

# **EPIPHANY SUNDAY**

**January 4, 2025**

**WE ARE ONE CHRISTIAN FAMILY LED BY GOD'S WORD AND THE  
HOLY SPIRIT INTO LOVING SERVICE.**

**Our values are**

**Bible Based Preaching, Spiritual Growth, Great Commission  
(Go, Make Disciples...)**

## **PRELUDE**

## **GREETING**

## **THE SHARING OF THE PEACE**

**P:** The peace of the Lord be with you

**C:** And also with you.

## **OPENING HYMN    "As with Gladness Men of Old"        LW 75**

**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 to Thee.**

**As with joyful steps they sped Savior, to thy lowly bed,  
There to bend the knee before Thee whom heaven and earth adore,  
So, may we with willing feet, Ever seek thy mercy seat.**

**As they offered gifts most rare At that 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 heavenly King.**

**Holy Jesus, every 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.**

**In the heavenly 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.**

## INVOCATION

*(ref. Matthew 18:20)*

P: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen**

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. *(1 John 1:8)*

**C: But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. *(1 John 1:9)***

P: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father. *(ref. Ps 32:5)*

**C: Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

P: Almighty God in his mercy has given his Son to die for you and for his sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of the Word I announce the grace of God to you: your sin is forgiven in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. *(Ref. Matt. 18:18; John 20:22-23)*

**C: Amen.**

## HYMN OF PRAISE "Joy to the World" LW 53 v1, 3

**Joy to the world! The Lord is come!**

**Let earth receive her King.**

**Let every heart prepare Him room,**

**And heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n and nature sing,**

**And heav'n and heav'n and nature sing.**

**No more let sin and sorrow grow,**

**Nor thorns infest the ground.**

**He comes to make His blessings flow,**

**Far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found,**

**Far as, far as the curse is found.**

## **COLLECT OF THE DAY**

**P:** The Lord be with you.

**C:** And also with you.

**P:** Let us pray...

**C:** Amen

## **OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Isaiah 60: 1-6**

"Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD rises upon you. <sup>2</sup>See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples, but the LORD rises upon you and his glory appears over you. <sup>3</sup>Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. <sup>4</sup>"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. <sup>5</sup>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. <sup>6</sup>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.

**R:** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C:** Thanks be to God.

## **NEW TESTAMENT LESSON Ephesians 3: 2-12**

Surely you have heard about the administration of God's grace that was given to me for you, <sup>3</sup>that is, the mystery made known to me by revelation, as I have already written briefly. <sup>4</sup>In reading this, then, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, <sup>5</sup>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. <sup>6</sup>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. <sup>7</sup>I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God's grace given me through the working of his power. <sup>8</sup>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, <sup>9</sup>and to make plain to everyone the administration of this mystery, which for ages past was kept hidden in God, who created all things. <sup>10</sup>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, <sup>11</sup>according to his eternal

**purpose which he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. <sup>12</sup>In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence.**

**R:** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C:** *Thanks be to God.*

**ALLELUIA VERSE** (stand)

*(John 6:68)*

**C:** Alleluia Lord, to whom shall we go?

**You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**HOLY GOSPEL Matthew 2: 1-12**

**P:** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 2<sup>nd</sup> chapter.

**C:** **Glory to you, O Lord.**

**After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem <sup>2</sup>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." <sup>3</sup>When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. <sup>4</sup>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. <sup>5</sup>"In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written: <sup>6</sup>"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.'" <sup>7</sup>Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup>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." <sup>9</sup>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. <sup>10</sup>When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. <sup>11</sup>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. <sup>12</sup>And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.**

**P:** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

**HYMN OF THE DAY      "The People that in Darkness Sat"      LW 77 v1-3**

**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  
To hail you, Sun of Righteousness, The gathering nations come;  
They joy as when the reapers bear  
Their harvest treasures home, Their harvest treasures home.**

**To us the Child of hope is born, To us the Son is given,  
And on his shoulder ever rests  
All power in earth and heaven, All power in earth and heaven.**

**SERMON**

**CONFESSION OF FAITH      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 king-dom 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**

**PRAYER OF THE CHURCH    - concluding with**

**P: Lord in your mercy...**

**C: Hear our prayer.**

**OFFERTORY**

**C: Create in me a clean heart, O God, And renew a right spirit within me.  
Cast me not away from your presence, And take not your Holy Spirit  
From me. Restore to me The joy of your salvation and uphold me with  
your free Spirit.**

## **THE SERVICE OF THE LORD'S SUPPER**

### **PREFACE**

**P: The Lord be with you.**

**C: And also with you.**

**P: Lift your hearts and hands in praise**

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

**P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.**

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

**P: It is truly good, right, and helpful... evermore praising you and singing:**

**C: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might: Heaven and earth are full  
of your glory. Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he  
who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

### **PRAYERS AND THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

**P: Lord Jesus, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:**

**C: 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.**

**P: Our Lord on the night he was betrayed . . .**

**P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.**

**C: And also with you.**

### **AGNUS DEI**

**C: Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.**

## COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

**C: Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev'ryone what he has done.  
Let all who seek the Lord rejoice and proudly bear his name. He recalls his  
promises and leads his people forth in joy with shouts of thanksgiving.  
Alleluia, alleluia.**

## POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

### BENEDICTION

*(Numbers 6:24-26)*

**P: 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.**

***C: Amen***

## CLOSING HYMN    "Our God, Our Help in Ages Past"    LW 180 v, 1,3,4,6

**Our God, our help in ages past, Our hope for years to come,  
Our shelter from the stormy blast, And our eternal home.**

**Before the hills in order stood or earth received its frame,  
From everlasting you are God, To endless years the same.**

**A thousand ages in your sight are like an evening gone,  
Short as the watch that ends the night before the rising sun.**

**Our God, our help in ages past, Our hope for years to come,  
Still be our guard while troubles last and our eternal home!**

*Silent prayer*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## POSTLUDE

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