

The Divine Service—January 2, 2022

TO OUR GUESTS: Welcome to Good Shepherd! Thank you for joining us today. May today's worship be a blessing to you throughout your week.

We are members of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS). We confess the historic Lutheran Confessions found in the Book of Concord (1580). We rejoice in our fellowship with likeminded believers in the WELS (www.wels.net).



TODAY'S THOUGHT: WHAT CHILD IS THIS? A LIGHT FOR ALL PEOPLE. The Festival of the Epiphany is a celebration of the first time non-Jewish believers worshiped the newborn Savior. They were guided by a special light in the sky to a child who would be a light for all people. We live in a world where sin can divide people along so many lines: ethnicity and race, rich and poor, red states and blue states, etc. The only dividing line Jesus cares about is the one that separated sinful mankind from a holy God. By his death and resurrection, he removed that line and united all believers into one kingdom. For that, we offer him our finest gifts.

The order of worship for this service is printed in this service folder. The hymns may be found in *Christian Worship: A Lutheran Hymnal* found in the pew rack.

PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP: (*Privately as you prepare for worship*)

Oh Holy Lord, you are worthy of all of our praises. You reign in majesty above us and are our King forever. We thank you for allowing us to be graced by your presence today. Accept our worship in Jesus' name. We are here to pray, almighty God, that you will always light our way with your presence. May your light always shine on us. May all people see your glory through us and come to worship you as the living God. Amen

✠ DIVINE SERVICE 2 ✠

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: In baptism God claimed us as His own. We became part of His family. We received His name. So we begin this service in the name of the triune God, Father, Son † and Holy Spirit.

Congregation: (*spoken*) **Amen.**

P: In Jesus Christ, a light of hope shines brightly in all the world.

C: **May the light of Jesus Christ shine brightly upon us.**

P: May this light nourish and guide us.

C: **May Christ's light show us our pathway to new life.**

P: Let us now worship in the joy of Christ's light shining brightly for us.

1 Jesus shall reign where'er the sun
does its successive journeys run,
his kingdom stretch from shore to shore,
till moons shall wax and wane no more.

2 To him shall endless prayer be made,
and praises throng to crown his head.
His name like sweet perfume shall rise
with every morning sacrifice.

3 People and realms of every tongue
dwell on his love with sweetest song,
and infant voices shall proclaim
their early blessings on his name.

4 Blessings abound where'er he reigns:
the prisoners leap to lose their chains,
the weary find eternal rest,
and all who suffer want are blest.

5 Let every creature rise and bring
the highest honors to our King,
angels descend with songs again,
and earth repeat the loud amen.

OFFICE OF THE KEYS AND CONFESSION

P: Each of us are born into this world sinful and corrupt.

C: We are sinful from birth, sinful from the moment of our conception. (Ps. 51:5)

P: If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. Join me then, in confessing our sins,

All: Lord, I can hide my sin from those around me, but I can't hide it from you. You know my thoughts, my motives, and my actions. You know my sin and its against you that I have sinned in every way. I make no excuses. I take all the blame. I deserve nothing from you. But I plead to you, for Jesus' sake, for your mercy and your grace. Forgive me.

P: To the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves. Because in him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace that he lavished on us. (Eph 1:6-7) Therefore by the authority of Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit. Be assured that you are a dear child of God and an heir of eternal life.

C: Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Almighty and everlasting God, give us an increase of faith, hope, and love; and, that we may obtain what you promise; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: (spoken) Amen.

THE WORD

THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: THE EPISTLE LESSON 1 Kings 10:1-9 (Evangelical Heritage Version)

The Queen of Sheba heard about Solomon's fame, which was connected with the fame of the LORD, so she came to test him with hard questions. ² She came to Jerusalem with a very great entourage—with camels carrying spices and a large quantity of gold and precious stones. She came to Solomon and told him everything that was on her heart. ³ Solomon answered all her questions. There was nothing hidden from the king that he could not explain to her. ⁴ The Queen of Sheba saw all the wisdom of Solomon, the house which he built, ⁵ and the food on his table. When she saw the council meeting of his officials, the careful attention of his ministers, as well as their attire, his cupbearers, and the whole burnt offerings which he offered at the House of the LORD, it took her breath away. ⁶ She said to the king, "The report I heard in my own country about your accomplishments and your wisdom is true. ⁷ I did not believe the report until I came and saw it with my own eyes. The truth is, not even half of it was told to me! Your wisdom and wealth surpass the report which I heard. ⁸ Blessed are your men, blessed are your servants, who stand before you continually hearing your wisdom! ⁹ May the LORD your God be blessed, who was pleased to put you on the throne of Israel. Because the LORD loves Israel forever, he made you king to administer justice and righteousness."

These are the words of our God.

THE EPISTLE LESSON Acts 13:46-49 (Evangelical Heritage Version)

Then Paul and Barnabas responded fearlessly, “It was necessary that God’s word be spoken to you first. But since you reject it and consider yourselves unworthy of eternal life, look: We are now turning to the Gentiles! ⁴⁷ For this is what the Lord has instructed us:

I have made you a light for the Gentiles,
that you may bring salvation to the end of the earth.”

⁴⁸ When the Gentiles heard this, they were rejoicing and praising the word of the Lord. All who had been appointed for eternal life believed. ⁴⁹ And the word of the Lord was being carried through the whole region.

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. Alleluia. (Matthew 2:2)

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Faith comes from hear - ing the mes - sage, and the

mes - sage is heard through the Word of Christ. Al - le -

lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

The musical score consists of four staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff begins with a double bar line and ends with a double bar line. The second and third staves are connected by a double bar line. The fourth staff ends with a double bar line.

THE GOSPEL LESSON: MATTHEW 2:1-12 (evangelical Heritage Version)

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.” ³ When King Herod heard

this, he was alarmed, and all Jerusalem with him. ⁴ He gathered together all the people's chief priests and experts in the law. He asked them where the Christ was to be born. ⁵ They said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, because this was written through the prophet:

⁶ You, 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."

⁷ Then Herod secretly summoned the Wise Men and found out from them exactly when the star had appeared. ⁸ He 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."

⁹ After listening to the king, they went on their way. Then the star they had seen when it rose^[c] went ahead of them, until it stood still over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw the star, they rejoiced with overwhelming joy. ¹¹ After 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. ¹² Since they had been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they went back to their own country by another route.

This is the Gospel of our Lord.

HYMN OF THE DAY *How Lovely Shines the Morning Star*

CW 79:1-3

1 How lovely shines the Morning Star!
The nations see and hail afar
the light of Judah shining.
O David's son of Jacob's race,
my Bridegroom and my King of grace,
for you my heart is pining.
Lowly, holy,
great and glorious,
O victorious
Prince of graces,
filling all the heav'nly places.

2 O highest joy by mortals won,
true Son of God and Mary's son,
the highborn King of ages!
In your blest body let me be,
e'en as the branch is in the tree,
your life my life supplying.
Sighing, crying
for the savor
of your favor,
resting never
till I rest in you forever.

3 O mighty Father, in your Son

you loved me ere you had begun
this ancient world's foundation.
Your Son has made a friend of me,
and when is spirit him I see,
I joy in tribulation.
What bliss is this!
He is loving, to me
giving life forever;
nothing me from him can sever.

SERMON

Acts 13:46-49
THE GOSPEL IS FOR EVERYONE

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.

GENERAL PRAYERS

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them up to the Lord.

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

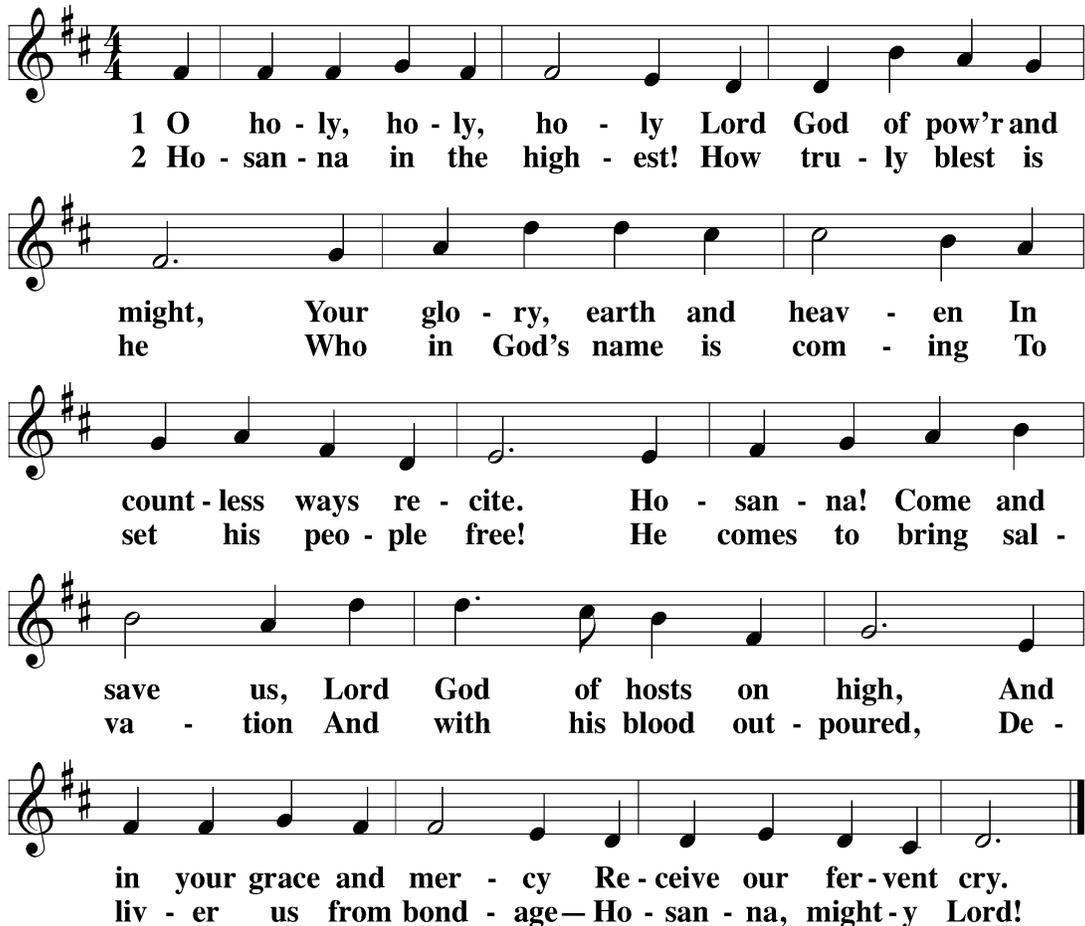
C: It is good and right so to do.

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 promised that wherever two or three come together in his name, there he is with them to shepherd his flock till he comes again in glory. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Sanctus

Tune: CW 538



1 O ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of pow'r and
2 Ho - san - na in the high - est! How tru - ly blest is

might, Your glo - ry, earth and heav - en In
he Who in God's name is com - ing To

count - less ways re - cite. Ho - san - na! Come and
set his peo - ple free! He comes to bring sal -

save us, Lord God of hosts on high, And
va - tion And with his blood out - poured, De -

in your grace and mer - cy Re - ceive our fer - vent cry.
liv - er us from bond - age—Ho - san - na, might - y Lord!

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

P: Blessed are you, O Lord of heaven and earth. We praise and thank you for sending your Son, Jesus Christ, and we remember the great acts of love through which he has ransomed us from sin, death, and the devil's power. By his incarnation, he became one

with us. By his perfect life, he fulfilled your holy will. By his innocent death, he overcame hell. By his rising from the grave, he opened heaven. Invited by your grace and instructed by your Word, we approach your table with repentant and joyful hearts. Strengthen us through Christ's body and blood, and preserve us in the true faith until we feast with him and all his ransomed people in glory everlasting.

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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

RESPONSE

P: Why should a believer gladly and frequently partake of the Lord's Supper?

C: Because we penitently recognize that without Christ we are lost and condemned creatures.

P: What else should move a believer to desire to receive this sacrament at every opportunity?

C: Because we know from the Gospel that Christ died for us and shed His blood for us so that we might receive forgiveness for our sins.

P: What need then compels us to come to this sacrament as often as possible?

C: Because we desire over and over again to receive through this sacrament the assurance that we have forgiveness and that we are God's children and heirs of eternal life and to be strengthened in our weak faith.

P: All things are now ready. The banquet is prepared. Rejoice in the forgiveness of sin and the new strength God gives you. God's peace is with you.

C: (*spoken*) Amen.

Lamb of God, you take a - way the
 sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.
 Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
 world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God,
 you take a - way the sin of the world;
 grant us your peace. A - men.

DISTRIBUTION

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church follows the Bible's teaching and practices Close Communion. This means that only those who are united through a common confession of faith should properly commune together. If you are not part of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS), or the Evangelical Lutheran Synod (ELS), we respectfully ask you to refrain from communing at this time. If you are visiting from a congregation of the WELS or ELS, we invite you to join us in receiving Holy Communion. If time permits, please speak to the pastor before the service, so that you are not overlooked as members are ushered up to the Lord's Supper. If you have any questions or desire to discuss what God teaches about this precious sacrament, please ask. We are eager to hear and share over an open Bible.

PRAYER

P: We give you thanks, O Lord, for the foretaste of the heavenly banquet that you have

given us to eat and to drink in this sacrament. Through this gift you have fed our faith, nourished our hope, and strengthened our love. By your Spirit help us to live as your holy people until that day when you will receive us as your guests at the wedding supper of the Lamb, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

BLESSING

CLOSING HYMN

How Lovely Shines the Morning Star

CW 79:4-5

4 Oh, joy to know that you, my friend,
are Lord, beginning without end,
the first and last, eternal!
And you at length — O glorious grace —
will take me to that holy place
the home of joys supernal.
Amen, amen!
Come and meet me,
quickly greet me!
With deep yearning, Lord,
I look for your returning.

5 Lift up the voice and strike the string,
let all glad sounds of music ring
in God's high praises blended.
Christ will be with me all the way,
today, tomorrow, ev'ry day
till trav'ling days are ended.
Sing out ring out
triumph glorious,
O victorious
chosen nation;
praise the God of your salvation.

