



# St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church

Epiphany  
January 6, 2019

Office Hours: Monday – Friday 8:00am-4:00pm  
churchoffice@stjohnnt.com  
www.stjohnnt.com

6950 Ward Road  
North Tonawanda, NY 14120  
(716) 693-9677

**We are glad** to have you worship with us today. We ask members and guests to fill out the **Connection Card**, in the worship folder, letting us know you were here, who attended the Lord's Supper, and/or your ministry needs.

## PRELUDE

## WELCOME & GREETING

*Please take a moment to fill out the Connection Card*

## OPENING PRAYER & CALL TO WORSHIP

*Based on Psalm 117:2; Isaiah 60:3*

- P** We gather in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.
- P** Great is the steadfast love of the Lord toward us,
- C** **and the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever.**
- P** Nations will come to His light,
- C** **and kings to the brightness of His rising.**

## SONG: “Shine Jesus Shine”

*Video Song, words on screen*

## CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

- P** God's Word tells us, “If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
- C** **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”**
- P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.
- C** **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. 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 Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son ✠ and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.

# GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

Luke 2:14; John 1:29 LSB 204



**C** 1 To God on high be glo - ry And peace to all the earth;  
2 To You, O sole - be - got - ten, The Fa - ther's Son, we pray;  
3 For You a - lone are ho - ly; You on - ly are the Lord.



Good-will from God in heav - en Pro - claimed at Je - sus' birth!  
O Lamb of God, our Sav - ior, You take our sins a - way.  
For - ev - er and for - ev - er, Be wor - shiped and a - dored;



We praise and bless You, Fa - ther; Your ho - ly name, we sing—  
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus; Re - ceive our heart - felt cry,  
You with the Ho - ly Spir - it A - lone are Lord Most High,



Our thanks for Your great glo - ry, Lord God, our heav'n - ly King.  
Where You in pow'r are seat - ed At God's right hand on high—  
In God the Fa - ther's glo - ry. "A - men!" our glad re - ply.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

**P** Let us pray.

**C** O God, by the leading of a star You made known Your only-begotten Son to the wise men. Guide us, who walk by faith and not by sight, each day, and lead us one day to enjoy heaven with You; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

## OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 60:1-6

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.

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## NEW TESTAMENT READING

*Ephesians 3:1–12*

For this reason I, Paul, a prisoner for 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.

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.      **C** Thanks be to God.

## GOSPEL READING

*Matthew 2:1–12*

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 be to Thee, O Christ.

## NICENE CREED – *A Confession of Our Shared Faith*

**C** I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary**

and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

**HYMN: "AS WITH GLADNESS MEN OF OLD"**

*LSB 397 sts. 1-4*



1 As with glad-ness men of old Did the guid-ing star be-hold;  
2 As with joy-ful steps they sped, Sav-ior, to Thy low-ly bed,  
3 As they of-fered gifts most rare At Thy cra-dle, rude and bare,  
4 Ho-ly Je-sus, ev-'ry day Keep us in the nar-row way;



As with joy they hailed its light, Lead-ing on-ward, beam-ing bright;  
There to bend the knee be-fore Thee, whom heav'n and earth a-dore;  
So may we with ho-ly joy, Pure and free from sin's al-loy,  
And when earth-ly things are past, Bring our ran-somed souls at last



So, most gra-cious Lord, may we Ev-er-more be led by Thee.  
So may we with will-ing feet Ev-er seek Thy mer-cy seat.  
All our cost-liest trea-sures bring, Christ, to Thee, our heav'n-ly King.  
Where they need no star to guide, Where no clouds Thy glo-ry hide.

Tune and text: Public domain

**TEACHING FROM GOD'S WORD**

*"Epiphany"*

**OFFERING**

*Using our God-given resources to connect people to Jesus.*

**OFFERTORY PRAYER**

**P** Let us pray:

**C** O Lord, our God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts. With them we offer ourselves to your service and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that you have made, for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

**PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

**To our visitors:** The **Lord's Supper** is celebrated at St. John in the confession that not only bread and wine, but Jesus Christ's very body and blood are given to us to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of our sins and to strengthen our faith in Him and our union with one another. Our Lord invites to His table all those who believe His words, repent of all sin, and set aside all refusal to forgive and love as He forgives and loves us, that they may show forth His death until He comes. *If this is your first time at St John or have not been instructed about the Lord's Supper we ask that you speak to the Pastor before communing with us.*

- **For those who wish to take communion in their pew, please notify an usher or elder, and be seated on the center aisle at the end of any pew.**
- **We offer either individual or common cup for the wine.**

**PREPARATION FOR THE LORD'S SUPPER**

*2 Timothy 4:22; Colossians 3:1 Psalm 136*

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** **And also with you.**
- P** Lift up your hearts.
- C** **We lift them to the Lord.**
- P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- C** **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**
- P** Glorious Father in heaven, we, Your children, .... lifting our voice and singing:



**HOLY, HOLY, HOLY - Sanctus**

*Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9 LSB 208*

**C** Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth a - dored;
   
 Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.
   
 Sing ho - san-na in the high-est, sing ho - san - na to the Lord;
   
 Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

**LORD'S PRAYER**

*Matthew 6:9-13*

- C** **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 WORDS OF OUR LORD**

*1 Corinthians 11:23-25*

**PEACE OF THE LORD - Pax Domini**

*John 20:19*

- P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.
- C** **Thanks be to God!**

# LAMB OF GOD - Agnus Dei

John 1:29 LSB 210

**C** 1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
You take the sin of the world a - way;  
You take the sin of the world a - way;  
O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,  
Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.  
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

## DISTRIBUTION

**HYMN: “O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright”**

LSB 395

**HYMN: “The Star Proclaims The King Is Here”**

LSB 399

## THANKSGIVING PRAYER

**P** Let us pray:

**C** We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this holy supper. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

## BENEDICTION

*Numbers 6:24–26*

**P** The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

**C** Amen.

## HYMN: “ANGELS FROM THE REALMS OF GLORY”

LSB 367

1 An - gels from the realms of glo - ry, Wing your flight o'er  
2 Shep - herds in the field a - bid - ing, Watch - ing o'er your  
3 Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions, Bright - er vi - sions  
4 Saints be - fore the al - tar bend - ing, Watch - ing long in  
Δ 5 All cre - a - tion, join in prais - ing God the Fa - ther,



all the earth; Ye who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry,  
 flocks by night, God with us is now re - sid - ing,  
 beam a - far; Seek the great De - sire of na - tions,  
 hope and fear, Sud - den - ly the Lord, de - scend - ing,  
 Spir - it, Son, Ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing



Now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth.  
 Yon - der shines the In - fant Light.  
 Ye have seen His na - tal star.  
 In His tem - ple shall ap - pear.  
 To the e - ter - nal Three in One.

*Refrain*



Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship;



Wor - ship Christ, the new - born King.

Text and tune: Public domain

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## POSTLUDE

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series C, Quarter 1. Copyright © 2018 Concordia Publishing House. Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2018 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

## SERVING TODAY/NEXT WEEK

<b>Liturgist/Preacher:</b>	Rev. Michael Borgstede	<b>Organist:</b> Doreen Sutherland
<b>Elders for January:</b>		
<b>Acolyte:</b>	Dante Calvaneso	<b>Next Sunday:</b> Levi Siegmann
<b>Reader:</b>	Matt Scive	<b>Next Sunday:</b> Jim Oliver
<b>Counting Team:</b>	Winston Moeller, Lori Argo, Don Schroeder, Lynn Willis	
<b>Next Week:</b>	Cathy & Dan Schultz, Vern Bartlett, Kathy Wendt	
<b>Altar Guild for January:</b>	Anita Garito, Mary Salefske	



## Sermon: “Epiphany”

## Message Notes

### Main Points:

### Bible Passages:

### What can I apply to my life?

(Matthew 2:1-12) The star that once led the Magi to the Christ Child is a type of the light that God has caused to shine so that all of us may know Christ Jesus as Savior and Redeemer. We would not have known Him except that the Lord made the light to shine in our darkness to reveal Jesus Christ to us and to lead our fearful hearts to faith.

- How is God shining His light in your life today?

Already in the Early Church, the gifts were seen to have been chosen for their meaning: gold, a suitable gift for a king; frankincense, an offering to Him as God; myrrh, a prophecy of His death as the Savior. Others have suggested that they symbolically represent what we, too, must offer Him: the gold of willing surrender of all of life to Him; the frankincense of our innermost thoughts and prayers; the myrrh of patience in suffering when carrying our own crosses.

- What gifts do you bring to Christ, whose birth as our Savior we have celebrated again?

Paul’s words in Ephesians 3:2-12 talk about a mystery revealed – which is God’s love in Christ is for ALL PEOPLE! It is a mystery because sin blinds all of us to our broken relationship with God and His love that is the only way to restore that relationship – forgiveness and new life in Christ. And it is revealed in His Word.

- What is the result in your life having this “mystery” revealed to you?
- How can you be a part of “revealing the mystery” to the world and showing Christ’s all-inclusive love?