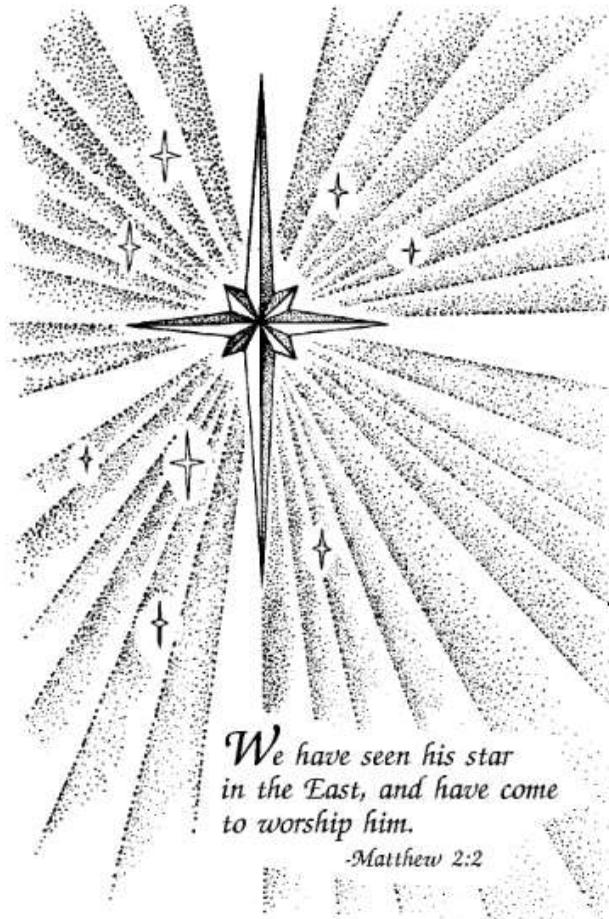


“Light for a Darkened World”
Celebration of the Epiphany of Our Lord
January 2, 2022

Immanuel Lutheran Church

Fargo, ND



Today we are celebrating the Epiphany of our Lord. We marvel at the prophecies that God gave His people, foretelling a great King who would rescue His people and bring light into a world covered by darkness. We travel with the Wise Men to see this King and stand in awe with them as they come to Bethlehem and find Mary and her child. With these wise men, we bow down and worship our King and offer Him our treasures. We give thanks to God for the unsearchable riches that He freely gives us through His means of grace. The secret of God's love and forgiveness is made known to us in His only Son, Jesus, and we share this Savior with people of all nations as we live in the grace of God.

Pre-Service Music

(8:15) Baptism Lazarus Daniel Keith Swenson

[see blue insert]

(11a) Opening Hymn “As with Gladness Men of Old”

LSB 397

+ The Lord Comes to His People in the Power of His Name +

(Please rise)

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

C: Amen.

P: Behold the Lord, the ruler has come,

C: and the kingdom and the power and the glory are in his hand.

P: Give the king your justice, O God,

C: and your righteousness to the royal son!

P: May the kings of Tarshish and of the coastlands render him tribute;

C: may the kings of Sheba and Seba bring gifts!

P: May all kings fall down before him,

C: and all nations serve him!

+ The Lord Forgives Our Sins +

P: One of the great mysteries of our God is that He has “epiphanied” or disclosed Himself to us in Christ. So let us, in Christ, reveal ourselves including our sinfulness, to God, with honest and sincere hearts.

(Time for silence and self-examination)

P: Merciful and gracious Father,

C: we disclose to You the secrets of our souls. We confess to having fears because we have so little trust in You, and to anger and jealousies because of our unthankfulness. We have bowed our knees before false gods. Especially today we confess the sins of prejudice, pride, and self-righteousness that seek to put someone down in order to build ourselves up. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy upon us and forgive us, that we may hear and believe the mystery of Christ that He has given each one of us forgiveness and life, and has made us members of His body, the Church, through faith in Him. In His name we ask this, and for His sake we know You will hear us. Amen.

P: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of the Word, I announce the grace of God unto all of you. At the command and by the authority of our Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen! Come, let us adore Him! *(Congregation please be seated)*

Hymn of Praise ***“Hail to the Lord’s Anointed”***

(LSB 398, v 4)

**Kings shall bow down before Him And gold and incense bring;
All nations shall adore Him, His praise all peoples sing;
To Him shall prayer unceasing And daily vows ascend,
His kingdom still increasing, A kingdom without end.**

Text: Public domain

Prayer of the Day

- P: Lord God, on this day You revealed Your Son to the nations by the leading of a star. Lead us now by faith to know Your presence in our lives, and give us an understanding of the great mystery of Your love.
- C: **As we gather to worship our King, give us hearts that overflow with joy that we may share Your great gift with all the world; in the name of our King, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

+ The Lord Speaks to Us in His Holy Word +

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 60:1-6

R: The Old Testament Reading for the celebration of Epiphany is from Isaiah, chapter sixty.

Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you. And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising. Lift up your eyes all around, and see; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from afar, and your daughters shall be carried on the hip. Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and exult, because the abundance of the sea shall be turned to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. A 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 bring good news, the praises of the LORD.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Responsory Hymn ***“The People That in Darkness Sat”***

(LSB 412, v 1)

**The people that in darkness sat A glorious light have seen;
The light has shined on them who long
In shades of death have been, In shades of death have been.**

Epistle Reading

Ephesians 3:1-12

R: The Epistle Reading is from Ephesians, chapter three.

For this reason I, Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles— assuming that you have heard of the stewardship of God's grace that was given to me for you, how the

mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I have written briefly. When you read this, you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ, which was not made known to the sons of men in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit. This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. Of this gospel I was made a minister according to the gift of God's grace, which was given me by the working of his power. To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God, who created all things, so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in him.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

(Please rise)

Gradual Hymn *“The People That in Darkness Sat”* *(LSB 412, v 1)*

**To hail Thee, Sun of Righteousness, The gathering nations come;
They joy as when the reapers bear
Their harvest treasures home. Their harvest treasures home.** *Text: Public domain*

Holy Gospel

Matthew 2:1-12

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the second chapter.

C: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, saying, “Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.” When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet: “And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.”” Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him.” After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

Children's Message

Hymn of the Day *“From East to West”*

LSB 385

Sermon *“Light for a Darkened World”*

Isaiah 60:1-6

Creed *(8:15) Nicene Creed; (11) Apostles' Creed*

(LSB back cover)

+ The Lord Hears our Prayers +

Prayers of the Church

After each petition: P: Lord, in Your mercy...

C: Hear our prayer.

We Worship the Lord with our Tithes and Offerings

*(Please **sign and pass** the green Fellowship Record book found at the center end of each pew.)*

(Please rise as we sing)

Offertory Hymn

“What Child Is This”

(LSB 370, v 3)

**So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh; Come, peasant, king, to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings; Let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise the song on high, The virgin sings her lullaby;
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, The babe, the son of Mary!**

11 am service concludes with ***“The Star Proclaims the King Is Here (LSB 399);***

***Lord's Prayer, Closing Collect, Benediction, Announcements; and
Closing Hymn “Joy to the World” (LSB 387)***

+ (8:15 am) The Lord Delivers His Gifts to Us in His Holy Supper +

P: The Lord be with you.

2 Timothy 4:22

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

Colossians 3:1

C: We lift them up to the Lord.

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

Psalms 136

C: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

P: It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, and we praise You that You sent us Your only-begotten Son to be born a man, that in Him the mystery of our salvation is revealed to us. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of

heaven we praise and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

Sanctus **“Songs of Thankfulness and Praise”** *(LSB 394, v 1)*

**Songs of thankfulness and praise, Jesus, Lord, to Thee we raise,
Manifested by the star To the sages from afar,
Branch of royal David’s stem In Thy birth at Bethlehem:
Anthems be to Thee addressed, God in man made manifest.**

Prayer of Preparation

- P: Blessed are You, Almighty Father. You have made Yourself known through Your creation. You made known Your name to Your servant Moses and through him marked a people as Your chosen and gave them the land of promise. You have made known Your own Son and given Him the name which is above all other names. Everyone who calls upon Him will be saved. Even Gentiles were welcomed at His manger and invited to His grace. Now we come before You in the name of Jesus.
- C: **Through the mystery of this Holy Supper, You come to us and give us Your grace. Renew us in body and soul, and equip us with the gifts of the Spirit that we may make known the name of Jesus and through our witness bring the light of Jesus to our sin-darkened world. Bring unity to Your people, especially those who come to Your table of grace today. Teach us to call You Father and to pray with our whole heart the prayer our Savior taught us.**

The Lord’s Prayer *(spoken by all)*

Words of Jesus as He Instituted His Holy Supper

- P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C: **Amen! Come, Lord Jesus!**

Hymn of Preparation *(tune: LSB 357)*

**O Lamb of God, You take away The whole world's sin; now hear us pray:
Grant mercy to Your people, Lord, And give us peace in hearts restored,
O Lamb of God, Immanuel, Your peace and mercy in us dwell.**

(Please be seated)

Distribution Hymns

“O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright”	LSB 395
“The Star Proclaims the King Is Here”	LSB 399
“Hail to the Lord’s Anointed”	LSB 398

(Please rise)

The Prayer of Thanksgiving

P: Heavenly Father, through the mystery of this sacrament You have given us Your love and forgiveness in the body and blood of our Lord Jesus.

C: Grant that by Your Holy Spirit we may proclaim the good news of Your salvation that all who hear it may receive the gift of eternal life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Hymn of Thanksgiving ***“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”*** *(LSB 380, v 3)*

**Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of righteousness
Light and life to all He brings, Risen with healing in His wings.
Mild He lays His glory by, Born that man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”**

+ The Lord Places His Blessing Upon His People +

P: The Lord bless you and keep you, the Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you, the Lord look upon each of you with His favor, and give you His peace.

C: Amen! “Glory to the newborn King!”

(Congregation please be seated)

Announcements

Closing Hymn ***“Joy to the World”***

LSB 387

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