



The Epiphany of the Lord

January 5, 2025



Sunday Worship
9:30AM
Christian Education
11AM
Charles D. Found
vacancy-pastor
(805)490-0146
Wisconsin Synod

OUR REDEEMER

LUTHERAN CHURCH

WELCOME

to Our Redeemer and our hour of worship

Today we celebrate the Festival of the Epiphany. The Lord miraculously guides foreigners across countless miles so the Savior could be revealed to Gentiles. We Gentiles rejoice that the Jewish baby is a gift for all. How did they respond? They were overjoyed! May we also be filled with joy!

For parents with Small Children

There is a children's bulletin available in the basket together with the service folders as you enter. Please pick one up. If necessary, rest rooms and a video monitor for watching the service are in the fellowship hall. Go to your left as you walk out of the worship area, through the double doors.

+ Service of Word and Sacrament +

Hymn - *How Lovely Shines the Morning Star*

CW79

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.**

Please stand.

**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.**

Greeting

P 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.

We approach our God

+ + + **Confession of Sins** + + +

P 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.

A moment of silence for personal meditation.

+ + + **Absolution** + + +

P 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.

Be seated.

Hymn – *As with Gladness Men of Old*

CW83

**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 foll'wers 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!**

+ + + Prayer of the Day + + +

P Lord God, by the leading of a star, you once made known to the nations your one and only Son. Guide us 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.



Our God speaks to us from his Word

First Lesson - 1 Kings 10:1-9

An African queen visited Israel to test the wisdom of King Solomon. The result of her visit – she ends up praising the LORD for his love. The gift of God is for all people.

The Queen of Sheba heard about Solomon's fame, which was connected with the fame of the LORD, so she came to test him with hard questions. ²She came to Jerusalem with a very great entourage —with camels carrying spices and a large quantity of gold and precious stones. She came to Solomon and told him everything that was on her heart.

³Solomon answered all her questions. There was nothing hidden from the king that he could not explain to her.

⁴The Queen of Sheba saw all the wisdom of Solomon, the house which he built, ⁵and the food on his table. When she

saw the council meeting of his officials, the careful attention of his ministers, as well as their attire, his cupbearers, and the whole burnt offerings which he offered at the House of the LORD, it took her breath away.

⁶She said to the king, "The report I heard in my own country about your accomplishments and your wisdom is true. ⁷I did not believe the report until I came and saw it with my own eyes. The truth is, not even half of it was told to me! Your wisdom and wealth surpass the report which I heard.

⁸Blessed are your men, blessed are your servants, who stand before you continually hearing your wisdom! ⁹May the LORD your God be blessed, who was pleased to put you on the throne of Israel. Because the LORD loves Israel forever, he made you king to administer justice and righteousness. EHV

P The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Psalm of the Day - Psalm 72

Psalm 72 is prophecy. We see the glorious and beautiful reign of Christ in the entire world. In his kingdom only righteousness, freedom, and joyful consciences will flower and rule. Of course, this does not happen without the cross. Luther.

Refrain



Let the peo - ple praise you, O God.



Let all the peo - ple praise you.

Psalm tone



**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 - Acts 13:46-49

The focus of the apostle Paul's ministry was to share the gift of eternal life with the Gentiles.

Then Paul and Barnabas responded fearlessly, "It was necessary that God's word be spoken to you first. But since you reject it and consider yourselves unworthy of eternal life, look: We are now turning to the Gentiles! ⁴⁷For this is what the Lord has instructed us:

I have made you a light for the Gentiles,
that you may bring salvation to the end of the earth."

⁴⁸When the Gentiles heard this, they were rejoicing and praising the word of the Lord. All who had been appointed for eternal life believed.

⁴⁹And the word of the Lord was being carried through the whole region. EHV

P The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand for the Gospel reading.

Gospel Acclamation - from Matthew 2

P Alleluia. Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews?

C **We have seen his star when it rose and have come to worship him. Alleluia.**



Gospel - Matthew 2:1-12

The Lord miraculously led Magi across many hundreds of miles of difficult terrain, so that they might worship the child who offered the gift of salvation.

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.

P The Gospel of the Lord.



C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

Please be seated.

**1 The star proclaims the King is here;
But, Herod, why this senseless fear?
For he who came from heaven's throne
Does not desire an earthly crown.**

**2 The wiser Magi saw from far
And followed on his guiding star,
And, led by light, to Light they pressed
And by their gifts their God confessed.**

**3 Within the Jordan River stood
The pure and holy Lamb of God;
The Father's voice, the Spirit-dove,
Confirmed the Savior from above.**

**4 At Cana -- miracle divine --
When water reddened into wine,
The faithful saw his glory shown
And put their trust in him alone.**

**5 All glory unto Jesus be
And praise for his epiphany,
Whom with the Father we adore
And Holy Spirit evermore.**

Sermon –

Our Confession of Faith - Nicene Creed

**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
worshipped 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.**

Hymn – Brightest and Best

CW92

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

**2 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.**

**3 Shall we not yield him in costly devotion
Rarest of fragrances, tribute divine,
Gems of the mountain and pearls of the ocean,
Myrrh from the forest and gold from the mine?**

**4 Vainly we bring him the finest of off'rings,
Vainly with gifts would his favor secure.
Richer by far is the praise that the heart brings;
Dearer to God are the prayers of the poor.**

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

Prayer of the Church

P 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.

C Give us humble and grateful hearts that bow down and worship him and willingly offer the most precious gifts we have to give.

P From distant lands and far off places, you gather people to bear your name and live in the light of your Word.

C Bless us, that we 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.

P You have established your Church and drawn into her people from every race, tribe and nation.

C Bless those entrusted with the leadership of the Church.

P Bless those who hear, that they may be brought to faith.

C Give pastors the boldness of your Spirit, that they may proclaim the saving truth of your Word without fear.

P Holy God, eternal Light, the psalmist begged that you would endow the king with your justice.

C Grant the same gift to the leaders of our nation and every nation.

P Fill them with wisdom, compassion and care

C that, unlike Herod, they would seek to uphold life and watch over the welfare of the governed.

P 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.

C Sustain the weary with your Word, the wounded with hope and the dying with peace. -- *Silent prayers.* --

P 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.

C Bless our communion in Christ and bring peace and unity, that we may kneel in your presence and receiving this blessed Sacrament for the life and salvation.

P May your light shine on us and bring forth the fruits of repentance in our daily lives.

C Give us confidence in your Word, that we would embrace your holy will without fear.

P Hear and answer us, we pray, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord, who has invited us to pray ...

Lord's Prayer

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

P The Lord be with you.



C: And al - so with you.

P Lift up your hearts.



C: We lift them up to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.




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

P 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, thanks, 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

P 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.”

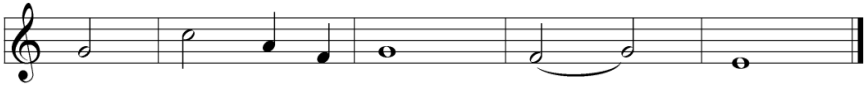
Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying: “Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.



O Christ, Lamb of God - *Agnus Dei*





world; grant us your peace. A - men.

Distribution

The Lord's Supper is a means by which Christ strengthens our faith as we receive His body and blood in, with, and under the bread and wine. Receiving the Sacrament is a public confession of faith. Therefore, Our Redeemer congregation observes the Biblical principle of "close Communion." We invite only those persons who are members of this congregation or another Wisconsin Synod congregation to commune. Other guests are asked to speak with our pastor if they desire to join our confessional fellowship. Thank you!

After the Distribution, please stand.

We thank our God with Joyful Responses

P Let us give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

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



The Lord sends us with his Blessing

The Closing Prayer

P 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.



The Benediction

P 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.



Please be seated.

Hymn – Father, Let Me Dedicate

CW75

+ + + + +

Looking ahead –

Tuesday, January 7th – council, 7pm

Saturday, January 11th – Decoration take down 10am

Next Sunday, January 12th – Worship 9:30am

Annual Meeting, 11am

Tuesday, January 14th – Outreach Committee, 7pm

Thursday, January 16th – Call Meeting, 7pm



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