



**MORRISON
ZION
LUTHERAN**
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
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.

January 5, 2025
Epiphany of Our Lord



The Gift of God Is for All People

On Christmas Eve the angel told the shepherds, “I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people” (Luke 2:10). One wonders if those words struck those Jewish shepherds as odd. For centuries, God had given special attention to one nation—Israel. There were Jewish religious leaders who taught that only members of that special people would be saved. Not according to the Christmas angel! The birth of the Savior was good news for all people.

Today we celebrate the Festival of the Epiphany. Epiphany comes from a Greek word meaning “reveal.” When the Savior was born, he was first revealed to Israelites: the shepherds, Simeon, Anna. But today, we see the Lord miraculously guides foreigners across countless miles so the Savior could be revealed to them as well. How did the magi respond? “They were overjoyed” (Matthew 2:10). The Festival of Epiphany is sometimes known as “The Gentiles’ Christmas.” We Gentiles (non-Jews) rejoice in the good news that this Jewish baby is not just a gift for the Jews. He is a gift for all people—the Savior of the world.

Opening Hymn

As with Gladness Men of Old CWS 372:1-3



1 As with glad-ness men of old did the guid-ing star be-hold,
2 As with joy-ful steps they sped, Sav-ior, to thy low-ly bed,
3 As they of-fered gifts most rare at thy cra-dle, rude and bare,



as with joy they hailed its light, lead-ing on-ward, beam-ing bright,
there to bend the knee be-fore thee, whom heav'n and earth a-dore,
so may we with ho-ly joy, pure and free from sin's al-loy,



so, most gra-cious Lord, may we ev-er-more be led by thee.
so may we with will-ing feet ev-er seek thy mer-cy seat.
all our cost-liest trea-sures bring, Christ, to thee, our heav'n-ly King.

Stand

M: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

CONFESSION OF SINS AND ABSOLUTION

M: If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

C: **If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just
and will forgive us our sins
and purify us from all unrighteousness.**

M: Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

C: **Holy God, gracious Father,
I am sinful by nature
and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions.
I have not loved you with my whole heart;
I have not loved others as I should.
I deserve your punishment both now and forever.
But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins
with his innocent suffering and death.
Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner**

M: God, our merciful Father, has forgiven all our sins. He sent his Son, Jesus Christ, to be our Redeemer and Savior. Jesus paid the penalty for our guilt by his death on the cross and freed us from death by his resurrection from the grave. We have peace with God now and forever.

PRAYER AND PRAISE

M: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

Hymn

As with Gladness Men of Old CWS 372:4-5



4 Ho - ly Je - sus, ev - 'ry day keep us in the nar - row way;
5 In the heav'n - ly coun - try bright need they no cre - at - ed light;



and, when earth - ly things are past, bring our ran - sored souls at last
thou its light, its joy, its crown, thou its sun which goes not down.



where they need no star to guide, where no clouds thy glo - ry hide.
There for - ev - er may we sing al - le - lu - ias to our King!

Text: William C. Dix, 1837–1898, alt.

Tune: Conrad Kocher, 1786–1872, alt.

Text and tune: Public domain

Prayer of the Day

M: Let us pray.

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 your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Be Seated

THE WORD

First Lesson

1 Kings 10:1–9

An African queen visits Israel to test the wisdom of King Solomon. The result of her visit: she ends up praising the LORD for his love. The gift of God is for all people.

¹When the queen of Sheba heard about the fame of Solomon and his relationship to the Lord, she came to test Solomon with hard questions. ²Arriving at Jerusalem with a very great caravan—with camels carrying spices, large quantities of gold, and precious stones—she came to Solomon and talked with him about all that she had on her mind. ³Solomon answered all her questions; nothing was too hard for the king to explain to her. ⁴When the queen of Sheba saw all the wisdom of Solomon and the palace he had built, ⁵the food on his table, the seating of his officials, the attending servants in their robes, his cupbearers, and the burnt offerings he made at the temple of the Lord, she was overwhelmed.

⁶She said to the king, “The report I heard in my own country about your achievements and your wisdom is true. ⁷But I did not believe these things until I came and saw with my own eyes. Indeed, not even half was told me; in wisdom and wealth you have far exceeded the report I heard. ⁸How happy your people must be! How happy your officials, who continually stand before you and hear your wisdom! ⁹Praise be to the Lord your God, who has delighted in you and placed you on the throne of Israel. Because of the Lord’s eternal love for Israel, he has made you king to maintain justice and righteousness.” (NIV)

Because of the Lord's *eternal love*
for Israel, he has made you king to maintain
justice & righteousness.

Psalm of the Day

Psalm 72 (Red Hymnal)

Refrain

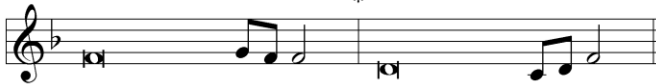


Let the peo - ple praise you, O God.



Let all the peo - ple praise you.

Psalm tone



Endow the King with your justice, O God,*
the royal Son with your righteousness.

He will defend the afflicted among the people*
and save the children of the needy.

He will endure as long as the sun,*
as long as the moon, through all generations.

He will be like rain falling on a mown field,*
like showers watering the earth.

Refrain

All kings will bow down to him,*
and all nations will serve him.

All nations will be blessed through him,*
and they will call him blessed.

Praise be to the LORD God, who alone does marvelous deeds.*
May the whole earth be filled with his glory.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son*
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,*
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Refrain

Refrain Tune: Dale Wood. From Seasonal Psalms. © 1978 Augsburg Publishing House.
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Second Lesson

Acts 13:46–49

The focus of St. Paul's ministry would be to share the gift of eternal life with the Gentiles.

⁴⁶Then Paul and Barnabas answered them boldly: “We had to speak the word of God to you first. Since you reject it and do not consider yourselves worthy of eternal life, we now turn to the Gentiles. ⁴⁷For this is what the Lord has commanded us:

“ ‘I have made you a light for the Gentiles,
that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth.’ ^{[Isaiah 49:6]”}

⁴⁸When the Gentiles heard this, they were glad and honored the word of the Lord; and all who were appointed for eternal life believed.

⁴⁹The word of the Lord spread through the whole region. (NIV)

Verse of the Day

M: Alleluia. Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him. (Matthew 2:2 NIV)

Stand



Gospel

Matthew 2:1–12

Lord miraculously led Magi across many hundreds of miles of difficult terrain, so that they might worship the child who offered the gift of salvation.

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 when it rose 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 Messiah was to be born. ⁵“In Bethlehem in Judea,” they replied, “for this is what the prophet has written:

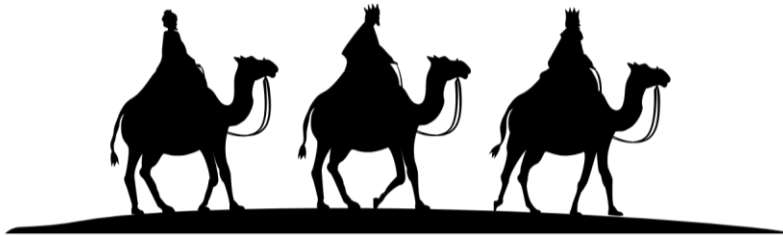
⁶“But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for out of you will come a ruler
who will shepherd my people Israel.”

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 search carefully 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 when it rose 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, frankincense and myrrh. ¹²And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route. (NIV)

M: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise be to you, O Christ!**



Hymn of the Day

How Lovely Shines the Morning Star CW 370:1-2, 4



1 How love - ly shines the Morn - ing Star! The na - tions see
2 O high - est joy by mor - tals won, true Son of God
4 Oh, joy to know that you, my friend, are Lord, be - gin -



and hail a - far the light in Ju - dah shin - ing.
and Mar - y's son, the high - born King of a - ges!
ning with - out end, the first and last, e - ter - nal!



O Da - vid's son of Ja - cob's race, my Bride-groom and
In your blest bod - y let me be, e'en as the branch
And you at length— O glo - rious grace— will take me to



my King of grace, for you my heart is pin - ing.
is in the tree, your life my life sup - ply - ing.
that ho - ly place, the home of joys su - per - nal.



Low - ly, ho - ly, great and glo - rious, O vic - to - rious
Sigh - ing, cry - ing for the sa - vor of your fa - vor,
A - men, a - men! Come and meet me, quick - ly greet me!



Prince of grac - es, fill - ing all the heav'n - ly plac - es.
rest - ing nev - er till I rest in you for - ev - er.
With deep yearn - ing, Lord, I look for your re - turn - ing.

Text: tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.; Philipp Nicolai, 1556–1608, abr., adapt
Tune: Philipp Nicolai, 1556–1608
Text and tune: Public domain

Stand

Apostles' 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.**

Be Seated

Offering

Stand

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.**

Please sign the friendship register located in your pew.

Guests please don't feel a necessity to give an offering today. *"Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver"* (2 Corinthians 9:7).

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 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.

M: 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. [We pray especially for...*here name the person and the cause of the petition.*] 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.

M: Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

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.

M: O Lord God, our heavenly Father, pour out the Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep us strong in your grace and truth, protect and comfort us in all temptation, and bestow on us your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen

Benediction

M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another.
Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.

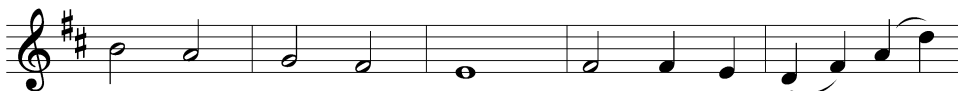
C: Amen.

Closing Hymn

Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun CW 380:1-3,5



1 Je - sus shall reign wher - e'er the sun does its suc -
2 To him shall end - less prayer be made and end - less
3 Peo - ple and realms of ev - 'ry tongue dwell on his
5 Let ev - 'ry crea - ture rise and bring wor - ship and



ces - sive jour - neys run; his king - dom stretch from
prais - es crown his head; his name like sweet per -
love with sweet - est song, and in - fant voic - es
hon - or to our King; an - gels de - scend with



shore to shore till moons shall wax and wane no more.
fume shall rise with ev - 'ry morn - ing sac - ri - fice.
shall pro - claim their ear - ly bless - ings on his name.
songs a - gain, and earth re - peat the loud a - men.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, abr., alt.
Tune: attr. John C. Hatton, 1710–1793
Text and tune: Public domain

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