

THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD

January 5th, 2025



MARTIN LUTHER
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
St. Louis, MO
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SERVICE OF WORD AND SACRAMENT

Hymn ----- Angels from the Realms of Glory

CW 80

1. Angels from the realms of glory,
Wing your flight o'er all the earth;
Once you sang creation's story;
Now proclaim Messiah's birth:

Refrain:

Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the newborn King.

2. Shepherds, in the fields abiding,
Watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing—
Yonder shines the infant light. *Refrain*
3. Magi, leave your contemplations;
Brighter visions beam afar.
Seek the great desire of nations;
You have seen the Savior's star. *Refrain*
4. Saints before the altar bending,
Watching long in hope and fear,
Suddenly the Lord, descending,
In his temple shall appear. *Refrain*

Stand.

- M: The grace of our Lord † Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship
of the Holy Spirit be with you.
- C: And also with you.

CONFESSION OF SINS

M: God invites us to come into his presence and worship him with humble and penitent hearts. Therefore, let us acknowledge our sinfulness and ask him to forgive us.

C: **Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful, and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

M: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

PRAYER AND PRAISE

Lord, Have Mercy

M: For all that we need in life and for the wisdom to use all your gifts with gratitude and joy, hear our prayer, O Lord.



C: **Lord, have mer - cy.**

M: For the steadfast assurance that nothing can separate us from your love and for the courage to stand firm against the assaults of Satan and every evil, hear our prayer, O Christ.



C: Christ, have mer - cy.

M: For the well-being of your holy Church in all the world and for those who offer here their worship and praise, hear our prayer, O Lord.



C: Lord, have mer - cy.

M: Merciful God, maker and preserver of life, uphold us by your power and keep us in your tender care:



C: A - men.

M: The works of the Lord are great and glorious; his name is worthy of praise.

O Lord, Our Lord



C: O Lord, our Lord, how glo - rious is your name in



all the earth. Al - might - y God, mer - ci - ful Fa - ther,



you crown our life with your love. You take a - way our sin;



you com - fort our spir - it; you make us pure and



ho - ly in your sight. You did not spare your on - ly Son,



but gave him up for us all. O Lord, our Lord,



how glo - rious is your name in all the earth.



O Son of God, e - ter - nal Word of the Fa - ther,



you came to live with us; you made your Fa - ther known;



you washed us from our sins in your own blood. You are the



King of glo - ry; you are the Lord! O Lord, our Lord,



how glo - rious is your name in all the earth.

Prayer of the Day

M: Let us pray.

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 your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C: A - men.

Be seated.

THE WORD

First Lesson ----- Isaiah 60:1-6

Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the LORD is dawning upon you.
Look, 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.
Nations will walk to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.
Look 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.

Then 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.
Caravans 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.

Refrain

Let the people praise you, O God. Let all the people praise you.

Endow the King with your justice, O God,*
the royal Son with your righteousness.

He will defend the afflicted among the people*
and save the children of the needy.

He will endure as long as the sun,*
as long as the moon, through all generations.

He will be like rain falling on a mown field,*
like showers watering the earth.

Refrain

All kings will bow down to him,*
and all nations will serve him.

All nations will be blessed through him,*
and they will call him blessed.

Praise be to the LORD God, who alone does marvelous deeds.*
May the whole earth be filled with his glory.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son*
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,*
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Refrain

second Lesson ----- Ephesians 3:1-12

For this reason, I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles—Surely you have heard of the administration of God’s grace given to me for you, namely, that the mystery was made known to me by revelation (as I have already written briefly). When you read this, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ. This 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. This 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.

I 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. To 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 and to enlighten everyone about the administration of this mystery. In past ages this mystery remained hidden in God, who created all things. He did this so that, through the church, the multifaceted wisdom of God in the heavenly places might now be made known to the rulers and authorities. This was done according to the eternal purpose that he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. In him we can freely approach God with confidence through faith in him.

Verse of the Day

Matthew 2:2

M: Alleluia. Where is he who has been born King of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.. Alleluia.

C: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

These words are writ - ten that we may be - lieve that

Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.

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

Stand.

Gospel ----- 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, “Where is he who has been born King of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.” When King Herod heard this, he was alarmed, and all Jerusalem with him. He gathered together all the people’s chief priests and experts in the law. He asked them where the Christ was to be born. They said to him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, because this was written through the prophet:

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.”

Then Herod secretly summoned the Wise Men and found out from them exactly when the star had appeared. 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.”

After 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. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with overwhelming joy. 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. Since they had been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they went back to their own country by another route.

After the Gospel, the congregation sings:

C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

The image shows a musical staff with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody consists of the following notes: C4 (quarter), D4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), F#4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), and C5 (quarter). The notes are connected by a slur from the first to the fourth note. The piece ends with a double bar line.

Be seated.

Hymn of the Day ----- How Lovely Shines the Morning Star

CW 79

1. How lovely shines the Morning Star! The nations see and hail afar
The light in 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 in spirit him I see,
I joy in tribulation.
What bliss Is this! He is living, To me giving
Life forever; Nothing me from him can sever.
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.

Sermon ----- Matthew 2:1-12

The Gift of God for All People

Stand.

We Praise You, O God

Te Deum



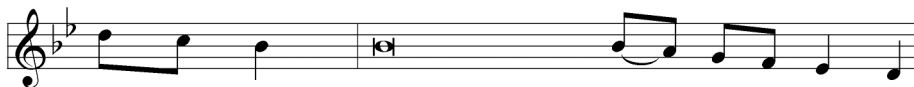
C: We praise you, O God, we acclaim you as Lord; all creation worships you,



Fa-ther ev - er - last - ing. To you all angels, all the pow'rs of heav'n,



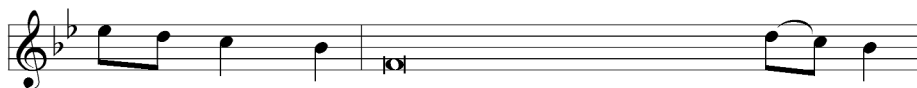
cherubim and seraphim, sing in end-less praise: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of



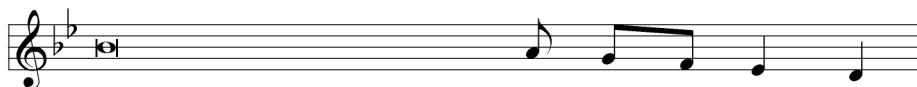
heav'n - ly hosts, heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry.



The glorious company of apostles praise you. The noble fellowship of



proph-ets praise you. The white-robed army of martyrs praise you.



Throughout the world the ho - ly Church ac - claims you:



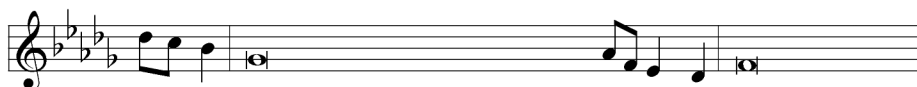
Father of majesty unbounded, your glorious, true, and on - ly Son,



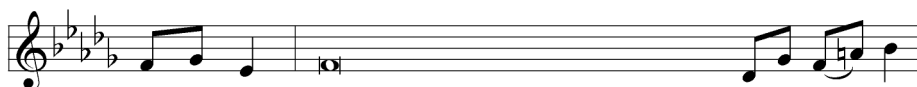
and the Holy Spirit, ad - vo - cate and guide. You, Christ, are the King of



glo - ry, the eternal Son of the Fa - ther. When you became man to



set us free, you humbled yourself to be born of a vir-gin. You overcame the



sting of death and opened the kingdom of heaven to all be-liev - ers.



You sit at the right hand of God in the glory of the Fa - ther.



We believe that you will come to be our judge.



Come then, Lord, and help your people, bought with the price of



your own blood, and bring us with your saints to glory ever-lasting.

Be seated.

Offering

Stand.

Prayer of the Church

The minister offers the petitions and the congregation responds with “hear our prayer.”

Online giving option:
mluther.org/offerings



Offerings support the spread
of the Gospel here and around the world.

M: Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

M: Holy God, eternal Light, the darkness of sin covers the earth and its peoples. Let the light of the Gospel lead us to Him who was born King of the Jews. Give us humble and grateful hearts that bow down and worship Him and willingly offer the most precious gifts we have to give. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

M: From distant lands and far off places, You gather a people to bear Your name and live in the light of Your Word. Bless the Church, that she may be united in doctrine, live in harmony and peace, and labor to bring the light of Christ to those still dwelling in darkness and death. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

M: You have established Your Church and drawn into her people from every race, tribe and nation. Bless those entrusted with the leadership of the Church. Give to all pastors and missionaries the boldness of Your Spirit, that they may proclaim the saving truth of Your Word without fear. Bless those who hear, that they may be brought to faith. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

M: Holy God, eternal Light, the psalmist begged that You would endow the king with Your justice. Grant the same gift to the leaders of our nation and every nation. Fill them with wisdom, compassion and care so that, unlike Herod, they would seek to uphold life and watch over the welfare of the governed. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

M: Give to all people the comfort of Your presence, healing according to Your will, relief in suffering, and an end to the terrors of mind and heart. [*We pray especially for _____.*] Sustain the weary with Your Word, the wounded with hope and the dying with peace. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

M: May Your light shine on us and bring forth the fruits of repentance in our daily lives. Give us confidence in Your Word, that we would embrace Your holy will without fear. Hear and answer us, we pray, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

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 SACRAMENT

M: The Lord be with you.



C: **And al - so with you.**

M: Lift up your hearts



C: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

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



C: **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

M: Praise to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In love he has blessed us with every spiritual blessing. In the past he spoke to us through the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, who is the radiance of his glory.

Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ. To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and thanks and honor and glory for ever and ever.

Holy, Holy, Holy

Sanctus



C: **Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly is the Lord of hosts.**



Words of Institution

M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my † body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my † blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

M: The peace of the Lord be with you always.



C: A - men.

O Christ, Lamb of God

Agnus Dei



C: O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world; have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God, you



take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.



O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world; grant us your peace. A - men.

Be seated.

DISTRIBUTION

In Holy Communion we believe that Jesus gives us his own body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of our sins. We ask that, in keeping with God's Word, only confirmed members who are in confessional unity with our church (WELS and ELS) would come forward to receive this sacrament. If you have any questions or are interested in communicant membership, please speak with the pastor.

During the distribution, the congregation sings the following hymn:

Hymn ----- Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice

CW 377

1. Dear Christians, one and all, rejoice, With exultation springing,
And, with united heart and voice And holy rapture singing,
Proclaim the wonders God has done, How his right arm the vict'ry won.
How dearly it has cost him!
2. Fast bound in Satan's chains I lay; Death brooded darkly o'er me.
Sin was my torment night and day; In sin my mother bore me.
Yet deep and deeper still I fell; Life had become a living hell,
So firmly sin possessed me.
3. My own good works availed me naught, No merit they attaining;
My will against God's judgment fought, No hope for me remaining.
My fears increased till sheer despair Left naught but death to be my share
And hell to be my sentence.
4. But God beheld my wretched state Before the world's foundation,
And, mindful of his mercies great, He planned my soul's salvation.
A Father's heart he turned to me, Sought my redemption fervently;
He gave his dearest treasure.
5. He spoke to his beloved Son: "Tis time to have compassion.
Then go, bright Jewel of my crown, And bring mankind salvation.
From sin and sorrow set them free; Slay bitter death for them that they
May live with you forever."
6. The Son obeyed his Father's will, Was born of virgin mother,
And, God's good pleasure to fulfill, He came to be my brother.
No garb of pomp or pow'r he wore; A servant's form like mine he bore
To lead the devil captive.

7. To me he spoke, "Hold fast to me-I am your rock and castle.
Your ransom I myself will be; For you I strive and wrestle.
For I am yours, your friend divine, And evermore you shall be mine;
The foe shall not divide us.
8. "The foe shall shed my precious blood, Me of my life bereaving.
All this I suffer for your good; Be steadfast and believing.
Life shall from death the vict'ry win; My innocence shall bear your sin,
And you are blest forever.
9. "Now to my Father I depart, The Holy Spirit sending
And, heav'nly wisdom to impart, My help to you extending.
He will a source of comfort be, Teach you to know and follow me,
And in all truth will guide you.
10. "What I on earth have lived and taught Be all your life and teaching;
So shall my kingdom's work be wrought And honored in your preaching.
Take care that no one's man-made laws
Should e'er destroy the gospel's cause.
This final word I leave you."

THANKSGIVING

Stand.

Thank the Lord



C: Thank the Lord and sing his praise. Tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re - jice and proud - ly bear his name.



He re-news his prom-is - es and leads his peo-ple forth in joy with



shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

M: Hear the prayer of your people, O Lord, that the lips which have praised you here may glorify you in the world, that the eyes which have seen the coming of your Son may long for his coming again, and that all who have received in his true body and blood the pledge of your forgiveness may be restored to live a new and holy life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C: A - men.

Blessing

M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and † give you peace.



C: A - men. A - men. A - men.

Be seated.

Hymn ----- As with Gladness Men of Old

CW 83

1. 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 Lord, may we Evermore your followers be.
2. As with joyful steps they sped, Savior, to your lowly bed,
There to bend the knee before You whom heav'n and earth adore,
So may we with willing feet Ever seek your mercy seat.
3. As they offered gifts most rare At your 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.
4. 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.
5. In the heav'nly country bright Need they no created light;
You its light, its joy, its crown, You its sun which goes not down.
There forever may we sing Alleluias to our King!

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