



January 7, 2024 - Festival of The Epiphany

As We Gather

Epiphany, sometimes called the Gentiles' Christmas, recognizes the coming of the Magi, or Wise Men, to Bethlehem, where they found the Christ Child, Jesus, and worshiped Him as King. Their visit may have come six months to two years after the birth of Jesus and is recognized on the church calendar on January 6. Since we did not have a service yesterday, we are observing the Festival of Epiphany in today's service. We rejoice and give thanks to God that Christ came as the Light of the World and as the Savior for people of all nations.

Welcome

Opening Hymn: "What Star Is This" (Melody LSB 344)

**What star is this, with beams so bright, More beautiful than the noonday light?
It shines to herald forth the King And Gentiles to His crib to bring.**

**The guiding star above is bright; Within them shines a clearer light
And leads them on with pow'r benign To seek the Giver of the sign.**

**O Jesus, while the star of grace Impels on us to seek Thy face,
Let not our slothful hearts refuse The guidance of Thy light to use.**

(Charles Coffin (1676---1749); trans. Edward Thring (1821---87), alt. Public domain.)

Invocation

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES

Pastor: Arise, shine, for your light has come!

People: **Jesus Christ is the Light of the world.**

Pastor: All the nations shall come to the light of Christ.

People: **Kings shall bring Him gifts.**

Pastor: For Christ reveals the mystery hidden through the ages,

People: **That all nations are partakers of the promise in Jesus Christ.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Through the Gospel, all people are fellow heirs of salvation and members of the same Body. Yet there have been times when we have failed to live in unity, when we have failed to treat our brothers and sisters in Christ with respect and honor. Our heavenly Father invites us to return to Him and ask for His forgiveness.

(Moment of silence for personal reflection and confession.)

All: Heavenly Father, we confess that we have not loved You with our whole heart. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have at times created division and discord. We have at times been hesitant to share the light of Christ with others. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us with the light of Christ, that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways. Amen.

Pastor: Almighty God in His mercy sent His Son, Jesus, into our world to shine as a light for all people, including each of you. Jesus has died for your sins and is risen for your righteousness. Therefore, as a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen. We are partakers of the promise. We are forgiven in Christ.

Prayer of the Day

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray.

Almighty God, Your saving purpose was hidden in mystery through the ages and revealed in Your Son, Jesus Christ. As the Magi were brought into the light of His presence by the leading of a star, so bring us now into the light of Your presence by Your Word that we may know Your Son as Savior and Lord and make Him known to those still captive to the darkness of unbelief; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

Old Testament Reading – Isaiah 60:1-6 *(Isaiah writes about the future glory of Israel which is ultimately fulfilled with the coming of the Messiah.)*

Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. ² For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you. ³ And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising. ⁴ Lift up your eyes all around, and see; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from afar, and your daughters shall be carried on the hip. ⁵ Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and exult, because the abundance of the sea shall be turned to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. ⁶ 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 bring good news, the praises of the Lord.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God

Epistle Reading – Ephesians 3:1-12 *(Paul assures us that Gentiles are included in God's plan.)*

For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles— ² Surely you have heard about the administration of God's grace that was given to me for you, ³ that is, the mystery made known to me by revelation, as I have already written briefly. ⁴ In reading this, then, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, ⁵ which was not made known to people in other generations as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to God's holy apostles and prophets. ⁶ 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. ⁷ I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God's grace given me through the working of his power. ⁸ Although I am less than the least of all the Lord's people, this grace was given me: to preach to the Gentiles the boundless riches of Christ, ⁹ and to make plain to everyone the administration of this mystery, which for ages past was kept hidden in God, who created all things. ¹⁰ 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, ¹¹ according to his eternal purpose that he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. ¹² In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God**

Gospel Reading – Matthew 2:1-12 (Matthew's account of the visit of the Wise Men.)

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem ² and asked, "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." ³ When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. ⁴ When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵ "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written: ⁶ "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 shepherd my people Israel." ⁷ Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. ⁸ He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him." ⁹ After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. ¹¹ 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, frankincense and myrrh. ¹² And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

Hymn: LSB 397 "As With Gladness Men of Old"

Sermon: Matthew 2:1-12 "Truths Revealed Through the Wise Men"

Nicene Creed:

All: 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.

Installation of Officers and Ministry Team Members (Elected and Appointed)

Hymn: LSB 869 "With The Lord Begin Your Task" vs. 1, 2, & 3

Offerings

Prayers

The Communion Liturgy

Pastor: The Lord's Supper is God's gift for Christians who are properly taught. In communion, we want people to receive Christ's body and blood for their good. This means that as you come to the Lord's Table you affirm with each communicant that Jesus is your Savior and Lord; and with Lutheran Christians you confess:

All: I recognize and confess that I am a sinner. I repent of my sins and ask God's forgiveness. I believe Jesus Christ is my only Lord and Savior from sin, Satan, and death. I believe that the risen Christ is really present in the Sacrament and, that under the form of bread and wine, I receive His true body and blood for the forgiveness of my sin and the strengthening of my faith and life. (Augsburg Confession-Article X)

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

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

People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Pastor: 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, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; for what had been hidden from before the foundation of the world You have made known to the nations in Your Son. As You by a star once guided Wise Men from the East, You now guide Your sons and daughters from every corner of the earth to come to Him who is the Light of the world. Therefore, with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus: Holy, Holy, Holy (Music in hymnal LSB page 161)

All: Holy, holy, holy Lord God of power and might: Heaven and earth are full of Your glory. Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Pastor: Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. The mystery that once was hidden for ages has now been revealed in the Gospel that has been proclaimed to people of all nations. By the death and resurrection of Your Son, You draw sinners

unto You and fill them with Your presence and peace. Grant that we who here receive Christ's body and blood may marvel at His mercy and forever rejoice in the brightness of His glory. Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

Lord's Prayer

All: 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.

Words of Institution

Greeting of Peace

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: Amen.

Agnus Dei (Music in the hymnal LSB page 163)

All: Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

Communion Distribution: LSB 628 "Your Table I Approach"
LSB 537 " Beautiful Savior"

Thank the Lord (Music in hymnal LSB page 164)

All: Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell everyone what He has done. Let all who seek the Lord rejoice and proudly bear His name. He recalls His promises and leads His people forth in joy with shouts of thanksgivings. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Post Communion Prayer

Pastor: We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have made Your Son known to the nations and to us. Having received Your forgiveness, strengthen us to reflect the light of Christ in our lives to people in this community; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

Benediction

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face to shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

People: Amen.

Closing Hymn: "We Three Kings"

**We three kings of Orient are Bearing gifts we traverse afar.
Field and fountain, moor and mountain, Following yonder star.**

Refrain:

***O star of wonder, star of night, Star of royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding, Guide us to Thy perfect light.***

Born a king on Bethlehem's plain, Gold I bring to crown Him again,
King forever, ceasing never Over us all to reign. *Refrain*

Glorious now behold Him arise, King and God and Sacrifice.
Alleluia, alleluia! Sounds through the earth and skies. *Refrain*



ANNOUNCEMENTS for Week of January 7, 2023

Grace Lutheran Church 1120 S. Park Ave. Aurora, MO
Church: 417-678-3603 Pastor Ken Lampe Cell: 417-366-3597
pastor@gracelutheranaurora.com

Family for the Week: James Sharp & Brett Arrasmith Families
Trinity, Freistatt - Rev. Jake Sletten

Prayers of Peace and Comfort:
For Brad & Kari Boettler – (on the passing of their son this week)

Prayers of Thanks:

Prayers for Health and Healing:
Norma Kaiser – (Friend of Gwen & Harold Lampe – health and healing from a stroke);
Jill Bode – (Nice of Rachel Sanford – health and healing from cancer)
Alice Troyke – (health and healing from a fall)

Complete Prayer List:

Joyce Ellyne – (friend of Cathy Munden– health and healing)
Babara Wilson – (friend of Pam Bowling – health and healing)
Rick Bauer – (Gladys Bauer's son – health and healing)
Glenna Edmondson – (Sue Doss' aunt - health and healing)
Cheryl Trinett – (Ardella Frerichs' daughter - health and healing)
Jackie Clark – (Micki Gettman's friend – healing from a broken hip)
Betty Gordon – (health and healing)
Greg Davis – (friend of Pam Bowling – health and healing from cancer)
Linda Kennell – (Pastor Kennell's mother – health and healing)
Bob & Bev Hess – (health and healing from a fall)
Paul Gripka - (friend of Cathy Munden – health and healing from back surgery)
Kathy Brown – (friend of Kathy Holle - health and healing)
Ed Graham – (Niece's husband of Ruth Stoddard health and healing)
Larry Moennig – (friend of Harold Lampe – health and healing)
Pat Michel – (Bill Michel's Sister-In-Law – health and healing)
Jennifer Lampe – (health and healing from broken ankle)
Gary Gardner – (health and healing)
Pastor Gary Griffin – (health and healing from cancer)
Thomas Williams – (Ruth Stoddard's friend – health and healing)
Larry Swart – (friend of Bill Munden – health and healing)
Janet Fisher – (daughter of Bill & Joanne Michel – health and healing from cancer)
Mike Wilson – (friend of Jodi Wright – health and healing from cancer)
Dean Hadley – (health and healing)
Kooper Tutten – (Jeeper Meyer's Great-grandson - health and healing)

Don Munden – (Bill Munden’s brother – health and healing from cancer)
Sheryl Holle – (Kathy Holle’s cousin – health and healing from cancer)
Tessie Holle – (Kathy Holle’s cousin – health and healing from cancer)
Steve Doss – (friend of Harold Lampe – health and healing)
Jeff Flatten – (great Nephew of Kathy Holle – health and healing)
Dorothea Dennis – (health and healing & peace and comfort)
Danata Hopkins – (continued health and healing)
Marge Woods – (friend of Harold Lampe – health and healing)
Pete Doss – (friend of Harold Lampe – health and healing)
Ellie Armstrong – (friend of David Lampe – health and healing)
Margaret Seburn - (cousin of Joanne Michel - health and healing)
Randy Wallace – (brother-in-law of Micki Gettman – health and healing)
Diana Bauer – (daughter-in-law of Gladys Bauer - health and healing)
Jami Bauer – (relative of Gladys Bauer - peace and comfort)
Vicki Heppard – (relative of Gladys Bauer - health and healing from cancer)
Bob & Barbara Steinberg - (health and healing)
Ruth Stoddard – (health and healing)

THIS WEEK

Sunday	January 7th	9:00 am - Happy Half Hour 9:30 am - Helping Hands 9:30 am - Fellowship 10:00 am - Service with Communion Pot Luck – following service
Monday	January 8th	Braille in Freistatt - 9:00 am Braille in Freistatt - 1:00 pm LWML in Freistatt - 1:30 pm
Wednesday	January 10th	Pastor in Office Bible Study – 7:00 pm
Thursday	January 11th	Pastor in Office
Sunday	January 14th	9:00 am - Happy Half Hour 9:30 am - Fellowship 10:00 am – Service

Birthdays: None

Anniversaries: Joe & Debbi Lynn-January 8th

January 7th: Join us today after services (January 7th) for a great pot luck meal.

Pastor Ken: I want to thank the congregation for the generous Christmas gift. It is a joy and privilege to serve as pastor for Grace. I pray that God will bless each of you and that He will guide our congregation in 2024 as we together seek to serve the people of this community and to call a fulltime pastor.

Lutheran Witness: If anyone who is not currently receiving the Lutheran Witness would like to

receive it, please sign up by January 21. The signup sheet is below the mail boxes. Thank you.

2024 Calendars: Calendars are out for members that have not already gotten one. Also, pastor encourages members to take extra calendars and pass out to friends and neighbors.

Offering Envelopes for 2024 are available in the Narthex. Beginning January 7, 2024, please use the new envelopes as all giving numbers have changed.

Portals of Prayer – now available beneath the church mail boxes.

LWML: Come and start the New Year with us. LWML will meet January 8, 2024, at 1:30 pm. in Trinity Chapel at Freistatt. Our program will be presented by Skylar (Thompson) Myers, MSW. Skylar works at CASA (Court Appointed Supervised Advocate), as an advocate supervisor. Please join us for a great opportunity to learn. The program will be followed by a business meeting.



January

GREETERS:

7: Charlie & Edee Chambers
14: Stan & Sharon Crandall
21: Bill & Joanne Michel
28: Bill & Diane Thompson

USHERS:

7: Don Wolf
14: David Lampe
21: Harold Lampe
28: Charlie Chambers