

Order of Worship for January 10, 2021

The Day of Epiphany

Welcome

Dialogue

It is you who light my lamp; you, my God,
who lights up the darkness.

**The Lord is my light and my salvation;
whom then shall I fear?**

**The Lord is the stronghold of my life;
of whom shall I be afraid?**

Light dawns for the righteous, and joy for the honest of heart.

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

For with you is the fountain of life; in your light we see light.

O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!

The star shone bright in the Bethlehem sky.

We too have a star to guide us.

The shepherds ran to see the babe.

We too have a star to guide us.

The magi knelt at the child's feet.

We too have a star to guide us.

Christ shines with God's own truth and light.

We too have a Star to guide us.

Greeting

God who sent the Light into our world, who shone in the Bethlehem manger,
and who spreads the Spirit's rays, be with you all.

And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Everlasting God, the radiance of all faithful people, you brought the nations to the brightness of your rising. Fill the world with your glory, and show yourself to all the world through him who is the true light and the bright morning star, your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Psalm 29

- 1 Ascribe to the Lord, you gods,
ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.
- 2 Ascribe to the Lord the glory due God's name;
worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.
- 3 The voice of the Lord is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders;
the Lord is upon the mighty waters.
- 4 The voice of the Lord is a powerful voice;
the voice of the Lord is a voice of splendor.
- 5 The voice of the Lord breaks the cedar trees;
the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon;
- 6 the Lord makes Lebanon skip like a calf,
and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.
- 7 The voice of the Lord
bursts forth in lightning flashes.
- 8 The voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness;
the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.
- 9 The voice of the Lord makes the oak trees writhe and strips the forests bare.
And in the temple of the Lord all are crying, "Glory!"
- 10 The Lord sits enthroned above the flood;
the Lord sits enthroned as king forevermore.
- 11 O Lord, give strength to your people;
give them, O Lord, the blessings of peace.

Psalm song - Awe and Wonder (Psalm 29) by Richard Bruxvoort-Colligan

**Awe and wonder We're in awe and wonder in your glory Ah
Awe and wonder We're in awe and wonder in your glory Ah**

**Your voice o'er the mighty waters
Your voice in majesty
Right now in the storm and earthquake
Give us your strength and peace
Give us your strength and peace**

Children's Sermon

First Reading: Isaiah 60:1-6

Jerusalem is assured that nations will make a pilgrimage to her because the light of God's presence is in her midst. The bountiful food of the sea and the profits of international trade will come streaming to Jerusalem and thereby declare God's praise.

1 Arise, shine; for your light has come,
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

2 For darkness shall cover the earth,
and thick darkness the peoples;
but the Lord will arise upon you,
and his glory will appear over you.

3 Nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

4 Lift up your eyes and look around;
they all gather together, they come to you;
your sons shall come from far away,
and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms.

5 Then you shall see and be radiant;
your heart shall thrill and rejoice,
because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you,
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.

6 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 proclaim the praise of the Lord.

Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12

God's promise shines bright in the night as magi follow a star to honor a new king. Strangers from a faraway land, they welcome the long-awaited messiah of Israel.

1 In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, 2 asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." 3 When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; 4 and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. 5 They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

6 'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,

are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel.’ ”

7Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. 8Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.” 9When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. 10When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. 11On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. 12And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Sermon

Hymn: Brightest and Best of the Stars of the Morning

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| 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. | | angels adore him in slumber reclining,
maker and monarch and savior of all. |
| 2 | Cold on his cradle the dewdrops are shining;
low lies his head with the beasts of the stall; | 3 | What shall we give him, in costly devotion?
Shall we bring incense and offerings divine,
gems of the mountain and pearls of the ocean,
myrrh from the forest or gold from the mine? |

Apostle's Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only
Son, our Lord,**

**who was conceived by the Holy
Spirit,**

**born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was
buried;**

he descended to the dead.*

**On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of
the Father,**

**and he will come to judge the
living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,**

and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

Joining our voices with the song of the angels, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

Glorious God, fill your church with joy. Let your faithful people live as beacons of your redemption. Give wisdom and courage to your church that it may speak with boldness and confidence, even when words of mercy are met with scorn. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Show us your faithfulness in the rising and setting of the sun. Place wonder into the hearts of those who search the skies and explore the heavens. Curb waste and pollution, that all might have clean air to breathe. Watch over scientists and researchers, especially those working to develop and distribute vaccines for Covid-19. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Bring all nations and rulers to the splendor of your dawn. Raise up advocates who champion the cause of exploited and vulnerable people. Inspire leaders to be generous with abundance, that all people might live in stability and freedom. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Come quickly with your healing power to all who seek love, support, and restoration. Dispel fears and shadows. Restore broken relationships and mend broken hearts. Bring relief to those who are sick or struggling. We pray especially for those who are struggling because of the Covid-19 pandemic-- the sick, the dying, the grieving, the long-haulers, the overwhelmed, the health care workers, those who have lost jobs, those who struggle to make ends meet. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Send traveling mercies upon all who journey home by other roads. Guard refugees, immigrants, and asylum seekers. Protect families fleeing conflict in their homelands or abuse in their homes. Tend to those who have no place to lay their heads. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

According to the boundless riches of Christ, you draw all your saints, from the least to the greatest, to your heavenly places. Grant comfort to all who mourn, especially the family and friends of Doris LeBahn, who passed away this past week. We give you

thanks for the lives of all your saints who have drawn us to your love. As you created all things, make all things new again in the splendor of your glory. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

In this time of national crisis, we pray to you, O God, our shelter and our strength. Where hearts are fearful and constricted, grant courage and hope. Where anxiety is infectious and widening, grant peace and reassurance. Where impossibilities close every door and window, grant imagination and resistance. Where distrust twists our thinking, grant healing and illumination. Where spirits are daunted and weakened, grant soaring wings and strengthened dreams. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of mercy, come quickly to us with grace upon grace as we lift these and all our prayers to you, in the name of Jesus.

Amen.

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.**

Song: The Star Carol: Jessica Saunders, soprano and Brittany Brugman, piano

Blessing

Almighty God,
who sent the Holy Spirit to Mary,
proclaimed joy through the angels,
sent the shepherds with good news,
and led the magi by a star,
bless you this day ☩ through the Word made flesh.

Amen.

Dismissal

BY THE NUMBERS

Check Register Balance 12/26/2020
\$13,047.17
Operating Bank Loan: \$4,512.27
PPP Loan Balance:\$16,984 (Forgiven)

Offering:01/03/2021
Current: \$895
Benevolence: \$32
Improvement: \$85
Food Pantry: \$100

In Our Prayers: Please keep the family and friends of Doris LeBahn in your prayers as she passed away on January 8th.

Worship Online only until Jan 17: For worship planning purposes, the Reopening Committee has decided to continue with online only worship for January 3, and January 10. January 3 is the 2nd Sunday in the season of Christmas, and January 10 will be the Sunday of Epiphany. This will allow us to include more music in these services. Holding worship online these 2 Sundays will also help us get past any post-Christmas spike in coronavirus cases that we may have. **We will plan on resuming in-person worship on January 17, if case counts fall within our established metrics,** with live streaming for those who are uncomfortable attending in person.

(Public health experts have said that there may be a spike in cases for a couple of weeks past Christmas, depending on what transmission may have happened during any Christmas celebrations. Confirmed cases lag about 2 weeks behind dates of transmission, and rises in hospitalizations are 2 around weeks behind that, and rises in deaths are around 2 weeks behind that. Iowa was lucky enough to *not* experience this expected spike after Thanksgiving, but to be safe, we will wait and see what happens after Christmas.)

Annual Congregational Meeting/Budget Hearing: The 2021 Budget Hearing presentation has been scheduled for Sunday, January 10, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. via a Zoom meeting for anyone who wishes to see or comment on the proposed budget for American Lutheran Church prior to the Annual Congregational Meeting. A link will be provided to attend the meeting when information is emailed for the Sunday worship services. Arrangements can be made for anyone who wishes to attend in person at the church by calling/texting Pastor Kristen at (563) 212-1366 or Maureen Even at (563) 880-8872 by 6:00 p.m. on Saturday, January 9, 2021. Social distancing & mask guidelines will be used while in the church.

This year we will be providing two options for the Annual Congregational Meeting for American Lutheran Church which will be held on Sunday, January 24, 2021. A person may attend either in person after the 9:00 a.m. worship service (if we are meeting in person at that time) or at 10:00 a.m. via a Zoom meeting. A link will be provided at a later date. The Snow Date for the Annual Congregational Meeting will be January 31, 2021 following the same time schedule as listed above.