

Epiphany of Our Lord January 6, 2019



WORSHIP ANNOUNCEMENTS

READING: Isaiah 60:1-3

¹Arise, shine; for your light has come,
and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.

²For darkness shall cover the earth,
and thick darkness the peoples;
but the LORD will arise upon you,
and his glory will appear over you.

³Nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

HYMN: *O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright!*—v.1-2 (ELW 308)

READING: Isaiah 60:4-5

⁴Lift up your eyes and look around;
they all gather together, they come to you;
your sons shall come from far away,
and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms.

⁵Then you shall see and be radiant;
your heart shall thrill and rejoice,
because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you,
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.

HYMN: *O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright!*—v.3-4 (ELW 308)

READING: Isaiah 60:6

⁶A multitude of camels shall cover you,
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;
all those from Sheba shall come.
They shall bring gold and frankincense,
and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.

HYMN: *O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright!*—v.5-6 (ELW 308)

DIALOGUE

The star shone bright in the Bethlehem sky.

We too have a star to guide us.

The shepherds ran to see the babe.

We too have a star to guide us.

The magi knelt at the child's feet.

We too have a star to guide us.

Christ shines with God's own truth and light.

We too have a Star to guide us.

GATHERING SONG: *Angels, from the Realms of Glory* (ELW 275)

GREETING

God who sent the Light into our world, who shone in the Bethlehem manger, and who spreads the Spirit's rays, be with you all.

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Everlasting God, the radiance of all faithful people, you brought the nations to the brightness of your rising. Fill the world with your glory, and show yourself to all the world through him who is the true light and the bright morning star, your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

PSALM: Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14

¹Give the king your jus- | tice, O God,
and your righteousness to | the king's son;

- ²**that he may rule your | people righteously
and the | poor with justice;**
- ³that the mountains may bring prosperity | to the people,
and the | hills, in righteousness.
- ⁴**Let him defend the needy a- | mong the people,
rescue the poor, and crush | the oppressor.**
- ⁵May he live as long as the sun and | moon endure,
from one generation | to another.
- ⁶**Let him come down like rain upon | the mown field,
like showers that wa- | ter the earth.**
- ⁷In his time may the | righteous flourish;
and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall | be no more.
- ¹⁰**May the kings of Tarshish and of the | isles pay tribute,
and the kings of Sheba and Seba | offer gifts.**
- ¹¹May all kings bow | down before him,
and all the nations | do him service.
- ¹²**For the king delivers the poor who cry out | in distress,
the oppressed, and those who | have no helper.**
- ¹³He has compassion on the low- | ly and poor,
and preserves the lives | of the needy.
- ¹⁴**From oppression and violence he re- | deems their lives,
and precious is their blood | in his sight.**

READING: Ephesians 3:1-12

A reading from Ephesians.

¹This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles—²for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you, ³and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, ⁴a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. ⁵In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: ⁶that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

⁷Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of his power. ⁸Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, ⁹and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; ¹⁰so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. ¹¹This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, ¹²in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.
Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: *Bright and Glorious is the Sky*—v. 6

As a star, God's holy word
leads us to our King and Lord;
brightly from its sacred pages
shall this light throughout the ages
shine upon our path of life,
shine upon our path of life.

GOSPEL: Matthew 2:1-12

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ²asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." ³When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

⁶'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel.'"

⁷Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.” ⁹When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹²And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY: *Christ, Be Our Light* (ELW 715)

CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s 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 to the dead.

On the third day he rose again;

he ascended into heaven,

he is seated at the right hand of the Father,

and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the holy catholic church,

the communion of saints,

the forgiveness of sins,

the resurrection of the body,

and the life everlasting.

Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Guided by the star, together with the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of creation.

O Splendor of God's glory, shine your radiance within our world. Remove the barriers that divide us, and teach us to love with all our might. Lead us, O God: **lead us by your light.**

True Dawn from on high, set us free from the power of guilt and grave. Shine your light in our lives and grant us your grace. Lead us, O God: **lead us by your light.**

O living Spring of light from light, renew the strength of all who suffer: the poor, the sick, and those who mourn. Lead us, O God: **lead us by your light.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

God of light, into your hands we place all for whom we pray, trusting in your radiant mercy; through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

A BLESSING OF THE WORSHIP SPACE

L: The Lord is with you;

C: And also with you.

All: Peace be to this worship space and to all who work and visit here.

L: The three wise men came to Bethlehem in search of the Lord. They brought to him precious gifts: gold to honor the newborn king, incense to the true God in human form, and myrrh to anoint his body, which one day would die like our own.

L: Let us pray. O God, you once used a star to show to all the world that Jesus is your Son. May the light of that star that once guided wise men to honor his birth, now guide us to recognize him also, to know you by faith, and to see you in the epiphanies of the daily experiences of our lives.

L: Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord — Jesus born of Mary — shall be revealed.

**C: And all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken it.
All: As the Wise Men once sought your brilliant light, O Lord, so may we
week to live and work in your splendor.**

L: O God of Light, bless this worship space and our congregation. May this be a place of peace and health. May each member of this congregation cultivate the gifts and graces you have bestowed, dedicating our talents and works for the good of all.

L: Make this worship space a shelter in the storm and a haven of rest for all in need of your warmth and care. And when we go out from this place, may we never lose sight of that Epiphany star.

C: As we go about our work, our study, our play, keep us in its light and in your love.

A BLESSING OF THE CHALK FOR MARKING THE DOOR

L: Lord Jesus, through your Incarnation and birth in true human form, you have made all the earth holy. We now ask your blessing upon this simple gift of your creation — chalk. We use it as a tool to teach our children, and they use it as a tool in their play and games. Now, with your blessing, may it become a tool for us to mark the doors of our worship space with the symbols of your wise servants who, so long ago, came to worship and adore you in your first home.

*People in turn mark the doorway with one or more of the symbols:
2018 C M B 2019*

L: May we, in this worship space, and all who come to visit, to work, and to play, remember these things throughout the coming year. May all who come and go here find peace, comfort, joy, hope, love, and salvation, for Christ has come to dwell in this worship space and in these hearts.

All: May we be Christ's light in the world. Amen.

PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

Share God's peace with those around you in these or similar words: "Peace be with you."

CONGREGATIONAL / COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERING & ANTHEM

OFFERTORY HYMN: *As With Gladness Men of Old—v. 3 (ELW 302)*

As they offered gifts most rare
at thy cradle, rude and bare,
so may we with holy joy,
pure and free from sin's alloy,
all our costliest treasures bring,
Christ, to thee, our heav'nly king.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

God of mercy and grace, the eyes of all wait upon you, and you open your hand in blessing. Fill us with good things at your table, that we may come to the help of all in need, through Jesus Christ, our redeemer and Lord.

Amen.

DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh you have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vision of your glory, that, beholding the God made visible, we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Du är he - lig, du är hel. Du är all - tid myck-et mer
You are ho - ly, you are whole. You are al - ways ev - er more



än vi nån - sin kan för - stå, du är nä - ra än - då.
than we ev - er un - der - stand. You are al - ways at hand.



Väl - sig - nad va - re du som kom - mer hit just nu,
Bless - ed are you com - ing near. Bless - ed are you com - ing here



väl - sig - na - de vår jord, blir till bröd på vår jord.
to your church in wine and bread, raised from soil, raised from dead.

EURCHARISTIC PRAYER

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:

Blessed are you for the birth of creation.

Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.

Blessed are you for your promise to your people.

Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.

Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.

Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

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

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming.

Come, Lord Jesus.

Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth.

Come, Holy Spirit.

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever.

Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The light of Christ came into our world and shines in the darkness. Come now to feast at Christ's table.

COMMUNION

All are welcome to join in our communion meal. We will commune by intinction. After receiving the bread, you may dip it into the cup of wine/grape juice. Those not communing are welcome to come forward for a blessing.

During the distribution:

The body of Christ, given for you. **Response: Amen**

The blood of Christ, shed for you. **Response: Amen**

COMMUNION SONG: *I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light (ELW 815)*

TABLE BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

O Lord, you look upon us in love and refresh our souls through the gifts of bread and wine. Send us out, reflecting the light of your grace, to tell the story of Jesus Christ, our bright morning star.

Amen.

BLESSING

Beloved children of God, what came into being in Christ was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. May the light of Christ shine on you with grace and mercy and fill you with joy and peace. (*John 1:1, 3-5*)

Amen.

SENDING SONG: *We Three Kings of Orient Are (see insert)*

DISMISSAL

Go in peace, guided by the light of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

Copyright © 2019 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS001594.

New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright © 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY

Assisting Minister: Lisa Mari
Reader: Karen Lanners
Bread/Wine Presenter: June Farrow
Acolyte: *Volunteer Needed*
Ushers: Karen Lanners and Linda Engler
Counters: *Volunteers Needed*
Altar: Irene Ballek and Linda Engler
Greeter(s): Barbara Moss

SERVING IN WORSHIP NEXT SUNDAY, JANUARY 13, 2019

Assisting Minister: Karen Lanners
Reader: Thomas Tompkins
Bread/Wine Presenter: Kären Tompkins
Acolyte: *Volunteer Needed*
Ushers: Kären Tompkins and June Farrow
Counters: Ruth Igoe and Kären Tompkins
Altar: Irene Ballek and Linda Engler
Greeter(s): Linda Engler

ACACIA PARK LUTHERAN CHURCH

a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

4307 N. Oriole Avenue, Norridge, IL 60706 708-453-3662

acaciaparkchurch@gmail.com

www.acaciaparkchurch.com

Office hours: 10:30 am to 1:30 pm, Monday through Thursday

Pastor: Rev. Meagan Sherman-Sporrong

Organist/Choir Director: Katherine Kishka

Administrative Assistant: Dawn Olson Parent