

Triune Lutheran Church

When they saw the Star,

*they Rejoiced with
exceedingly great Joy*

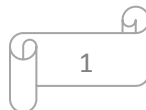
MATTHEW 2:10

Epiphany of Our Lord



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.



*We thank you for joining us here
at Triune Lutheran Church, a
family united by our Lord, Jesus
Christ!*



In order to make you feel more at home, here are a few notes about the service. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask. We hope to make your time here as meaningful as possible!

Worship

- The * by the headings throughout the service indicate when we invite you to stand, as you are able.
- The light print will be spoken by the pastor or another worship leader, while we encourage you to speak the **bold print**.
- The hymns are chosen from our *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* (ELW) hymnal, which is the red book directly in front of you in the pews. You will find the hymns in the last two-thirds of the book with the bold numbers on the top of the pages.
- We welcome all the baptized to join us in the Lord's Supper, where we believe Jesus is present "in, with, and under" the bread and wine as his body and blood. After the organist and assisting minister commune, you will be invited to come forward up the non-organ side aisle to the pastor, who will give you bread (gluten-free wafers also available upon request). You are encouraged to keep the bread in your hands and then dip it into the chalice of wine for intinction. You may also come forward to receive a blessing by simply keeping your hands folded. You may return to your seat up the center aisle. If you are unable to come forward, the elements will be brought to you.
- For visitors, if you so choose, we encourage you to fill out a card available at the center-aisle end of the pew to learn more about us.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
Love from the beginning,
Word made flesh,
Breath of heaven.

Amen!

Let us confess our sin before God and one another, trusting
in God's endless mercy and love.

*You are invited to kneel or remain standing/sitting. Silence
is kept for reflection.*

Merciful God,
we confess that we are not perfect.
We have said and done things we regret.
We have tried to earn your redeeming grace,
while denying it to others.
We have resisted your call
to be your voice in the world.
Forgive us, loving God.
Give us your righteousness,
the strength to put aside our failures,
and the courage to try again. Amen.

Dear people of God, hear the good news:
Christ the Savior is born!
You are loved and forgiven
in the name of † Jesus, who has come among us.
You are freed from proving that you deserve to be loved,
because God's love is given to you
as the most precious gift of all.
Rejoice in this love and share it with the world.
Amen!

***GATHERING HYMN**

“Brightest and Best of the Stars of the Morning” ELW 303
Vs. 1, 3, 4

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Almighty and ever-living God, you revealed the incarnation
of your Son by the brilliant shining of a star. Shine the light
of your justice always in our hearts and over all lands, and
accept our lives as the treasure we offer in your praise and
for your service, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God,
now and forever. **Amen!**

FIRST READING

Isaiah 60:1-6

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

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

**4Let him defend the needy a- | mong the people,
rescue the poor, and crush | the oppressor.**

**5May he live as long as the sun and | moon endure,
from one generation | to another.**

**6Let him come down like rain upon | the mown
field,
like showers that wa- | ter the earth.**

**7In his time may the | righteous flourish;
and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon
shall | be no more.**

**10May the kings of Tarshish and of the | isles pay
tribute,
and the kings of Sheba and Seba | offer gifts.**

**11May all kings bow | down before him,
and all the nations | do him service.**

**12For the king delivers the poor who cry out | in
distress,
the oppressed, and those who | have no helper.**

**13He has compassion on the low- | ly and poor,
and preserves the lives | of the needy.**

**14From oppression and violence he re- | deems
their lives,
and precious is their blood | in his sight.**

SECOND READING

Ephesians 3:1-12

¹This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles — ²for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you, ³and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, ⁴a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. ⁵In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: ⁶that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

⁷Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of his power. ⁸Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, ⁹and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; ¹⁰so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. ¹¹This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, ¹²in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

The word of the Lord!
Thanks be to God!



*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

*GOSPEL

Matthew 2:1-12

The holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord!

¹In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ²asking, “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.” ³When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

⁶And 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.

This is the holy Gospel of our Lord!
Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

“The First Noel”

ELW 300
Vs. 1, 2, 5

***APOSTLES' 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**

Gathered with all who seek the Christ child, let us pray for
the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

Faithful God, continue to provide dedicated leaders and passionate people for your whole church, so that wisdom and compassion in all its rich variety may be made known throughout the world. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Creating God, your glory shines around us in every star and creature. Liberate us from the ways we destroy your creation. Free us to care for the earth so that all experience your bountiful goodness. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Give your justice to the leaders of the world, O God. Endow them with humble courage to defend the cause of the poor and give deliverance to those in need, so that peace abounds in all nations. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

By the guidance of a star, you led the magi to pay homage to the Christ child. Protect new families, those who live alone, travelers, those who suffer loss, and all others in need, including Bev & Bill Deitrick, Tim Mize, Hazel Schwab, Martha Wasson, Mardell Weiss, Dave & Clara Wilcox, Jenny Adams, Cathy Gallagher, Richard Jakubcin, John & Jean Kurtz, Mary Phillips, Courtney Spencer, George Tomaselli, those serving in the armed forces and as first responders, and all those we name in our hearts...Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Generous God, throughout time you have given us people who have shown us the gift of your grace. Inspire us by their faithfulness to serve you and all your people. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Into your gracious hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your steadfast mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen!**

***PEACE**

The peace of our newborn Savior be with you always!
And also with you.

OFFERING

***OFFERING HYMN**

“What Feast of Love”

ELW 487, Vs. 1 & 3

***OFFERING PRAYER**

Generous God,
you have given us life,
this community,
and these gifts of the earth
that become the meal of your grace.

Move in our hearts, that we might use your gifts
to bring hope and blessing wherever we go,
through Christ our Lord.

Amen!

*GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of four staves of music, each with a treble clef and a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff has two measures: 'The Lord be with you.' and 'And al - so with you.'. The second staff also has two measures: 'Lift up your hearts.' and 'We lift them to the Lord.'. The third staff has two measures: 'Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.'. The fourth staff has two measures: 'It is right to give our thanks and praise.'. The notes are simple, mostly quarter and eighth notes, with some rests.

*PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ.

By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all nations;
in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved
Son;
and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your
glory.

And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

*HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, full of your glo-ry. Ho -
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high -
est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

The musical score is written on five staves in treble clef with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The lyrics are placed below the notes on each staff.

*THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy God,
Creator of all and Source of life,
at the birth of time
your word brought light into the world.

In the fullness of time,
you sent your Word, born of Mary,
to shine in our darkness
and to make us your daughters and sons.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore,
his birth and life among us,
his death and resurrection,
we await his coming again
when all things will be restored in him.

By you, as the Holy Spirit, bless us and this bread and cup,
that, held and nourished by you,
we may live as your children,
shining with the light of the Messiah.

Through him all glory and honor is yours,
Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,
both now and forever.

Amen!

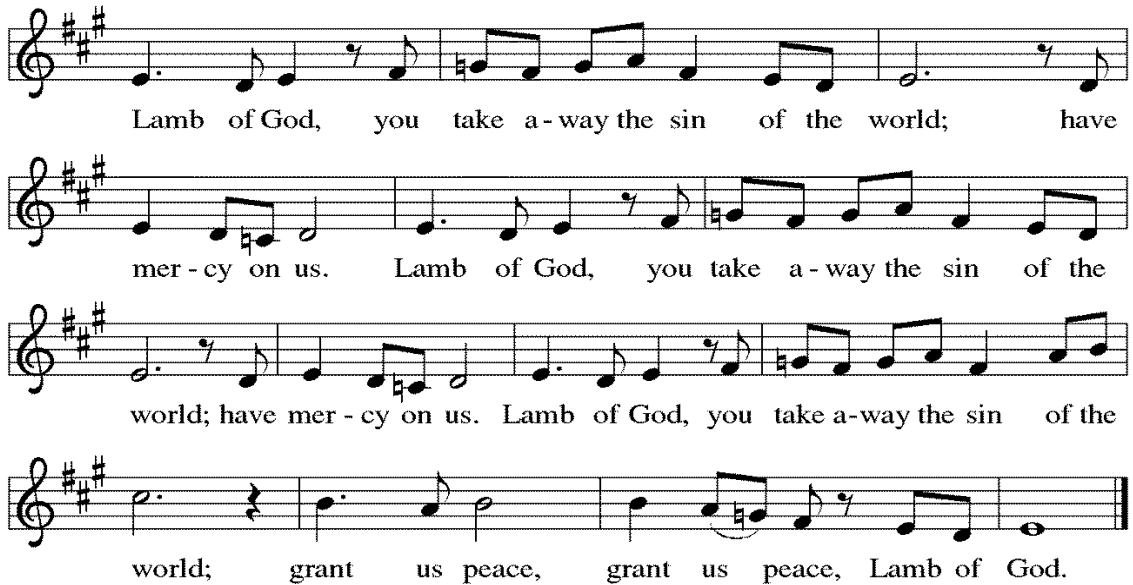
***LORD'S PRAYER**

**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.**

***INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

**Love has come: God's love for all people.
Come and eat, for Christ invites you just as you are!
Thanks be to God!**

*COMMUNION HYMN



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; grant us peace, grant us peace, Lamb of God.

COMMUNION

*COMMUNION PRAYER

Emmanuel, God with us,
you grace us with life and breath
and give us bread for the journey.
Send us out in service to this world that you love,
telling the amazing news of your coming
to be Savior and Lord of all.

Amen!

***BLESSING**

Grace from God's own heart,
peace from the ☩ Child in the manger,
and strength from the Spirit of life
be blessings for you today and forever.

Amen!

***SENDING HYMN**

“As with Gladness Men of Old”

ELW 302

***DISMISSAL**

Christ is born! Go tell it on the mountain and everywhere!
Thanks be to God!

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Ministers: ***All People***
Pastor: ***Brad Ross***
Organist: ***Edith Schatt***
Worship Leader: ***Dale Kirk***
Office Manager: ***Jan Piskac***

A Wish for a Longer Epiphany

I've often wished that the season of Epiphany was just a little bit longer, and not just because it would give me a little more time to get ready for Lent to begin. It is also possible that I like long Epiphanies because there is a better chance that (at least here in Minnesota) Easter will be a warm spring day with some flowers blooming, which is the way I imagine it should be.

But I also just like Epiphany, as a season, even though, I confess that I don't think of it as much as I ought to. It is that obscure little season between Christmas and Lent. Christmas is famous. Everyone has heard of it, even people who don't ever go to church. Many people are also vaguely aware that there is something called "Lent," partly because of its reputation as that season when people have to "give something up." But Epiphany? What's that? It's an odd word really, that most people don't even use or know. Even as a Christian-in-the-know, I can't help but think of Epiphany as that "sandwich" season: a smattering of Sundays after the big high of Christmas but before the serious discipline of Lent.

Friends, it should not be so. Epiphany is a season. It is a season that begins with the wise men following a star to Bethlehem and ends with Jesus' face shining on a mountain. In between, we get stories about light, and stories about Jesus calling his disciples. We get the story of Jesus' baptism and stories of him healing people. But why? Why these particular stories right now? They are small windows of light, small revelations of who Jesus is in the world, and of who we are in the world, as well.

The word Epiphany actually means "a showing forth, a revealing." An epiphany is a revelation, a flicker or a flash of light, a moment when you said, "aha!" and just knew something, without studying or going through all of the steps. Or maybe you WERE studying: you were reading a book, or doing the research, or singing a song at church, or sitting at your desk at work, and in the midst of it all you had an epiphany, which is to say, that the truth just came to you, not as the fruit of your studying, but just as you were going along, in your working, in your playing, in your worshipping.

In some religious traditions, the season of Epiphany is also called "Ordinary Time," as opposed to, for example, Christmas and your wedding and other high moments of your life. But perhaps that is one of the reasons that I like it. Most of our lives are, actually, ordinary time. I wouldn't trade the high moments for anything, but the promise of Epiphany is that the light shines also on ordinary days. So it goes like this: When you are

going about your working, studying, playing, regular Sunday morning worshipping life, suddenly, somehow, something will happen, and you will say, ‘aha!’, and you will know, just know, who Jesus is. And you will know who you are, as well. It could be as small a thing as a handful of water, shimmering, a line that leaps out at you from a book, or a song, a small piece of a small conversation that you had, just because you showed up.

So I sometimes wish that Epiphany could be a little longer, just a few more days to hear healing stories and be surprised by the possibility that God could be in this place, although we did not know it. I do wish that Epiphany could be just a little longer, although I suspect that it is the nature of the season to be fleeting, just as fleeting as our ordinary lives.

In the meantime, sing songs about the light, the light of a candle, the flame of the fire, the light in the darkness.

For that is who you are.

- Diane Roth (originally published Jan. 22, 2015, at “Faith in Community” Lutheran Blog on LivingLutheran.org)

Next Sunday, January 19, we will start worship at 11:30am to allow Pastor Brad time to be at The Lutheran Church of the Covenant’s semi-



annual congregational meeting following their worship that morning. We apologize for any inconvenience.