



The Epiphany of Our Lord
January 3, 2021



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Introduction

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.

Welcome to Worship

Call to Worship

P Arise! Shine! The light you have been waiting for is here!
Darkness has been banished!
God's light of hope floods the earth and comes to us all.
Lord, make us ready to journey to this Light.
Prepare our hearts to receive this Light.

All Amen.

Confession and Forgiveness

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God,
who was in the beginning,
who makes a dwelling among us,
who covers us with justice and mercy.

All Amen.

P Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection

God of goodness and lovingkindness,

***All* we confess that we have sinned against you and our neighbors.**

We have turned away from your invitation to new life.

We have turned away from the lowly and downtrodden.

In your abundant mercy, forgive us our sins,

those we know and those known only to you,

for the sake of the one who came to live among us,

Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

P Hear the good news of peace and salvation!

God forgives us all our sins,

not through our own work,

but through ✝ Jesus Christ, made known to all people.

With all who come to the manger,

rejoice in this amazing gift of grace.

***All* Amen.**

Opening Song

Joyous Light of Heav'nly Glory

Verse 1

Joyous light of heav'nly glory, loving glow of God's own face,
you who sing creation's story, shine on ev'ry land and race.

Now as morning dawns around us, we shall raise our songs to you.

God of daybreak, God of shadows, come and light our hearts anew.

Verse 3

You who made the heaven's splendor, ev'ry dancing star of night,
make us shine with gentle justice, let us each reflect your light.

Mighty God of all creation, gentle Christ who lights our way,
loving Spirit of salvation, lead us on to endless day.

Text: Greek hymn, 3rd cent., para. Marty Haugen, b. 1950

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The Greeting

P The Lord be with you!

All And also with you!

Prayer of the Day

P 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.

All Amen.

A Reading from Isaiah, the 60th chapter

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.

¹ Arise, shine; for your light has come,
and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.

² 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.

³ Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

⁴Lift 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.

⁵Then 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.

⁶A 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.

Isaiah 60:1-6

L The word of the Lord

All Thanks be to God!

A Reading from Ephesians, the 3rd chapter

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.

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

⁷Of 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. ⁸Although 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, ⁹and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; ¹⁰so 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. ¹¹This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, ¹²in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

Ephesians 3:1-12

L The word of the Lord

All Thanks be to God!

Gospel Reading

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

All Glory to you, O Lord.

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.

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

⁶'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.' "

⁷Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸Then 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." ⁹When 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. ¹⁰When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy.

¹¹On 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. ¹²And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Matthew 2:1-12

P The Gospel of our Lord.

All Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Pr. Debra Jimenez

Apostles' Creed

P Let us join together with the saints across the ages confessing our faith with the words of the 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

L Joining our voices with the song of the angels, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

(each prayer petition ends with)

L: Hear us, O God. *All:* **Your mercy is great.**

Or

L: Lord, in your mercy, *All:* **hear our prayer.**

The Great Thanksgiving and Words of Institution

P The Lord be with you

All And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

All We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All It is right to give God thanks and praise.

P Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth, 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. In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh you have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vision of your glory; that, beholding the God made visible, we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see.

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.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup,
We proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

All Amen! Come Lord Jesus!

The Lord's Prayer

P Make us bold, O merciful God, to address you as our Abba as we pray:

**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.**

The Invitation and The Meal

P The Word is revealed in a manger, in simple bread and wine.
Come meet Christ in this meal.

Sharing the Meal

Post Communion Blessing and Prayer

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

All Amen

P Let us pray,

We give you thanks, gracious God,
that you have once again fed us from your very self
with the body and blood of Christ.

Through this mystery, send us forth
to proclaim your promise to a world in need,
through the same Jesus Christ, our Savior.

All Amen.

Stewardship of Life & Ministry Announcements

Benediction

P Almighty God, who sent the Holy Spirit to Mary,
proclaimed joy through the angels,
sent the shepherds with good news,
and led the magi by a star,
bless you this day ✝ through the Word made flesh.

All Amen.

Sending Song

Love Has Come

Verse 1

Love has come—a light in the darkness!
Love shines forth in the Bethlehem skies.
See, all heaven has come to proclaim it;
hear how their song of joy arises:
Love! Love! Born unto you, a Savior!
Love! Love! Glory to God on high.

Verse 2

Love is born! Come, share in the wonder.
Love is God now asleep in the hay.
See the glow in the eyes of his mother;
what is the name her heart is saying?
Love! Love! Love is the name she whispers;
Love! Love! Jesus, Immanuel.

Type: Music; First Line: Love has come--a light in the darkness

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Dismissal

P Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus.

All Thanks be to God.

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Readings for next Sunday,
January 10th

First Reading:

Genesis 1:1-5

Psalm:

Psalm 29

Second Reading:

Acts 19:1-7

Gospel:

Mark 1:4-11

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