



"As the star led them bodily to Christ, and they followed it in the body, so the gospel spiritually guides the hearts of men in this world, and believing hearts see it and follow it with joy until they come to Christ."

Martin Luther

Christ Our Redeemer Lutheran Church

Epiphany – January 8, 2017
Pastor Mark Voss

PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP: Father in heaven, I thank you for revealing your Son to me and all believers on the pages of sacred Scripture. Through him you have led me to see my forgiveness, brought peace to my heart, and given me a reason to live a life of joy and praise. As one who has seen the light, lead me to worship you with an undivided heart and guide me to put the lessons I learn today into my daily life. I pray not only for myself, but also for all who are gathered with me today. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

INVOCATION, PRAYER AND PRAISE

P: In the name of the Father, who is the "Father of the heavenly lights," and of the Son, who is the "Light of the world," and of the Holy Spirit, who reveals that light to us through the gospel.

The peo - ple that in dark - ness sat A glo - rious light have
 To us a child of hope is born, To us a son is
 seen; The light has shone on them who long In
 giv'n, And on his should - ers ev - er rests All
 shades of death have been, In shades of death have been.
 pow'r in earth and heav'n, All pow'r in earth and heav'n.

CW 90 Text, Tune, Setting: public domain.

P: Arise! Shine! Your light has come and the glory of the Lord rises upon you.

C: The darkness of sin surrounds the earth. Nations upon nations are turning away from the Lord.

P: But you are honored to live in the Light of the Lord.

C: His glory and grace are shining on us.

P: The Lord is present.

C: Look! We are standing on holy ground!

P: Let us reflect the light of God's love

C: so that others may live in his light!

RESPONSE (Sung)

**His name shall be the Prince of Peace, The Everlasting Lord,
 The Wonderful, the Counselor,
 The God by all adored, The God by all adored.**

**His righteous government and pow'r Shall over all extend;
 On judgment and on justice based,
 His reign shall have no end, His reign shall have no end.**

CONFESSION OF SINS

P: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

C: Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.

P: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

C: Amen.

SING:

**Lord Jesus, reign in us, we pray, And make us yours alone,
For you are with the Father and
The Spirit ever one, The Spirit ever one.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

P: Lord God, by the leading of a star you once made known to the nations your one and only Son. Guide us, also, who know him now by faith, to come at last to the perfect joy of your heavenly glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Epiphany Lessons

Jesus appears as the Savior of nations

Isaiah 60:1-6 *The Glory of the Lord* "Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD rises upon you. See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples, but the LORD rises upon you and his glory appears over you. Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. "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. 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. 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.

Psalm of the Day – Psalm 72 on page 93 in the front of Christian Worship

Ephesians 3:2-12 *The mystery is made known*

Surely you have heard about the administration of God's grace that was given to me for you, that is, the mystery made known to me by revelation, as I have already written briefly. In reading this, then, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, 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. 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. I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God's grace given me through the working of his power.

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, and to make plain to everyone the administration of this mystery, which for ages past was kept hidden in God, who created all things. 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, according to his eternal purpose which he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence.

VERSE OF THE DAY

We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him. Alleluia.

APOSTLE'S CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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 into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

SERMON HYMN – “*Arise and Shine in Splendor*”

Arise and shine in splendor; Let night to day surrender.

**Your light is drawing near. Above, the day is beaming,
In matchless beauty gleaming; The glory of the Lord is here.**

**See earth in darkness lying, The heathen nations dying
In hopeless gloom and night. To you the Lord of heaven --
Your life, your hope -- has given Great glory, honor, and delight.**

**Lift up your eyes in wonder -- See, nations gather yonder
From sin to be set free. The world has heard your story;
Your sons come to your glory, And daughters haste your light to see.**

**Your heart will leap for gladness When from the realms of sadness
They come from near and far. Your eyes will wake from slumber
As people without number Rejoice to see the Morning Star.**

SERMON – Matthew 2:1-12

Jesus is the Star

¹After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem

²and 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."

³When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him.

⁴When 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.

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 be the shepherd of my people Israel.' "

⁷Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared.

⁸He 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."

⁹After 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.

¹⁰When they saw the star, they were overjoyed.

¹¹On 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.

¹²And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

OFFERING AND SIGNING OF FRIENDSHIP REGISTER

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH FOR EPIPHANY

P: Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God and Mary's son, in the fullness of time you came into our world to save us from sin and death:

C: You ushered in the day of grace so long foretold.

P: Beloved Son of the Father, revered by the Magi, baptized by John, you came preaching and teaching, healing and comforting, forgiving and encouraging:

C: You brought the light of life to those walking in darkness, and the joy of salvation to those doomed to death.

P: Prince of Peace, shine like a beacon for us and the people of our world. Let the good news of salvation be heard in the remotest corners of the earth. Open our

own lips to speak your name to those around us who still live without faith or hope:

C: Arouse us and our missionaries to flood the world with the light of your gospel.

P: Lord of the Church, let your peace rule our hearts that we may use our gifts to serve you and each other in willing gratitude and joy. Watch over our loved ones near and far, that they may remember your love and rejoice in your salvation. Strengthen the faith of the sick and the disheartened. Give hope to those in despair and comfort those who mourn:

C: Be gracious to all and lead us to reflect your love in everything we say and do.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow

P: Hear us Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer.

P: Finally, bring us and all your believers to the heavenly home where we will stand in the full light of your glory and with all your saints and angels sing the everlasting song of triumph.

C: Amen.

HYMN OF THE DAY

"We Three Kings of Orient Are"



We three kings of O - ri - ent are, bear - ing gifts we tra - verse a - far.
Born a King on Beth - le - hem's plain; Gold I bring to crown Him a - gain,
Frank - in - cense to of - fer have I; In - cense owns a De - i - ty nigh;
Myrrh is mine, its bit - ter per - fume Breathes a life of gath - er - ing gloom
Glo - rious now be - hold Him a - rise; King and God and Sac - ri - fice;



Field and foun - tain, moor and moun - tain, Fol - low - ing yon - der star.
King for - ev - er, ceas - ing nev - er, Ov - er us all to reign.
Prayer and prais - ing, all men rais - ing. Wor - ship - ing God on high
Sor - r'wing, sigh - ing, bleed - ing, dy - ing, Sealed in the stone - cold tomb.
Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Sounds through the earth and skies.



O, Star of won - der, Star of night, Star with roy - al beau - ty bright, West - ward



lead - ing, still pro - ceed - ing, Guide us to thy per - fect light.

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CHILDREN'S LESSON

LORD'S PRAYER Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

BLESSING

CLOSING VERSES

Melody CW 21, Text adapted by Martin Luther
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The faith - ful Ma - gi saw from far,
All glo - ry un - to Je - sus be,

and fol - lowed on his guid - ing star;
and praise for his e - pi - pha - ny,

And led by light; to Light they pressed,
Whom with the Fa - ther we a - dore,

and by their gifts their God con - fessed.
and Ho - ly Spir - it ev - er - more.

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