

# The Festival of Epiphany

January 6, 2022

A Candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols

*The church is dimly lit. The congregation gathers in the entry*

## INTRODUCTION

M: This evening's service focuses on God's plan of revealing Jesus Christ as the Light of the world. The word *epiphany* means "manifestation" or "visible display" and refers to the "revealing" of Jesus as Savior, not only of the Jews but of all the peoples of the world. Since the middle of the fourth century the Church has celebrated the coming of the Magi (the Wise Men) as the culmination of the Christmas season.

The coming of the Magi to pay homage to Jesus is no mere interesting tale with a moral, rather the story speaks to the very essence of the gospel. We are "heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise of Jesus Christ" (Ephesians 3:6). No wonder that Epiphany in the early Church was a major celebration, second only to Easter. Through this church year festival, The Epiphany of Our Lord, the manifestation of God's salvation is made clear to all people.

This service involves a procession. A procession is an act of worship. Tonight the procession represents the journey of the Magi to Bethlehem. With the Magi we adore the newborn King and offer gifts to our King and Savior. The assisting minister and the presiding minister walk down the aisle with the Paschal Candle symbolizing Christ, the Light of the world, who brings light to us.

*Candles are lit from the Paschal candle. The congregation walks up each side aisle and stands for the responses until we proceed in during the hymn.*

## PROCESSIONAL

M: Light and peace to you, in Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

M: We do not preach ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ. (2 Corinthians 4:5,6).

M: Christ the true light has come into the world.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

M: All nations will stream to your light - all peoples to the brightness of your dawning.

Morrison Zion  
Evangelical  
Lutheran Church

Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran  
Synod



Our mission is to  
**Glorify God**  
as we  
**Gather**  
around the **Gospel**  
to help people  
**Grow**  
in the **Gospel**  
and  
**Go**  
with the **Gospel**

**Welcome!** We thank God that you have joined us at worship today.

Restrooms are located in the basement. Hearing loop headphones and Large Print Hymnals are available from an usher.

If your children need to leave worship, please take them to the basement. A TV broadcasts the service in the basement.

Today we gather together in the presence of God. He is present among us in a special way through his Word and Sacrament. We humbly acknowledge our sin and rejoice in the good news of forgiveness through the life and death of Christ. This is the focus of our worship.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

M: For you, O Christ, are the bright and morning star - the Holy One of Israel.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*The congregation proceeds from the side aisles to the back of the church and follows the Paschal Candle up the main aisle and then takes their seats*

**Hymn 93**

*Hail to the Lord's Anointed*



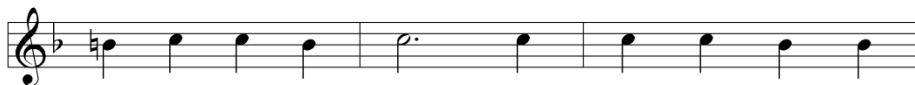
1 Hail to the Lord's A - noint - ed, Great Da - vid's great - er  
2 He comes with res - cue speed - y To those who suf - fer  
3 Kings shall bow down be - fore him And gold and in - cense  
4 O'er ev - 'ry foe vic - to - rious, He on his throne shall



Son! Hail, in the time ap - point - ed, His reign on  
wrong, To help the poor and need - y And bid the  
bring; All na - tions shall a - dore him; His praise all  
rest, From age to age more glo - rious, All bless - ing



earth be - gun! He comes to break op - pres - sion, To  
weak be strong, To give them songs for sigh - ing, Their  
peo - ple sing. To him shall prayer un - ceas - ing And  
and all - blest. The tide of time shall nev - er His



set the cap - tive free, To take a - way trans -  
dark - ness turn to light Whose souls, con - demned and  
dai - ly vows as - cend, His king - dom still in -  
cov - e - nant re - move; His name shall stand for -



gres - sion, And rule in eq - ui - ty.  
dy - ing, Are pre - cious in his sight.  
creas - ing, A king - dom with - out end.  
ev - er— That name to us is Love.

Text: James Montgomery, 1771–1854, abr., alt.

Tune: FREUT EUCH, IHR LIEBEN CHRISTEN (76 76 D) Leonhart Schröter, c. 1532–c. 1601.

## **Prayer of the Day**

M: 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.**

*Extinguish candles and be seated*

## **THE BIRTH OF CHRIST**

### **Luke 2:1-7**

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) And everyone went to his own town to register.

So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

M: Rejoice and be glad.

**C: Sing praise to the Savior, sing endless praise.**

M: For unto us a Child is born, to us a Son is given,

**C: and the government will be upon his shoulder,**

M: and his name will be called

**C: wonderful Counselor, mighty God, everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

M: Almighty and everliving God, you have given us a new revelation of your loving providence in the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ, born of the virgin Mary: Grant that as he shared our mortality, so may we share his eternity in the glory of your kingdom, where he lives and reigns for ever and ever.

**C: Amen.**

## Hymn 90

*The People that in Darkness Sat*



1 The peo - ple that in dark - ness sat A glo - rious  
2 To us a child of hope is born, To us a  
3 His name shall be the Prince of Peace, The Ev - er -  
4 His right - eous gov - ern - ment and pow'r Shall o - ver  
5 Lord Je - sus, reign in us, we pray, And make us



light have seen; The light has shone on them who long In  
son is giv'n, And on his shoul - ders ev - er rests All  
last - ing Lord, The Won - der - ful, the Coun - sel - or, The  
all ex - tend; On judg - ment and on jus - tice based, His  
yours a - lone, For you are with the Fa - ther and The



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.  
God by all a - dored, The God by all a - dored.  
reign shall have no end, His reign shall have no end.  
Spir - it ev - er one, The Spir - it ev - er one.

Text: John Morison, 1750–98, abr., alt.

Tune: LOBT GOTT, IHR CHRISTEN (86 866) Nikolaus Herman, c. 1480–1561.

## NARRATIVE OF LIGHT

### Isaiah 60:1-6,9

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.

Surely the islands look to me; in the lead are the ships of Tarshish, bringing your sons from afar, with their silver and gold, to the honor of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has endowed you with splendor.

M: Lord, now let your servant depart in peace, according to your word,

**C: for my eyes have seen your salvation**

M: which you have prepared before the face of all people;

**C: a Light to lighten the Gentiles, and the Glory of your people Israel.**

M: O God, who caused that holy night to shine with the illumination of the true Light, as we have known the mystery of that Light on earth, may we also perfectly know his splendor in heaven.

**C: Amen.**

**Hymn 81**

*Arise and Shine in Splendor*



1 A - rise and shine in splen - dor; Let night to day sur -  
2 See earth in dark - ness ly - ing, The hea - then na - tions  
3 Lift up your eyes in won - der— See, na - tions gath - er  
4 Your heart will leap for glad - ness When from the realms of



ren - der. Your light is draw - ing near. A - bove,  
dy - ing In hope - less gloom and night. To you  
yon - der From sin to be set free. The world  
sad - ness They come from near and far. Your eyes



the day is beam - ing, In match - less beau - ty  
the Lord of heav - en— Your life, your hope—has  
has heard your sto - ry; Your sons come to your  
will wake from slum - ber As peo - ple with - out



gleam - ing; The glo - ry of the Lord is here.  
giv - en Great glo - ry, hon - or, and de - light.  
glo - ry, And daugh - ters haste your light to see.  
num - ber Re - joice to see the Morn - ing Star.

Text: Martin Opitz, 1597–1639, abr.; tr. Gerhard Gieschen, b. 1899–1987, alt.

Tune: EPIPHANY (776 778) Bruce R. Backer, b. 1929. © 1993 Bruce R. Backer. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

## THE JOURNEY OF THE MAGI

### Matthew 2:1-12

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

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

"In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written:

”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.”

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

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. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed.

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.

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

M: All nations shall be blessed in him and do him service.

**C: All kings shall bow down before him.**

M: The kings of Tarshish and the isles shall pay tribute:

**C: The kings of Arabia and Saba shall offer gifts.**

M: The people shall offer you freewill offerings with a holy worship,

**C: for Christ the true Light has come into the world.**

M: O God, who by the leading of a star did manifest your only begotten Son to the peoples of the earth, lead us, who know you by faith, to your presence, where we may behold your glory face to face; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

## Hymn 83:1-3

*As with Gladness Men of Old*



1 As with glad - ness men of old Did the guid - ing  
2 As with joy - ful steps they sped, Sav - ior, to your  
3 As they of - fered gifts most rare At your cra - dle,



star be - hold, As with joy they hailed its light,  
low - ly bed, There to bend the knee be - fore  
rude and bare, So may we with ho - ly joy,



Lead - ing on - ward, beam - ing bright, So, most gra - cious  
You whom heav'n and earth a - dore, So may we with  
Pure and free from sin's al - loy, All our cost - liest



Lord, may we Ev - er - more your fol - lowers be.  
will - ing feet Ev - er seek your mer - cy seat.  
treas - ures bring, Christ, to you, our heav'n - ly King.

Text: William C. Dix, 1837-98, alt.

Tune: DIX (77 77 77) Conrad Kocher, 1786-1872, alt.

## THE MYSTERY REVEALED

### Ephesians 3:2-12

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.

Hymn 85

O God from God, O Light from Light



1 O God from God, O Light from Light, O Prince of  
 2 Deep in the proph-ets' sa-cred page, Grand in the  
 3 That life of truth, those deeds of love, That death of his  
 4 Sing to the Lord a might-y song; Sing to his



Peace and King of kings, To you in heav-en's  
 po-ets' wing-ed word, Slow-ly, in type, from  
 pain mid hate and scorn—These all are past, and  
 name, his glo-ries tell! Sing, heav'n-ly hosts, your



glo-ry bright The song of praise for-ev-er rings.  
 age to age The na-tions saw their com-ing Lord;  
 now a-bove He reigns, our King once crowned with thorn.  
 praise pro-long, And all on earth, your an-them swell!



To him who sits up-on the throne, The Lamb once  
 Till through the deep Ju-de-an night Rang out the  
 Lift up your heads, O might-y gates! So sang the  
 Wor-thy the Lamb for sin-ners slain! For-ev-er



slain but raised a-gain, Be all the glo-ry  
 song, "Good will to men!" Sung by heav'n's hosts in  
 an-gel hosts a-gain. Lift up your heads—your  
 let the song as-cend! Wor-thy the Lamb en-



he has won, All thanks and praise! A-men, A-men.  
 splen-dor bright, Re-ech-oed now, "Good will!" A-men.  
 King a-waits. We lift them up, A-men, A-men.  
 throned to reign; Glo-ry and pow'r! A-men, A-men.

Text: John Julian, 1839–1913, abr., alt.

Tune: O GROSSER GOTT (LMD) Johann Störls . . . Schlag-Gesang-Und Noten-Buch, Stuttgart, 1744.



## **Prayer of the Church**

M: 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.**

M: 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.**

M: 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 most remote 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.**

M: Preserve your truth among us and by that truth preserve us until you appear in dazzling splendor to bring us to the glory of heaven. Let our anticipation of the heavenly kingdom ennoble our thinking and speaking, enrich our conduct, and increase our joy in all aspects of earthly life.

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

*Special prayers and intercessions may follow.*

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

*Silent prayer.*

M: 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.**

## **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.**

## THE SACRAMENT

M: Praise to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In love he has blessed us with every spiritual blessing. In the past he spoke to us through the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, who is the radiance of his glory. Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ. To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and thanks and honor and glory for ever and ever.

### Holy, Holy, Holy



C: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly is the Lord of hosts.



The whole earth is full of your glo - ry.



You are my God, and I will ex - alt you.



I will give you thanks, for you have be - come my sal -



va - tion. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly is the Lord of hosts.



The whole earth is full of your glo - ry.

### Words of Institution

M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them saying, “Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

The Peace of the Lord be with you always. Amen.

*Be Seated*

## Distribution

### Thank The Lord



**C:** Thank the Lord and sing his praise. Tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re - jice and proud - ly bear his name.



He re - news his prom - is - es and leads his peo - ple forth in joy with



shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

**M:** Hear the prayers of your people, O Lord, that the lips which have praised you here may glorify you in the world, that the eyes which have seen the coming of your Son, may long for his coming again, and that all who have received in his true body and blood the pledge of your forgiveness may be restored to live a new and holy life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C:** Amen.

## Blessing

M: May God, who led the Wise Men by the shining of a star to find the Christ, the Light from Light, lead you to your Lord.

May God, who sent the Holy Spirit to rest upon the Only-begotten at his baptism in the Jordan River, pour out his Spirit on you who have life from the waters of Baptism.

May God, by the power that turned water into wine at the wedding feast of Cana, transform your lives and make your hearts glad.

And the blessing of God almighty – the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit – be upon you and remain with you forever.

C: Amen.

*Be Seated*

## Hymn 83:4-5

*As with Gladness Men of Old*

4 Ho - ly Je - sus, ev - 'ry day Keep us in the  
5 In the heav'n - ly coun - try bright Need they no cre -  
nar - row way; And, when earth - ly things are past,  
a - ted light; You its light, its joy, its crown,  
Bring our ran - somed souls at last Where they need no  
You its sun which goes not down. There for - ev - er  
star to guide, Where no clouds your glo - ry hide.  
may we sing Al - le - lu - ias to our King!

Text: William C. Dix, 1837–98, alt.

Tune: Dix (77 77 77) Conrad Kocher, 1786–1872, alt.