

THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD

January 6, 2019

Worship Focus

The Light Shines in the Darkness for All Nations



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THE ORDER OF SERVICE

Service of Word and Sacrament

Christian Worship, p. 26

Service of Word and Sacrament © Northwestern Publishing House 1993.

"Thank the Lord" Tune: Richard Hillert. © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship. Augsburg Fortress

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OPENING HYMN

92 – Brightest and Best



1 Bright - est and best of the stars of the morn - ing,
2 Cold on his cra - dle the dew - drops are shin - ing;
3 Shall we not yield him in cost - ly de - vo - tion
4 Vain - ly we bring him the fin - est of of - f'ings,
5 Bright - est and best of the stars of the morn - ing,



Dawn on our dark - ness and lend us your aid.
Low lies his head with the beasts of the stall.
Rar - est of fra - gran - ces, tri - bute di - vine,
Vain - ly with gifts would his fa - vor se - cure.
Dawn on our dark - ness and lend us your aid.



Star of the East, the ho - ri - zon a - dorn - ing,
An - gels a - dore him in slum - ber re - clin - ing,
Gems of the moun - tain and pearls of the o - cean,
Rich - er by far is the praise that the heart brings;
Star of the East, the ho - ri - zon a - dorn - ing,



Guide where our in - fant Re - deem - er is laid.
Mak - er and mon - arch and Sav - ior of all.
Myrrh from the for - est and gold from the mine?
Dear - er to God are the prayers of the poor.
Guide where our in - fant Re - deem - er is laid.

Text: Reginald Heber, 1783–1826, alt.

Tune: MORNING STAR (11 10 11 10) James P. Harding, 1850–1911, adapt.

INVOCATION

Minister The grace of our Lord (+) Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

Congregation **And also with you.**

CONFESSION OF SINS AND ABSOLUTION

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.**

LORD HAVE MERCY (*Kyrie*)

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.



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.



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.



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



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

**Magi, leave your contemplations;
Brighter visions beam afar.
Seek the great desire of nations;
You have seen the Savior's star.**
Refrain:
**Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the newborn King.**

**Saints before the altar bending,
Watching long in hope and fear,
Suddenly the Lord, descending,
In his temple shall appear.**

Refrain (80:3,4)

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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





THE WORD

FIRST LESSON Isaiah 60:1-6

Isaiah prophesied that kings of nations – Gentiles – would come to worship Jesus... and so, on the day we call The Epiphany, magi from nations did come.

ISAIAH 60:1 “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 arm.

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.

PSALM

Psalm 72

Refrain Tune: Dale Wood. From *Seasonal Psalms*. © 1978 Augsburg Publishing House.
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All join in singing the refrain and Gloria. Men please sing the first line of each verse, and women respond with the second line.

Refrain

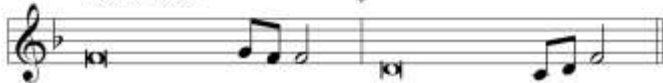


Let the peo - ple praise you, O God.



Let all the peo - ple praise you.

Psalm tone



(Men) Endow the King with your justice, | O God,*
(Women) 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 gener | ations.

He will be like rain falling on a | mown field,*
like showers water | ing 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 mar | velous 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 be | ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. | Amen. *Refrain*

SECOND LESSON Ephesians 3:2-12

Paul makes it clear that the Gentiles are also partakers in the promise of a Savior.

EPHESIANS 3:2 Surely you have heard about the administration of God's grace that was given to me for you,³ that is, the mystery made known to me by revelation, as I have already written briefly.⁴ In reading this, then, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ,⁵ which was not made known to men in other generations as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to God's holy apostles and prophets.⁶ This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus.⁷ I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God's grace given me through the working of his power.⁸ Although I am less than the least of all God's people, this grace was given me: to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ,⁹ and to make plain to everyone the administration of this mystery, which for ages past was kept hidden in God, who created all things.¹⁰ His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms,¹¹ according to his eternal purpose which he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord.¹² In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence.

VERSE OF THE DAY

Alleluia. We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him. Alleluia. (Matthew 2:2b)

GOSPEL Matthew 2:1-12

The Gentile Magi visit Jesus, their Savior.

MATTHEW 2:1 After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem² and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him."

³ When 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 Christ 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 be the shepherd of my people Israel."

O Da - vid's Son of Ja - cob's race, My Bride-groom
 In your blest bod - y let me be, E'en as the
 Your Son has made a friend of me, And when in
 And you at length— O glo - rious grace— Will take me
 Christ will be with me all the way, To - day, to -

and my King of grace, For you my heart is pin - ing.
 branch is in the tree, Your life my life sup - ply - ing.
 spir - it him I see, I joy in trib - u - la - tion.
 to that ho - ly place, The home of joys su - per - nal.
 mor - row, ev - 'ry day Till trav - 'ling days are end - ed.

Low - ly, Ho - ly, Great and glo - rious, O vic - to - rious
 Sigh - ing, Cry - ing For the sa - vor Of your fa - vor
 What bliss Is this! He is liv - ing, To me giv - ing
 A - men, A - men! Come and meet me, Quick - ly greet me!
 Sing out, Ring out Tri - umph glo - rious, O vic - to - rious

Prince of gra - ces, Fill - ing all the heav'n - ly pla - ces.
 Rest - ing nev - er Till I rest in you for - ev - er.
 Life for - ev - er; Noth - ing me from him can sev - er.
 With deep yearn - ing, Lord, I look for your re - turn - ing.
 Chos - en na - tion; Praise the God of your sal - va - tion.

Text: Philipp Nicolai, 1556–1608, abr., adapt.; tr. *The Lutheran Hymnal*, St. Louis, 1941, alt.
 Tune: WIL SICHON LEUCHTET (887 887 22 44 48) Philipp Nicolai, 1556–1608, alt.

SERMON
 Matthew 2:1-12

The Epiphany Is a Star-studded Event

CONFESSION OF FAITH – THE NICENE CREED

**C We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made, of one being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary,
and became fully human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

FRIENDSHIP REGISTER and GATHERING OF OFFERINGS

MUSICAL OFFERING

INSTALLATION OF ELECTED CONGREGATIONAL OFFICERS

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Led by the light of the star, the wise still come and, at the bidding of the Lord, kneel before Him with their prayers for all people as they have need.

Brief silence

As once the Magi of old came to adore the infant Savior and to bring Him the worship of their hearts, hands and gifts, so do we come this day giving thanks for Your mercy and rejoicing in Your promise kept. Bring the light of Your Word to all who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You have established Your Church and drawn into her people from every race, tribe and people. Bless all those entrusted with the leadership of the church, and 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.**

Give to all people the comfort of Your presence, healing according to Your will, relief of their suffering, and an end to the terrors of mind and heart, especially those for whom our prayers have been requested _____ and those we name in our hearts. (*Brief silence.*) Sustain the weary with Your Word, the wounded with hope and the dying with peace. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Mindful of Your plan of the mystery hidden for the ages and revealed in Christ, we come together in this place as one people by Baptism and set apart to live out our common vocation of worship, witness, intercession and mercy work. Bless the gifts we bring as You once honored the Magi by accepting gold, frankincense and myrrh. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

With the faithful of every time and place, we give You thanks and praise. Through their example, we are encouraged to fight the good fight of faith. Through the apostles, prophets and all the saints, You have displayed Your saving glory for the benefit of all people. Guard us against the power of doubt and fear and help us endure, that we may be kept among Your sons and daughters who shall see You and be filled with the radiance of Your glory forever. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

With exceedingly great joy in Your promises and with confidence that You will hear and answer Your people, we commend into Your hands ourselves and all for whom we pray, through Christ, our Lord, whom with the Father and Holy Spirit, You are one God and one Lord, now and forevermore. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

C Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. 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. When the time had fully come, he sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law, to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons. 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.



The whole earth is full of your glo - ry.



You are my God, and I will ex - alt you.



I will give you thanks, for you have be-come my sal-
va-tion. Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly is the Lord of hosts.
The whole earth is full of your glo-ry.

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.

DISTRIBUTION

The Scriptures teach that the Lord's Supper connects us intimately with Christ and with one another as Christians who are united around a common confession of faith. Therefore, we ask that only those who are members of Calvary or churches within our fellowship come forward to receive the Lord's Supper.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

91 – The Star Proclaims the King is Here

1 The star pro - claims the King is here; But, Her - od,
 2 The wis - er Ma - gi saw from far And fol - lowed
 3 With - in the Jor - dan Riv - er stood The pure and
 4 At Ca - na - mir - a - cle di - vine - When wa - ter
 5 All glo - ry un - to Je - sus be And praise for

why this sense - less fear? For he who came from heav - en's
 on his guid - ing star, And, led by light, to Light they
 ho - ly Lamb of God; The Fa - ther's voice, the Spir - it -
 red - dened in - to wine, The faith - ful saw his glo - ry
 his e - piph - a - ny, Whom with the Fa - ther we a -

throne Does not de - sire an earth - ly crown.
 pressed And by their gifts their God con - fessed.
 dove, Con - firmed the Sav - ior from a - bove.
 shown And put their trust in him a - lone.
 dore And Ho - ly Spir - it ev - er - more.

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-joyce 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.

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.

CLOSING HYMN

93 – Hail to the Lord’s Anointed



1 Hail to the Lord’s A - noint - ed, Great Da - vid’s great - er
 2 He comes with res - cue speed - y To those who suf - fer
 3 Kings shall bow down be - fore him And gold and in - cense
 4 O’er ev - ’ry foe vic - to - rious, He on his throne shall



Son! Hail, in the time ap - point - ed, His reign on
 wrong, To help the poor and need - y And bid the
 bring; All na - tions shall a - dore him; His praise all
 rest, From age to age more glo - rious, All bless - ing



earth be - gun! He comes to break op - pres - sion, To
 weak be strong, To give them songs for sigh - ing, Their
 peo - ple sing, To him shall prayer un - ceas - ing And
 and all - blest, The tide of time shall nev - er His



set the cap - tive free, To take a - way trans -
 dark - ness turn to light Whose souls, con - demned and
 dai - ly vows as - cend, His king - dom still in -
 cov - e - nant re - move; His name shall stand for -



gres - sion, And rule in eq - ui - ty.
 dy - ing, Are pre - cious in his sight.
 creas - ing, A king - dom with - out end.
 ev - er— That name to us is Love.

Text: James Montgomery, 1771–1854, abr., alt.

Tune: FREUT EUCH, IHR LIEBEN CHRISTEN (76 76 D) Leonhart Schröter, c. 1532–c. 1601.

After worship, please feel free to stay and greet your neighbors.