

## THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD

Soaked and Bloody: Our Lord and You

January 6, 2025

### AS WE GATHER

Have you ever received a surprise present, one that was out of your own price range to get? That, in a nutshell, describes Epiphany. The Wise Men came to give presents, and instead received one their wealth could not have bought. We are included in this. We are baptized for the forgiveness of sins by His blood on the cross that covers our sins, once for all. That water and blood give us the greatest—and most expensive—gift in the world. Here we see Jesus revealed, manifested, in a star, in the coming of the Magi and the gifts they bring.

**Reception of Holy Communion:** If you are planning to receive Christ's supper today, please read through the words of exhortation in the fellowship folder. For members, it is a good review of important spiritual matters for gathering at the table. For guests, it explains our stance on confession of faith, doctrinal unity, and proper spiritual preparation to receive the Supper for your benefit.

### WELCOME

For all the promises of God find their Yes in him.

That is why it is through him that we utter our Amen to God for his glory.

2 Corinthians 1:20

### HANDSHAKES & HUGS

#### PREPARATION

### OPENING HYMN #411 “I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light”

I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to follow Jesus.

God set the stars to give light to the world. The star of my life is Jesus.

**Refrain:**     **In Him there is no darkness at all.  
The night and the day are both alike.  
The Lamb is the light of the city of God.  
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.**

I want to see the brightness of God. I want to look at Jesus.  
Clear Sun of Righteousness, shine on my path,  
And show me the way to the Father. **Refrain**

I'm looking for the coming of Christ. I want to be with Jesus.  
When we have run with patience the race,  
We shall know the joy of Jesus. **Refrain**

(Rise)

### INVOCATION

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

People: **Amen.**

### OPENING SENTENCES

Pastor: He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.

People: **For by Him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through Him and for Him.**

Pastor: And He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.

People: **And He is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything He might be preeminent.**

Pastor: For in Him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell,

People: **and through Him to reconcile to Himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of His cross.**

### CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Let us confess our sins to God our Father.

People: **Most merciful God, I confess that I am by nature sinful and unclean. I have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed.**

Pastor: Do you recognize the truth—that you have not loved God with your whole heart nor loved your neighbor as yourself?

People: **I confess that I have failed to keep the two great commandments by what I have done and what we have failed to do. Heavenly Father, I don't deserve your forgiveness, but ask for it because of the greatest love shown at the cross.**

Pastor: Hear the great news: God has used two common earthly elements—water and blood—to forgive your sins and make you His very own. Through the cross of Christ and the blood of Jesus shed there, and because you have been baptized, I forgive you all of your sins in the name of the Father and of the +Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Thank you, Lord, for revealing your mercy and grace to me on this great day of Epiphany.**

Pastor: Lord Jesus, thank you for shedding your blood and giving us the waters of Holy Baptism,

**People: by which you sacrificed your life for ours and made us a part of your family forever. Amen.**

#### **HYMN OF PRAISE**

*LSB p. 204*

To God on high be glory And peace to all the earth;  
Goodwill from God in heaven Proclaimed at Jesus' birth!  
We praise and bless you, Father; Your holy name, we sing –  
Our thanks for your great glory, Lord God, our Heav'nly King.

To You, O solebegotten, The Father's Son, we pray;  
O Lamb of God, our Savior, You take our sins away.  
Have mercy on us, Jesus; Receive our heartfelt cry,  
Where You in pow'r are seated At God's right hand on high.

For You alone are holy; You only are the Lord.  
Forever and forever, Be worshipped and adored;  
You with the Holy Spirit Alone are Lord Most High.  
In God the Father's glory. "Amen!" our glad reply.

#### **SALUTATION & PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Pastor: Let us pray. 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.

**People: Amen.**

(Be seated)

#### **WORD**

**OLD TESTAMENT READING** *Isaiah 60:1–6* (Isaiah boldly predicts that nations from everywhere would come to the light of their Messiah, which they have and still are doing.) Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. <sup>2</sup>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. <sup>3</sup>And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising. <sup>4</sup>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. <sup>5</sup>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. <sup>6</sup>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.**

**EPISTLE** *Ephesians 3:1–12* (He was revealed to and for the Gentiles as well as the Jews.) For this reason I, Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles <sup>2</sup>assuming that you have heard of the stewardship of God's grace that was given to me for you, <sup>3</sup>how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I have written briefly. <sup>4</sup>When you read this, you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ, <sup>5</sup>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. <sup>6</sup>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. <sup>7</sup>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. <sup>8</sup>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, <sup>9</sup>and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God, who created all things, <sup>10</sup>so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. <sup>11</sup>This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord, <sup>12</sup>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.**

(Rise)

**HOLY GOSPEL** *Matthew 2:1–12* (The wickedness of Herod, the flight to Egypt, and the slaughter of the innocents, fulfilling prophecy.)

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

**People: 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, <sup>2</sup>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.” <sup>3</sup>When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; <sup>4</sup>and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. <sup>5</sup>They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet: <sup>6</sup>“‘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.’” <sup>7</sup>Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup>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.” <sup>9</sup>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. <sup>10</sup>When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. <sup>11</sup>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. <sup>12</sup>And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**People: Praise to you, O Christ.**

(Be seated)

## **CHILDREN’S SONG & CHILDREN’S MESSAGE**

## **“Jesus Loves the Little Children”**

Jesus loves the little children, all the children of the world.  
Red and yellow, black and white, they are precious in His sight  
Jesus loves the little children of the world.

Jesus cares for all the children, all the children of the world,  
Ev’ry child in ev’ry land, Jesus holds them in His hand.  
Jesus cares for all the children of the world.

## **SERMON HYMN #383 “A Great and Mighty Wonder”**

A great and mighty wonder, A full and holy cure:  
The virgin bears the infant With virgin honor pure!

**Refrain: Proclaim the Savior’s birth:**  
**“To God on high be glory And peace to all the earth!”**

The Word becomes incarnate And yet remains on high,  
And cherubim sing anthems To shepherds from the sky. **Refrain**  
While thus they sing your Monarch, Those bright angelic bands,  
Rejoice, O vales and mountains, And oceans, clap your hands. **Refrain**  
Since all He comes to ransom, By all be He adored,  
The infant born in Bethl’em, The Savior and the Lord. **Refrain**  
All idols then shall perish And Satan’s lying cease,  
And Christ shall raise His scepter, Decreeing endless peace. **Refrain**

## **SERMON**

(Rise)

## **OFFERTORY**

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.  
Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.  
Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and uphold me with Thy free spirit.  
Amen.

LSB p. 192

## **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.**

(Be seated)

**OFFERING** As your offering is collected, **please sign our fellowship folder** located at the end of the pew. If you are a visitor, please leave your address and phone. After you are finished, please pass the folder along to others in your pew, and return it to the center aisle. You may check the folder to see names of those to greet after the service.

**SOLO**                    *“From God the Father, Virgin-Born”*                    Deaconess Carole King

(Rise)

#### **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

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

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,

**People: hear our prayer.**

7

Pastor: 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,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: 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 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,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: 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,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: 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 John, Debbie, Bob, Lisa, Judy, Jerry, Carole, Wendy, June, Audrey, Janice, David, Helga, Dick, Michael, Margie, Anna, Charlene, Marlene, Dorothy, Marga, Ardis, Noah, Guy, Mike, Jill, Janet, Vern, Cathy, Shirley, Sarah and those we name in our hearts. Grant comfort and peace to the Strand and Reynold's families as they mourn the passing of Vern, as well as Jack McGill mourning RoseMarie's passing. Sustain the weary with your Word, the wounded with hope and the dying with peace. Lord, in your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Lord, you grant us many blessings. We join today with Greg and Deb Margrett celebrating the marriage of their son, Nick, to Elizabeth Schoenfeldt. Lord, in your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

8

Pastor: You have made us your chosen people, members of Christ's Body, co-

heirs with Him of all the riches of your grace, including the privilege of this holy table. Bless our communion in Christ and bring peace and unity, that we may see the day when no divisions prevent us from kneeling in your presence and receiving this blessed Sacrament for the life and salvation of all. Lord, in your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: 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.

**People: Amen.**

### SACRAMENT

#### PREFACE

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

**People: We lift them to the Lord.**

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

**People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

#### PROPER PREFACE

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to you, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. He is the long-awaited prophet and Savior, the Holy One who has destroyed the power of the devil and gives forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation by His sacrifice on the cross. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify your glorious name, evermore praising you and saying:

#### SANCTUS

LSB p. 208

Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth adored;  
Heav'n and earth with full acclaim shout the glory of your name.  
Sing hosanna in the highest, sing hosanna to the Lord;  
Truly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

#### 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.

#### THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

##### PAX DOMINI

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

**People: Amen.**

##### AGNUS DEI

LSB p. 210

O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away;

O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.

O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away;

Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ, And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

(Be seated)

#### DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

##### HYMN #400 "Brightest and Best of the Stars of the Morning"

Brightest and best of the stars of the morning,  
Dawn on our darkness and lend us thine aid;  
Star of the East, the horizon adorning,  
Guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.

Cold on His cradle the dewdrops are shining;  
Low lies His head with the beasts of the stall;  
Angels adore Him in slumber reclining,  
Maker and Monarch and Savior of all.

Shall we not yield Him, in costly devotion,  
Fragrance of Edom and off'rings divine,  
Gems of the mountain and pearls of the ocean,  
Myrrh from the forest and gold from the mine?

Vainly we offer each ample oblation,  
Vainly with gifts would His favor secure.  
Richer by far is the heart's adoration;  
Dearer to God are the prayers of the poor.

Brightest and best of the stars of the morning,  
Dawn on our darkness and lend us thine aid;  
Star of the East, the horizon adorning,  
Guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.

**HYMN #397 "As with Gladness Men of Old"**

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.

**HYMN #399 "The Star Proclaims the King Is Here"**

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.

11 continued

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.

**COMMON DISMISSAL**

(Rise)

**POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING**

Pastor: Let us pray. Lord Jesus Christ, by your blood, you have redeemed us  
from sin, death, and Satan, and through the waters of Holy Baptism,  
you have made us your own people. Continue to guide us by your Holy  
Spirit that you would be revealed to us more each day though your  
Word and Sacrament; for you live and reign with the Father and the  
Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

**BENEDICAMUS**

Pastor: Let us bless the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**BENEDICTION**

Pastor: 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.

**People: Amen.**

**CLOSING HYMN #388 "Go Tell It on the Mountain"**

**Refrain: Go tell it on the mountain, Over the hills and ev'rywhere;  
Go tell it on the mountain That Jesus Christ is born!**

While shepherds kept their watching O'er silent flocks by night,  
Behold, throughout the heavens There shone a holy light. **Refrain**

12 continued

The shepherds feared and trembled When lo, above the earth  
Rang out the angel chorus That hailed our Savior's birth. **Refrain**

Down in a lonely manger The humble Christ was born;  
And God sent us salvation That blessed Christmas morn. **Refrain**

Preacher  
Liturgist  
Lectors  
Organist

Pastor Joshua Grotelueschen  
Pastor Harold Bender  
Mark Richardson, Debbie Nier  
Deaconess Carole King