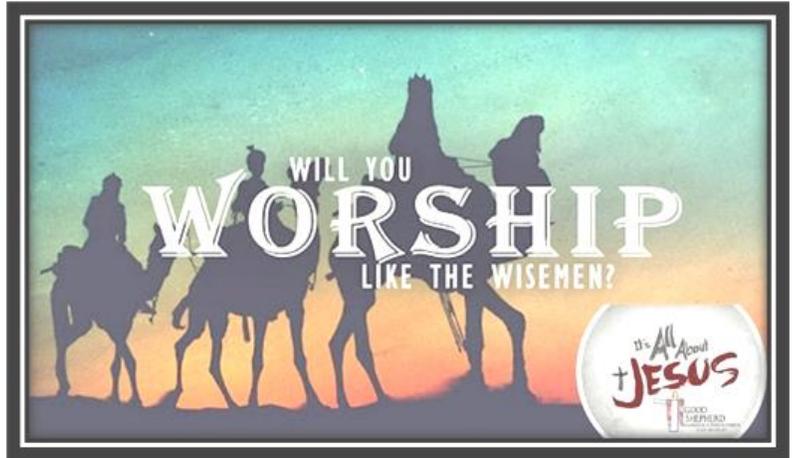


Worship Guide January 03, 2021

The Epiphany of Our Lord is the continued celebration of the birth of the Savior of Nations. So bright is the dawning of the Son, so great is the fullness of his glory, that his light not only fills the dark streets of Bethlehem, but the ends of the earth. Jew and Gentile alike gather to worship him who is born ruler of Judah and Shepherd of all Israel.



Pastor: We call on the name of our Triune God to be present in our worship. So we begin in the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit. Thank the Lord with all your heart, in the gathered assembly of God's people.

Congregation: Amen

HYMN

Songs of Thankfulness and Praise

CW 82

Songs of thankfulness and praise, Jesus, Lord, to you we raise,
Manifested by the star to the Magi from afar,
Branch of royal David's stem, in your birth at Bethlehem.
Anthems be to you addressed, God in man made manifest.

Grant us grace to see you, Lord, mirrored in your holy Word.
May our lives and all we do imitate and honor you
That we all lie you may be at your great epiphany
And may praise you, ever blest, God in man made manifest.



CONFESSION OF SINS

P: Compassionate and gracious God ...

All: ... I confess to you that I am sinful in my very nature. I have not loved you with all my heart. In what I have done and left undone, I have pursued my ways instead of your ways. I have not loved my brothers and sisters as myself. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. I am truly sorry for my sins. I repent of them. I plead for your mercy, O Lord.

P: Nothing in all creation can separate us from the love of God in Jesus Christ our Lord. The Almighty Father has given His Son to live, die and rise for us. For his sake, He forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Thanks be to God!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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



OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: ISAIAH 60:1-6

Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD is dawning upon you. ²Look, darkness covers the earth, and deep darkness covers the peoples, but the LORD will dawn upon you, and his glory will be seen over you. ³Nations will walk to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. ⁴Look up. Look all around and see! All of them have been gathered. They are coming to you. Your sons will come from far away, and people will carry your daughters on their side. ⁵Then you will look and be radiant. Your heart will race with excitement and burst with joy. For great riches from the sea will be delivered to you. The wealth of the nations will come to you. ⁶Caravans of camels will cover your land, young camels from Midian and Ephah. All those from Sheba will come. They will carry gold and incense, and they will announce the good news of the praise of the LORD.

EPISTLE LESSON: EPHESIANS 3:1-12

For this reason, I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles—²Surely you have heard of the administration of God's grace given to me for you, ³namely, that the mystery was made known to me by revelation (as I have already written briefly). ⁴When you read this, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ. ⁵This mystery was not made known to people in past generations as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to his holy apostles and prophets. ⁶This mystery is that in Christ Jesus the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and people who also share in the promise through the gospel. ⁷I became a servant of this gospel, in keeping with the gift of God's grace that was given to me by the working of his power. ⁸To me—even though I am the very least of all the saints—was given this grace: to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ ⁹and to enlighten everyone about the administration of this mystery. In past ages this mystery remained hidden in God, who created all things. ¹⁰He did this so that, through the church, the multifaceted wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. ¹¹This was done according to the eternal purpose that he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. ¹²In him we can freely approach God with confidence through faith in him.

Alleluia. We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him. Alleluia. (Matthew 2:2b)

C: Alleluia!

GOSPEL LESSON AND SERMON TEXT: Matthew 2:1-12

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, when Herod was king, Wise Men from the east came to Jerusalem. They asked, ²“Where is he 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 alarmed, and all Jerusalem with him. ⁴He gathered together all the people’s chief priests and experts in the law. He asked them where the Christ was to be born. ⁵They said to him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, because this was written through the prophet: ⁶You, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are certainly not least among the rulers of Judah: because out of you will come a ruler, who will shepherd my people, Israel.” ⁷Then Herod secretly summoned the Wise Men and found out from them exactly when the star had appeared. ⁸He sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the child. When you find him, report to me, so that I may also go and worship him.” ⁹After listening to the king, they went on their way. Then the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them, until it stood still over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw the star, they rejoiced with overwhelming joy. ¹¹After they went into the house and saw the child with Mary, his mother, they bowed down and worshipped him. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹²Since they had been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they went back to their own country by another route.

WILL YOU WORSHIP LIKE THE WISEMEN?



NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became fully human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.



***Close Communion:** Guided by God's word we believe that the Lord's Supper is an expression of faith and confession. We therefore we ask that only members of the WELS or her sister synods would commune with us. If you have any questions please talk to the pastor.*

THE PREPARATION

P: So that we would more confidently believe and be strengthened in cheerful obedience to his holy will, Jesus has instituted the Sacrament of his Holy Supper, in which he feeds us with his body and blood.

C: We should do this also in remembrance of him, showing his death, that he was delivered for our offenses and raised again for our justification; and, giving him our most heartfelt thanks, love one another as he has loved us.

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

C: It is good and right so to do.

P: It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who has called us to be his own so that we may live under him in his kingdom and serve him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name.

CONSECRATION

C: Holy, holy, holy God, our life, our mercy, our strength, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Praise and glory to our God, who saves us! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest!

DISTRIBUTION

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

HYMN

As With Gladness Men of Old

CW 83

As with gladness men of old did the guiding star behold,
As with joy they hailed its light, leading onward, beaming bright;
So, most gracious God may we, evermore your followers be.

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 you, our heav'nly king.

Holy Jesus, ev'ry day keep us in the narrow way,
And, when earthly things are past, bring our ransomed souls at last
Where they need no star to guide, where no clouds your glory hide.

SPECIAL PRAYERS