

The Theme of Today's Liturgy

Today's liturgy announces that "the Lord, the Ruler has come! And the glory of the Lord is risen upon you" (*Introit; Gradual; Old Testament*). No longer, then, do you need to wonder or fear if the Lord's coming is good for you. For to you "this grace is given" (*Epistle*). Yet how can you know this? By the star, which is the Holy Spirit leading the Magi to the Christ Child so they might come and worship Him (*Gospel*). And just as they were led by the star, our prayer is that we also may know the Lord Jesus by faith so that, after this life, we may also know the fullness of His glorious Godhead (*Collect*).

Introit

Psalm 72:1-2, 10-11; antiphon: Liturgical text



- P** Behold, the Lord, the Ruler has come, *
and the kingdom and the power and the glory are | in His hand.
- P** Give the king Your justice, | O God, *
and Your righteousness to the | royal Son!
- G** May He judge Your people with | righteousness, *
and Your poor with | justice!
- P** May the kings of Tarshish and of the coastlands render Him | tribute; *
may the kings of Sheba and Seba | bring gifts!
- G** May all kings fall down be- | fore Him, *
all nations | serve Him!
- Glory be to the Father and | to the Son *
and to the Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be- | ginning, *
Is now, and will be forever. | Amen.
- P** Behold, the Lord, the Ruler has come, *
and the kingdom and the power and the glory are | in His hand.

Collect of the Day

O God, who by the leading of a star made known to all nations Your only-begotten Son, mercifully grant that we who know You now by faith may after this life know the fullness of Your glorious Godhead; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, Our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 60:1-6

Thus says the LORD God: Arise, shine; for your light has come! And the glory of the LORD is risen upon you. For behold, the darkness shall cover

the earth, and deep darkness the people; but the LORD will arise over you, and His glory will be seen upon you. The Gentiles shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising. 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 nursed at your side. Then you shall see and become radiant, and your heart shall swell with joy; because the abundance of the sea shall be turned to you, the wealth of the Gentiles shall come to you. The multitude of camels shall cover your land, the dromedaries of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come; they shall bring gold and incense, and they shall proclaim the praises of the LORD.

- P** This is the Word of the Lord.
G Thanks be to God.

Gradual

Isaiah 60:6b, 1

- P** Those from She- | ba shall come. *
They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall bring good news,
the praises | of the Lord.
- G** Arise, shine, for your | Light has come, *
and the glory of the Lord has risen up- | on you.

Epistle Reading

Ephesians 3:2-12

Brethren: You have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which was given to me for you, how that by revelation He made known to me the mystery (as I have briefly written already, by which, when you read, you may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ), which in other ages was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to His holy apostles and prophets: that the Gentiles should be fellow heirs, of the same body, and partakers of His promise in Christ through the gospel, of which I became a minister according to the gift of the grace of God given to me by the effective working of His power. To me, who am less than the least of all the saints, this grace was given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, and to make all see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the ages has been hidden in God who created all things through Jesus Christ; to the intent that now the manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the church to the principalities and powers in the heavenly places, according to the eternal purpose which He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through faith in Him.

- P** This is the Word of the Lord.
G Thanks be to God.

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↑ - Please stand • ↓ - Please sit

Welcome to Epiphany Lutheran Church!

Here is where Jesus answers His promise to be with us always, by coming to us in His living and active Word and the Blessed Sacrament of His Body and Blood.

Parents of Small Children:

We are very happy that you are here today, honoring Our Lord's Words: "Let the little children come to Me and do not hinder them, for the Kingdom of God belongs to such as these" (Lk. 18:16). If you feel you must step out with a fussy child, please hurry back! Like Jesus, we want your children in the Divine Service, not out.

Visitors:

Please introduce yourself to Pastor Beffrey and the congregation! We hope you'll come back to Founders Hall after the service to share a cup of coffee and snack with us.

Who may Commune at Epiphany?

The Sacrament of the Altar is offered at Epiphany every Lord's Day and every Wednesday evening. The normal communicant is a confirmed member of a congregation of The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod (LCMS). Under no circumstances should an unbaptized person commune. If you are not a member of an LCMS congregation, or have not communed at Epiphany before, please speak with the Pastor or an Elder before the service begins.

Holy Gospel Reading

Matthew 2:1-12

- ☐ The Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew, second chapter.
- ☐ (🎵) **Glory to You, O Lord.**

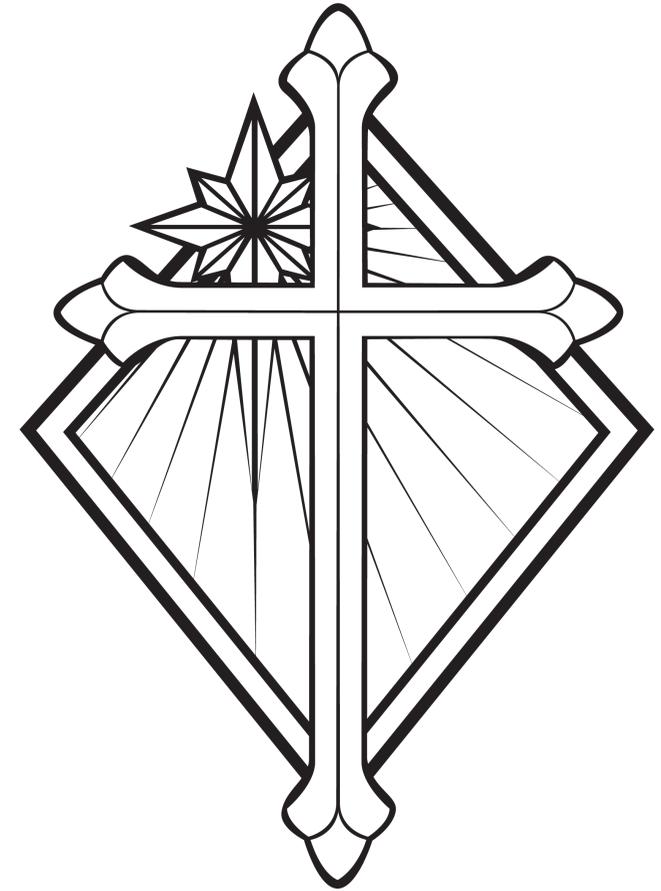
After Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, saying, "Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him." When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. So they said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it is written by the prophet: 'But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are not the least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you shall come a Ruler who will shepherd My people Israel.' " Then Herod, when he had secretly called the wise men, determined from them what time the star appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the young Child, and when you have found Him, bring back word to me, that I may come and worship Him also." When they heard the king, they departed; and behold, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came and stood over where the young Child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy. And when they had come into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary His mother, and fell down and worshiped Him. And when they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Then, being divinely warned in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed for their own country another way.

- ☐ This is the Gospel of the Lord.
- ☐ (🎵) **Praise to You, O Christ.**

After the Gospel, the moveable days connected to the Easter celebration are announced. This historic practice of the Church bridges her primary Feasts. Having celebrated the birth of Christ, we now set our focus on our annual celebration of His crucifixion and resurrection. This announcement leads us through the key moments of salvation history on the day Christ is revealed to all nations. His saving work is not only for the Jews but is for the whole world.

The Epiphany of Our Lord

✠ Friday 6 January Anno ✠ Domini 2023 ✠



The darkness is passing away and the true Light is already shining.

—1 John 2:8

Epiphany Lutheran Church

A congregation of the English District,
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