

THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD

January 7, 2018

Worship Focus

Jesus, Revealed: To the Nations



EPIPHANY

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THE ORDER OF SERVICE

Service of Word and Sacrament

Christian Worship, p. 26

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

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OPENING HYMN

83 - As with Gladness Men of Old



1 As with glad-ness men of old Did the guid-ing
2 As with joy-ful steps they sped, Sav-ior, to your
3 As they of-fered gifts most rare At your cra-dle,
4 Ho-ly Je-sus, ev-'ry day Keep us in the
5 In the heav'n-ly coun-try bright Need they no cre-



star be-hold, As with joy they hailed its light,
low-ly bed, There to bend the knee be-fore
rude and bare, So may we with ho-ly joy,
nar-row way; And, when earth-ly things are past,
a-ted light; You its light, its joy, its crown,



Lead-ing on-ward, beam-ing bright, So, most gra-cious
You whom heav'n and earth a-dore, So may we with
Pure and free from sin's al-loy, All our cost-liest
Bring our ran-somed souls at last Where they need no
You its sun which goes not down. There for-ev-er



Lord, may we Ev-er-more your fol-lowers be.
will-ing feet Ev-er seek your mer-cy seat.
treas-ures bring, Christ, to you, our heav'n-ly King.
star to guide, Where no clouds your glo-ry hide.
may we sing Al-le-lu-ias to our King!

Text: William C. Dix, 1837-98, alt.

Tune: Dix (77 77 77) Conrad Kocher, 1786-1872, alt.

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 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 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

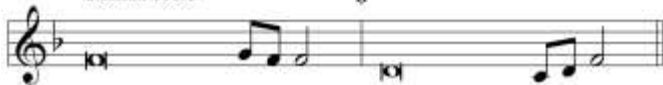


Let the peo - ple praise you, O God.



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



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.””

⁷ Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. ⁸ He sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and make a careful search for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him.”

⁹ After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen in the east went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was.

¹⁰ When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. ¹¹ On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh. ¹² And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

After the reading of the Gospel the congregation responds:



HYMN OF THE DAY

79 - How Lovely Shines the Morning Star



1 How love - ly shines the Morn - ing Star! The na - tions see and
 2 O high - est joy by mor - tals won, True Son of God and
 3 O might - y Fa - ther, in your Son You loved me ere you
 4 Oh, joy to know that you, my Friend, Are Lord, be - gin - ning
 5 Lift up the voice and strike the string, Let all glad sounds of



hail a - far The light in Ju - dah shin - ing.
 Mar - y's Son, The high - born King of a - ges!
 had be - gun This an - cient world's foun - da - tion,
 with - out end, The first and last, e - ter - nal!
 mu - sic ring In God's high prais - es blend - ed.



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.

the hymn verses continue on the next page

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, abc., adapt.; tr. *The Lutheran Hymnal*, St. Louis, 1941, alt.
 Tune: WIE SCHÖN LEUCHTET (887 887 22 44 48) Philipp Nicolai, 1556–1608, alt.

SERMON

Matthew 2:1-12

Wisemen Still Seek Him!

1. despite the obstacles
2. to worship

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 OFFICERS WHO SERVE THE
CONGREGATION**

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

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

Brief silence

We come to You, holy Father, with great joy, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Through Him we beg You to accept and bless the prayers and offerings we bring, even as You were pleased with the gold, frankincense and myrrh offered to Your Son by the Magi of old. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Remember, Lord, Your Holy Church. Watch over her and guide her. Grant her peace and unity throughout the world. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Remember, Lord, our Synod president, Pastor Schroeder; our district presidents; and all pastors, teachers, and servants of the Church. Grant them to hold and teach the faith that comes to us from the holy prophets and apostles. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Remember, Lord, all who suffer for Your name, all who are in prison, the hungry and ill-clad, the poor and the lonely, those who travel, and all who cry out to You in their time of need [*especially* _____]. Take each hurting heart under Your tender care and grant them Your peace and a happy issue out of all their afflictions. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Holy Father, in communion with the whole Church we give You thanks for Your saints, in whom You have given us a mirror of Your mercy and grace. This holy day we especially thank You for the Magi, the firstfruits of the Gentiles to kneel in worship before Your Son. Give us grace to walk before You with faith like theirs, and grant us a share in their heavenly fellowship. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord God, we pray You, grant all who approach Your holy altar this day grace to receive worthily the sacrament, the New Testament of our divine Redeemer. He is truly the Lamb of God, who gave Himself once and for all, as a holy, spotless and perfect sacrifice for the forgiveness of our sin and for the life and salvation of the whole world. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Through Him and with Him and in Him all honor and glory is Yours, O God the Father Almighty, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, forever and ever. **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

PREFACE and PROPER PREFACES

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.



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 celebration of 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

82 – Songs of Thankfulness and Praise



1 Songs of thank - ful - ness and praise, Je - sus, Lord, to
 2 Man - i - fest at Jor - dan's stream, Proph - et, Priest, and
 3 Man - i - fest in mak - ing whole Pal - sied limbs and
 4 Sun and moon shall dark - ened be; Stars shall fall, the
 5 Grant us grace to see you, Lord, Mir - rored in your



you we raise, Man - i - fest - ed by the star
 King su - preme, And at Ca - na, Wed - ding Guest,
 faint - ing soul; Man - i - fest in val - iant fight,
 heav'ns shall flee. Christ will then like light - ning shine;
 ho - ly Word. May our lives and all we do



To the Ma - gi from a - far, Branch of roy - al
 In your God - head man - i - fest; Man - i - fest in
 Quell - ing all the dev - il's might; Man - i - fest in
 All will see his glo - rious sign. All will then the
 Im - i - tate and hon - or you That we all like



Da - vid's stem, In your birth at Beth - le - hem.
 pow'r di - vine, Chang - ing wa - ter in - to wine.
 gra - cious will, Ev - er bring - ing good from ill.
 trum - pet hear; All will see the judge ap - pear.
 you may be At your great e - piph - a - ny



An - thems be to you ad - dressed, God in man made man - i - fest.
 An - thems be to you ad - dressed, God in man made man - i - fest.
 An - thems be to you ad - dressed, God in man made man - i - fest.
 You by all will be con - fessed, God in man made man - i - fest.
 And may praise you, ev - er blest, God in man made man - i - fest.

Text: Christopher Wordsworth, 1807–85, alt.
 Tune: ST. GEORGE'S, WINDSOR (77 77 D) George J. Elvey, 1816–93.

THANKSGIVING

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-joice 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!

PRAYER AND BLESSING

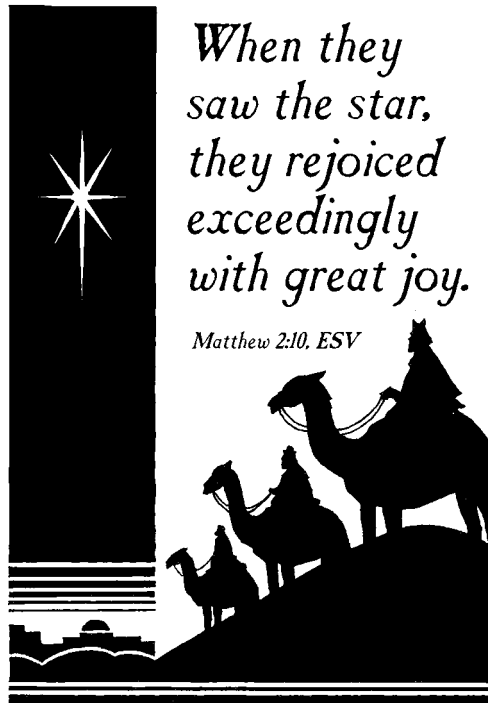
M Hear the prayer of your people, O Lord, that the lips which have praised you here may glorify you in the world, that the eyes which have seen the coming of your Son may long for his coming again, and that all who have received in his true body and blood the pledge of your forgiveness may be restored 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.



CLOSING 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' rings,
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.

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



A Light to the Nations