and said, "Go find this child. Leave no stone unturned. As soon as you find him, send word and I'll join you at once in your worship."

⁹⁻¹⁰ Instructed by the king, they set off. Then the star appeared again, the same star they had seen in the eastern skies. It led them on until it hovered over the place of the child. They could hardly contain themselves: They were in the right place! They had arrived at the right time!

¹¹ They entered the house and saw the child in the arms of Mary, his mother. Overcome, they kneeled and worshiped him. Then they opened their luggage and presented gifts: gold, frankincense, myrrh.

¹² In a dream, they were warned not to report back to Herod. So they worked out another route, left the territory without being seen, and returned to their own country.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

The First Noel ELW 300

APOSTLES CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.*
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Guided by the star, together with the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of creation.

O Splendor of God's glory, shine your radiance within our world. Remove the barriers that divide us, and teach us to love with all our might. Lead us, O God:

lead us by your light.

True Dawn from on high, set us free from the power of guilt and grave. Shine your light in our lives and grant us your grace. Lead us, O God:

lead us by your light.

O living Spring of light from light, renew the strength of all who suffer: the poor, the sick, and those who mourn, especially Bobby, Patricia, Suzanne, Diane, Shane, Norma, Linda, Jack, Raymond, Steve, Khloe, Elfren, Moma, Jimmy, Carly, Meredene, Jerry, Enedina, Cody, and Norma, as well as those that we name out loud or in our hearts.... Lead us, O God:

lead us by your light.

Guide our worship, service, and outreach, that our hearts and hands may be opened in generosity toward others. Equip the outreach ministries of St. Paul's Squared that our hands and hearts share Christ's love with our neighbors everywhere. Lead us, O God:

lead us by your light.

God of light, into your hands we place all for whom we pray, trusting in your radiant mercy; through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Meal

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need.

OFFERING SONG

Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ ELW 674

OFFERING PRAYER

Generous God,
you have given us life, this community,
and these gifts of the earth
that become the meal of your grace.
Move in our hearts,
that we might use your gifts
to bring hope and blessing wherever we go,
through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

COMMUNION

The light of Christ came into our world and shines in the darkness.
Come now to feast at Christ's table.

COMMUNION SONG

I want to walk as a child of the light ELW 815

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

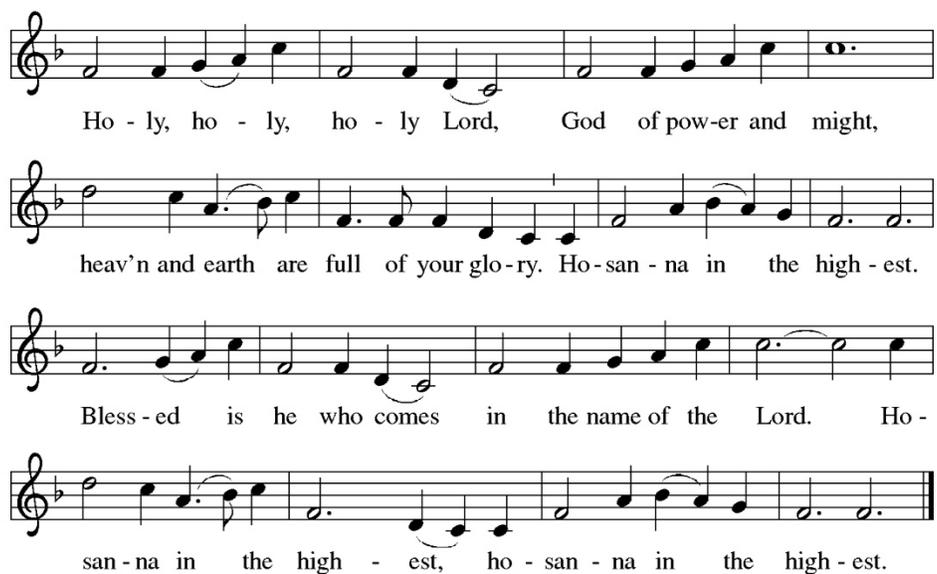
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ.

By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all nations;
in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son;
and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory.

And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,
 heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san - na in the high - est.
 Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
 san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

In the night in which he was betrayed,
 our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
 broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
 Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
 Do this for the remembrance of me.
 Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
 and gave it for all to drink, saying:
 This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
 shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
 Do this for the remembrance of me.

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Love has come: God's love for all people. Come and eat, for Christ invites you.

The assembly is seated.

COMMUNION SONG



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

DISTRIBUTION – All are WELCOME at the table of the Lord.

This meal gives you strength for your journey of faith & life. Go forward as the body of Christ in your family, community and the world. Children or anyone choosing not to commune, but wishing to be blessed, may indicate this by folding their arms across their chest. Anyone who is unable to come forward may indicate to an usher that you wish to receive communion where you are seated.

Communion will be by Intinction. After receiving the bread, receive the wine by dipping the bread into the chalice that is offered by the communion assistant.

TABLE BLESSING

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

O Lord, you look upon us in love and refresh our souls through the gifts of bread and wine. Send us out, reflecting the light of your grace, to tell the story of Jesus Christ, our bright morning star.

Amen.

BLESSING

Beloved children of God, what came into being in Christ was life, and the life was the light of all people.

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

The light of Christ shine on you with grace and mercy and fill you with joy and peace. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG

As with Gladness Men of Old ELW 302

DOXOLOGY

Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow ELW 884

DISMISSAL

Christ is born!

Go tell it on the mountain and everywhere.

Thanks be to God.

For Prayerful Consideration

Ill, Injured or Otherwise Struggling: Bobby Adams, Patricia Coffee, Suzanne Dietzel, Diane Dziuk, Shane Edens, Norma Foreman, Linda Henning, Jack Hockey, Evelyn Hoffman, Raymond Jenkins, Steve Kelly, Frances Kempe, Khloe Martinez, Elfren Moczygemba, Jimmy Moore, Moma Ndeh, Carly Rosenboon, Meredene Shockome, Jerry Vajdos, Enedina Vasquez, Cody Zaiontz, and Norma Zamzow

For those in the military: Nick Adams, Anthony Alvarez, Allen Bowles, Justin Chandler, Justin Elkins, Rodney Foreman, Jamaica Goodhue, Jacob Jones, Felipe Leal, Jr., Garrett Peterson, Jon Wayne Schulz, James Skinner, Chris Sustaita, Kassie Thompson, John Vasquez, and Delmiro Villanueva

Birthday: Dorthy Rippstein (Jan. 9)

Welcome!

We have all come to St. Paul's by different paths, and from various walks of life. Through worship, study, prayer and fellowship we each seek to deepen our faith, comfort and encourage one another and dedicate our lives more fully to sharing Christ in our homes, our community and the world. All are welcome at St. Paul's. We are eager to know you, and we invite you to get to know us. **If you are unable to hear, require a bulletin, or need any other assistance**, please signal an usher.

Announcements

Opportunities to Learn, Worship, Pray, and Serve

Today we welcome our new Vicar!

Greetings Brothers and Sisters in Christ!

As I begin to work together with you to share the good news of Christ, I would like to share a bit about me! I am a lifelong Lutheran. I have been called to serve in a variety of capacities. I was called to teach high school math to students for many years. During that time, I was involved in professional activities as an educator: teams, professional development, mentoring teens and peers. It was my pleasure to share my faith by my actions. When I retired, I devoted my activities to volunteering at church and in the community, and also helping friends who were ill. I followed my call to become a SAM (a Synodically Authorized Minister). Following the Holy Spirit has led me here.

I love to visit, read, hike in the mountains, and work together with others on almost any project! I look forward to meeting and getting to know each of you very soon! I have been praying that our time together will be fruitful!

In His Love,
Vicar Mary Anne

TODAY, immediately following our worship service we'll join together to remove our Christmas decorations and prepare the church for the new season.

The Annual Meeting will be January 19, 2020 (the 3rd Sunday in January) immediately following the worship service. If you would like to volunteer to be on the Council, would like to nominate someone for Council, or have something that you would like placed on the agenda, please contact Ronnie Retzloff.

St. Paul's will sponsor the KC Senior Activity Day, Tuesday January 28, at the Knights of Columbus Hall. Donations for bingo prizes can be dropped off at St. Paul's fellowship hall.

