

# The Epiphany of Our Lord

January 6, 2025

6:30 p.m.

## AS WE GATHER

Have you ever received a surprise present, one that was out of your own price range to get? That, in a nutshell, describes Epiphany. The Wise Men came to give presents, and instead received one their wealth could not have bought. We are included in this. We are baptized for the forgiveness of sins by His blood on the cross that covers our sins, once for all. That water and blood give us the greatest—and most expensive—gift in the world. Here we see Jesus revealed, manifested, in a star, in the coming of the Magi and the gifts they bring.

## PRELUDE

Partita on “Jesus Has Come”

setting by John Behnke

*The congregation turns and faces the cross as the procession approaches the altar reminding us that Christ leads us into the presence of God.*

✘ PREPARATION ✘

*Please stand*

**ENTRANCE HYMN**

**397** As with Gladness Men of Old

**INVOCATION**

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

**People:** **Amen.**

**CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

*Based on Isaiah 60:1–6*

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

**People:** **and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.**

*We take a moment for silent prayer and meditation upon God's Word.*

**Pastor:** Almighty God, thick darkness covers the whole earth, and the darkness of sin is on us, Your people.

**People:** **We confess that we have often walked in darkness instead of Your light. In our thoughts, words, and actions, we have turned away from Your face and have broken Your commands.**

**Pastor:** You alone, O Lord, invite all nations to come to Your light. You beckon those who are broken to find wholeness in the brightness of Your rising.

**People:** **Guide us again to the mercy of our Savior Jesus Christ, that He may dispel the darkness of our sin and renew us in the light of Your presence. Amen.**

**Pastor:** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People:** **Amen.**

## HYMN OF PRAISE

533 Jesus Has Come and Brings Pleasure

- 1 **Jesus has come and brings pleasure eternal,  
Alpha, Omega, Beginning and End;  
Godhead, humanity, union supernal,  
O great Redeemer, You come as our friend!  
Heaven and earth, now proclaim this great wonder:  
Jesus has come and brings pleasure eternal!**
  
- 4 **Jesus has come as the King of all glory!  
Heaven and earth, O declare His great pow'r,  
Capturing hearts with the heavenly story;  
Welcome Him now in this fast-fleeting hour!  
Ponder His love! Take the crown He has for you!  
Jesus has come! He, the King of all glory!**

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## PRAYER OF THE DAY

**Pastor:** The Lord be with you.

**People:** And also with you.

**Pastor:** Let us pray.

**People:** O God, by the leading of a star You made known 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 the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

## ✘ WORD ✘

### OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 60:1–6

*(The Lord promises to visit His people as light, attracting other nations to His glory.)*

<sup>1</sup> "Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD rises upon you. <sup>2</sup> See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples, but the LORD rises upon you and his glory appears over you. <sup>3</sup> Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

<sup>4</sup> "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. <sup>5</sup> Then you will look and be radiant, your heart will throb and swell with joy; the wealth on the seas will be brought to you, to you the riches of the nations will come. <sup>6</sup> Herds of camels will cover your land, young camels of Midian and Ephah. And all from Sheba will come, bearing gold and incense and proclaiming the praise of the LORD.

**Pastor:** This is the Word of the Lord.

**People:** **Thanks be to God.**

### EPISTLE

Ephesians 3:1–12

*(Paul rejoices in his calling to preach to the Gentiles.)*

<sup>1</sup> For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles—

<sup>2</sup> Surely you have heard about the administration of God's grace that was given to me for you, <sup>3</sup> that is, the mystery made known to me by revelation, as I have already written briefly. <sup>4</sup> In reading this, then, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, <sup>5</sup> 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. <sup>6</sup> 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.

<sup>7</sup> I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God's grace given me through the working of his power. <sup>8</sup> 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, <sup>9</sup> and to make plain to everyone the administration of this mystery, which for ages past was kept hidden in God, who created all things. <sup>10</sup> 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, <sup>11</sup> according to his eternal purpose which he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. <sup>12</sup> 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.**

## ANTHEM

“We Three Kings”

arranged by John Leavitt

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

*Refrain:*

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

*Born a King on Bethlehem's plain,  
Gifts we 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,  
Earth to heav'n replies. (refrain)*

*Please stand*

**Pastor:** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the second chapter.

**People:** **Glory to You, O Lord.**

## **HOLY GOSPEL**

Matthew 2:1–12

*(The Magi are examples for our lives of faith.)*

<sup>1</sup> After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem <sup>2</sup> and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him."

<sup>3</sup> When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. <sup>4</sup> 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. <sup>5</sup> "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written:

<sup>6</sup> "'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.'"

<sup>7</sup> Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup> 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."

<sup>9</sup> 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. <sup>10</sup> When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. <sup>11</sup> 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. <sup>12</sup> 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

400     Brightest and Best of the Stars of the Morning

## PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

*Please stand*

### NICENE CREED

**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.**

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Creator of Light, we praise You during these darkest weeks of the year that You do not leave us in spiritual darkness. When you spoke the word at creation, there was light. When Your people wandered in the valleys of deep spiritual darkness, You sent Your Son Jesus as the Light of the world.

**People: Let the Light of Your grace shine upon Your people, O Lord.**

Pastor: Beautiful Savior, Lord of the Nations, You were not afraid to enter the darkness of our world, sharing the plight of Your people and the temptations that plague us all. You willingly endured the darkness of the cross so that we might be forgiven of our sins and live in the light of Your resurrection.

**People: Let the Light of Your grace shine upon Your people, O Lord.**

Pastor: Holy Spirit, You enlighten us with Your gifts. We ask Your blessing upon our congregation. We ask You to guide our congregation to many with whom we can share the light of the Gospel. And we ask that You empower us to share Your Word and love at home, at work, and in our neighborhoods.

**People: Let the Light of Your grace shine upon Your people, O Lord.**

Pastor: Lord God Almighty, give Your healing grace to the sick, the suffering, the dying, and those who mourn.

**People: Let the light of Your grace shine upon Your people, O Lord.**

Pastor: Holy Trinity, source of all light, You give us more than we desire or deserve.

**People: Provide us with what we need, for You live and rule as the source of our life – Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

## OFFERING

“March of the Kings”

setting by Kenneth Kosche



## ✠ SACRAMENT ✠

*In the Lord's Supper we receive Christ's body and blood in and with the bread and wine. The two great blessings of the Lord's Supper are the forgiveness of sins and strength to live an improved Christian life. In response to the Lord's command we are to examine ourselves privately prior to partaking of the Sacrament. There are three basic questions on which we should examine ourselves, all of which we should be able to answer in the affirmative if we are to partake of the Sacrament worthily: 1) Am I truly sorry for my sins? 2) Do I believe Jesus Christ is my Savior? 3) Do I promise with God's help to live a Christian life? If you agree with the above statement, we invite you to the Sacrament.*

### **PREFACE**

**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:** Lord God, we praise and thank You for the mercy You share with us in the gift of Jesus Christ. Through His Word and Baptism He brought us salvation, and through this Holy Meal He gives us the gift of Himself – His true body and blood in, with, and under the bread and wine. In His Sacraments there is forgiveness of sins; so also there is life and salvation. We come joyfully to the light of Jesus Christ who has come to us today. Lord, remember us in Your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

## LORD'S PRAYER

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

Pastor: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: Take, eat; this is my body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of me.

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: Drink of it, all of you; this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

## PEACE OF THE LORD

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

**People: And also with you.**

*If you wish to take communion in the pew, please raise your hand when the communion assistant comes down the aisle.*

*When the wine is distributed, individual glasses will be offered first, then the common cup. Communicants may take whichever is preferred. If taking the individual glass, please keep the glass visible so that the communion assistant with the common cup will know who has already communed.*

*Non-alcoholic wine is available in the center of the communion tray for those who have a sensitivity to the alcohol in wine.*

## DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

403 O Savior of Our Fallen Race

395 O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright

### SILENT PRAYER

*You may pray the following prayer as we give thanks to God for His good gifts:*

*Almighty and everlasting God, I thank and praise You for feeding me the life-giving body and blood of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ. Send Your Holy Spirit that, having with my mouth received the holy Sacrament, I may by faith obtain and eternally enjoy Your divine grace, the forgiveness of sins, unity with Christ, and life eternal; through Jesus Christ, my Lord. Amen*

*Please stand*

### PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament. Trusting in Your gracious forgiveness, we pray that we see You accompanying us each day, follow where You lead, and give You praise and worship in all that we do and say; 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 shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

People: Amen.

*Please turn towards the cross as it is carried out of the church, and remain facing it until the hymn is completed. This symbolizes our following Christ into the world as we leave.*

## **RECESSIONAL HYMN**

**411** I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

## **POSTLUDE**

*“O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright”*

setting by J. Pachelbel

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## **Serving at Chapel**

Preacher: Ellory Glenn

Liturgist: Theodore Laesch

Choir: Choral Singers

Organist & Accompanist: Ryan Meyer