

The Epiphany of Our Lord
Saturday, January 6, 2024 – 5:30 p.m.
Sunday, January 7, 2024 – 8:00 a.m.



Welcome!

To our guests and visitors:

We are glad that you are here with us today!

If you have no church home, why don't you consider joining us? Please speak to Pastor Parrish after the service and enjoy a special gift for visiting with us today!

1. The star proclaims the King is here;
But, Herod, why this senseless fear?
For He who offers heav'nly birth
Seeks not the kingdoms of this earth.
2. The eastern sages saw from far
And followed on His guiding star;
And, led by light, to light they trod
And by their gifts confessed their God.
3. Within the Jordan's sacred flood
The heav'nly Lamb in meekness stood
That He, of whom no sin was known,
Might cleanse His people from their own.
4. And oh, what miracle divine,
When water reddened into wine!
He spoke the word, and forth it flowed
In streams that nature ne'er bestowed.
5. For this Thy glad epiphany
All glory, Jesus, be to Thee,
Whom with the Father we adore,
And Holy Spirit evermore. Amen

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

C: **Amen.**

P: We have a Christ-centered Gospel.

C: **And so we always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

P: Because our faith and love spring from the hope that is stored up for us in heaven;

C: **For we have heard the word of truth, the Gospel.**

P: All over the world this Gospel is bearing fruit and growing, just as it has been doing among us;

C: **Since the day we heard it and understood God's grace in all its truth.**

P: The Father has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves,

C: **In whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.**

P: Let us pray. O God, by your Holy Spirit, open our hearts and minds, so that in our worship we grow in the knowledge of your Gospel, be strengthened in its power, be changed by its claims and be riveted by its truth.

C: **Amen.**

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 60:1-6

“Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD rises upon you. ² See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples, but the LORD rises upon you and his glory appears over you. ³ Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. ⁴ “Lift up your eyes and look about you: All assemble and come to you; your sons come from afar, and your daughters are carried on the hip.

⁵ Then you will look and be radiant, your heart will throb and swell with joy; the wealth on the seas will be brought to you, to you the riches of the nations will come.

⁶ Herds of camels will cover your land, young camels of Midian and Ephah. And all from Sheba will come, bearing gold and incense and proclaiming the praise of the LORD.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

The Epistle Reading

Colossians 1:1-14

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother,

² To God's holy people in Colossae, the faithful brothers and sisters in Christ: Grace and peace to you from God our Father.

³We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, ⁴because we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love you have for all God's people— ⁵the faith and love that spring from the hope stored up for you in heaven and about which you have already heard in the true message of the gospel ⁶that has come to you. In the same way, the gospel is bearing fruit and growing throughout the whole world—just as it has been doing among you since the day you heard it and truly understood God's grace.

⁷You learned it from Epaphras, our dear fellow servant, who is a faithful minister of Christ on our behalf, ⁸and who also told us of your love in the Spirit. ⁹For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you. We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives,

¹⁰so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, ¹¹being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, ¹²and giving joyful thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of his holy people in the kingdom of light.

¹³For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, ¹⁴in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Holy Gospel

Matthew 2:1-12

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 2nd chapter.

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

After 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.

⁴ When 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."

⁷ Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. ⁸ He 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."

⁹ After 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.

¹⁰ When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. ¹¹ On 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. ¹² And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Apostles Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And 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 sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence 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.

Sermon Hymn O Christ, Our Hope, Our Heart's Desire LSB 553

1. O Christ, our hope, our heart's desire,
Creation's mighty Lord,
Redeemer of the fallen world,
By holy love outpoured:
2. How vast Your mercy to accept
The burden of our sin
And bow Your head in cruel death
To make us clean within.
3. But now the bonds of death are burst,
The ransom has been paid;
You now ascend the Father's throne
In robes of light arrayed.
4. O let Your mighty love prevail
To purge us of our pride
That we may stand before Your throne
By mercy purified.
5. Christ Jesus, be our lasting joy,
Our future great reward;
Our only glory, may it be
To glory in the Lord!
6. All praise to You, ascended Lord;
All glory ever be
To Father, Son, and Holy Ghost
Through all eternity!

Sermon We Have A Christ Centered Gospel Colossians 1:1-14
Offering
Installation of Newly Elected Church Officers

Prayer Of The Church

Pastor: O God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, God of our fathers in faith, and God of light, we praise You and give You thanks, above all for revealing Your gracious will of salvation through the lamp of Your Word, through the light of Your Christ. In Jesus, the light of Your salvation has shone in the hearts of people of all nations. Hear our prayers for the life and salvation of all people. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Gracious Lord, as the star spread the news of Your Son's birth over distant lands, so make Your Church and her people to be a shining witness of the Gospel of salvation to all people, both near and far. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Extend Your reign, O Christ, over the whole earth so that oppression may be transformed to freedom and justice. Give wisdom to those who lead. Grant that they rule justly and with wisdom, according to Your gracious will. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Lord Jesus, bless all those who are ill, injured, or in mourning, [*especially . . .*]. Fill them with the assurance of Your promises and grant that we may be of help and encouragement to them. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Lord, accept our humble praise and thanksgiving for the blessings given to our brothers and sisters who rejoice this week, [*especially . . .*]. We acknowledge You as the source of all goodness and magnify Your name with all the gifts You give. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Savior of the nations, we thank You for the blessed memory of those who have died in the faith whom You have gathered into Your heavenly kingdom. Grant that we always look to the future with hope and confidence in the reunion that is ours when You transport us to that glorious place that is beyond all tears and sinning. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, ever one God, world without end.

People: Amen.

Confession and Absolution

Pastor: Gracious God, we confess that we have longed too much for the comforts of this world.

People: We have loved your gifts more than your Gospel.

Pastor: In your mercy, help us see that all the things we pine for are shadows, but you are the substance;

People: That they are quicksand, but you are the mountain;

Pastor: That they are shifting, but you are the anchor.

People: We plead for your forgiveness because of the Gospel.

Pastor: Accept Christ's worthiness for our unworthiness, his sinlessness for our transgressions, his fullness for our emptiness, his glory for our shame, his righteousness for our filthy rages and his death for our life.

People: We ask it in Jesus' name. Amen.

Pastor: Upon this, your confession, I by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of Christ, announce the precious and powerful Gospel to you. In the stead and by the command of our Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all of your sins; in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: The Father has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves. 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

The Invitation

P: This **evening/ morning** we have another opportunity to encounter God's real, tangible grace for us in this meal; that in, with, and under these simple elements of bread and wine are the true body and blood of Jesus Christ given to us for the forgiveness of sins.

And so, we become what we eat. We are the body of Christ to be sent out into the world. So it's necessary and good that we partake of this meal; that we experience God's love for us in this way, that we share this family meal together. So if this is your confession I would invite you to join me as we confess together our faith.

C: I understand and admit that I have sinned against God, that I recognize my sin and humbly ask God to forgive me. I believe that Jesus Christ is my Lord and Savior and that He is my only hope against sin, death, and the devil.

I believe that the risen Christ is really present in the Sacrament, and under the form of the bread and wine I receive this true body and blood for the forgiveness of my sin and the strengthening of my faith and life to the Lord and His Church by faithfully worshipping Him, cheerfully giving my time and resources, and joyfully sharing the Good News of Jesus with others.

The Words of Our Lord

Pastor: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

Pax Domini

pg 163

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C Amen.

Agnus Dei

pg 163

C **Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.**
Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

Distribution Hymn

Hail To The Lord’s Anointed

LSB 398

- 1 Hail to the Lord’s anointed,
Great David’s greater Son!
Hail, in the time appointed,
His reign on earth begun!
He comes to break oppression,
To set the captive free,
To take away transgression
And rule in equity.
- 2 He comes with rescue speedy
To those who suffer wrong,
To help the poor and needy
And bid the weak be strong;
To give them songs for sighing,
Their darkness turn to light,
Whose souls, condemned and dying,
Were precious in His sight.

3 He shall come down like showers
Upon the fruitful earth;
Love, joy, and hope, like flowers,
Spring in His path to birth.
Before Him on the mountains
Shall peace, the herald, go;
And righteousness in fountains
From hill to valley flow.

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

5 O'er ev'ry foe victorious,
He on His throne shall rest,
From age to age more glorious,
All blessing and all-blest.
The tide of time shall never
His covenant remove;
His name shall stand forever—
That name to us is Love.

Post-Communion Collect

Pastor: Let us pray.

O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in steadfast love sent Your only-begotten Son into this world of sin, we thank You that for His sake You look upon us “without spot or blemish, and at peace.” We praise You for Your patience and rejoice in Your redemption! We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

Benediction: (From Colossians 3:16–17)

Pastor: Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God.

People: **And whatever we do, whether in word or deed, we will do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.**

Closing Hymn Spread The Reign of God the Lord LSB 830

- 1 Spread the reign of God the Lord,
Spoken, written, mighty Word;
Ev'rywhere His creatures call
To His heav'nly banquet hall.
- 2 Tell how God the Father's will
Made the world, upholds it still,
How His own dear Son He gave
Us from sin and death to save.
- 3 Tell of our Redeemer's grace,
Who, to save our human race
And to pay rebellion's price,
Gave Himself as sacrifice.
- 4 Tell of God the Spirit giv'n
Now to guide us on to heav'n,
Strong and holy, just and true,
Working both to will and do.
- 5 Enter, mighty Word, the field;
Ripe the promise of its yield.
But the reapers, oh, how few
For the work there is to do!

6 Lord of harvest, great and kind,
Rouse to action heart and mind;
Let the gath'ring nations all
See Your light and heed Your call.