

The Epiphany of Our Lord
January 3, 2021

Faith Lutheran Church

Online

Georgetown, TX 78628

512-863-7332

flcms.org

(The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod)

WELCOME

INVOCATION:

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

People: Amen.

CALL TO WORSHIP: *John 1:4, 5, 9*

Pastor: Jesus Christ is the Light of the world,

People: the Light no darkness can overcome.

Pastor: In Him was life, and that life was the light of men.

People: The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION:

*Pastor: We know from John's Gospel that "God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and in truth." (John 4:23) But we also know that by nature we are poor miserable sinners, who sin against God and each other in thought, word, and deed. Thanks be to God, for He has told us that "if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive us all our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness." (1 John 1:9)
Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.*

People: Most merciful God, we confess we are sinners and have justly deserve Your eternal punishment. We have ignored the Light of the world far too often and preferred to delight in darkness. We are sorry, Father, and we sincerely repent of our sin. Out of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, the Light of the world, be gracious and mercy to us, poor, sinful beings.

Pastor: God is gracious and He has promised to forgive. Therefore, as you believe, so let it be. In the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, it is my privilege to day to announce to you that all your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

OPENING HYMN: “Sounds of Thanksgiving and Praise” (LSB, #394 sts. 1, 4, 5)

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.

Manifest at Jordan’s stream,
Prophet, Priest, and King supreme;
And at Cana wedding guest
In Thy Godhead manifest;
Manifest in pow’r divine,
Changing water into wine;
Anthems be to Thee addressed,
God in man made manifest.

Manifest in making whole
Palsied limbs and fainting soul;
Manifest in valiant fight,
Quelling all the devil’s might;
Manifest in gracious will,
Ever bringing good from ill;
Anthems be to Thee addressed,
God in man made manifest.

Sun and moon shall darkened be,
Stars shall fall, the heav’ns shall flee;
Christ will then like lightning shine,
All will see His glorious sign;
All will then the trumpet hear,
All will see the Judge appear;

Thou by all wilt be confessed,
God in man made manifest.

Grant us grace to see Thee, Lord,
Present in Thy holy Word—
Grace to imitate Thee now
And be pure, as pure art Thou;
That we might become like Thee
At Thy great epiphany
And may praise Thee, ever blest,
God in man made manifest.

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PRAYER OF THE DAY:

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray.

People: O God, by the leading of a star You made known Your only-begotten Son to the Gentiles. Lead us, who know You by faith, to enjoy in heaven the fullness of Your divine presence; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

THE 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.

Lector: This is the Word of the lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

EPIPHANY CAROL: “We Three Kings of Orient Are” (sts. 1-4)

We three kings of Orient are;
bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain, moor and mountain,
following yonder star.

Refrain:

O star of wonder, star of light,
star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light.

Born a King on Bethlehem's plain,
gold I bring to crown him again,
King forever, ceasing never,
over us all to reign. [**Refrain**]

Frankincense to offer have I;
incense owns a Deity nigh;
prayer and praising, voices raising,
worshiping God on high. [**Refrain**]

Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume
breathes a life of gathering gloom;
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,
sealed in the stone-cold tomb. [**Refrain**]

John Henry Hopkins Jr. (1857)

EPISTLE 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.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Lector: Please rise, as you are able.

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

People: Glory to You, O Lord!

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.

Lector: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ!

Lector: We confess together our Christian faith, using the Nicene Creed

CONFESSION OF FAITH: The Nicene Creed

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!

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

The Children's Message will return to its regularly scheduled place when we are able to increase the length of the worship service. Until then, it is available online at www.flcms.org/index.php/media/sermons.

HYMN: "The Star Proclaims the King is Here" (LSB, #399)

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.

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.

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.

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.

For this Thy glad epiphany
All glory, Jesus, be to Thee,
Whom with the Father we adore,
And Holy Spirit evermore.

Text: Public domain

SERMON: "What the Magi Saw" (*Matthew 2:1-12*)

OFFERTORY:

While the Coronavirus may have changed the way we come through the front doors of church, thanks be to God it has not prevented us from coming to Church! Please

consider, as you are able, returning thanks and giving today
at www.flcms.org/index.php/give.

OFFERTORY HYMN: “The People That in Darkness Sat” (LSB, #412 st. 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.

Text: Public domain

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

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

Following each petition:

Pastor: Lord, in Your mercy,

People: Hear our prayer.

Following the final petition:

Pastor: For these and all other concerns we have; we pray as You have taught us to pray:

THE 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.

BENEDICTION: (*Numbers 6:24-26*)

*Pastor: 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.*

People: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN: “As with Gladness Men of Old” (LSB, #397 sts. 1-4)

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 be led by Thee.

As with joyful steps they sped,
Savior, to Thy lowly bed,
There to bend the knee before
Thee, whom heav’n and earth adore;
So may we with willing feet
Ever seek Thy mercy seat.

As they offered gifts most rare
At Thy cradle, rude and bare,
So may we with holy joy,
Pure and free from sin’s alloy,
All our costliest treasures bring,
Christ, to Thee, our heav’nly King.

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 Thy glory hide.

In the heav’nly country bright
Need they no created light;
Thou its light, its joy, its crown,
Thou its sun which goes not down;
There forever may we sing
Alleluias to our King.

Text: Public domain

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Go in peace and serve the Lord!

In Christian Service:

All disciples of the Lord Jesus

with

Proclaimer – Rev. Walt Pohland

Liturgist – Rev. Bill Crowe

Musicians:

Adam Perez and Austin Angerman

Online Lector: Vicar John Cotner

Children's Chapel:

DCE Jonathan Loesch, DCE Austin Angerman