

# A SERVICE OF THE WORD

Sunday, January 10, 2021

## **Epiphany**

Messiah Lutheran Church, Valdosta, Georgia

*(For an at-home Communion appointment, or for an at-church household Communion appointment, please contact Pastor Frank Kinast by phone or text message at 229 740 3303)*



**O MORNING STAR, HOW FAIR AND BRIGHT**

**LSB 395**

*Verse 1*

***O Morning Star, how fair and bright!  
You shine with God's own truth and light,  
A-glow with grace and mer-cy!  
Of Ja-cob's race, King Da-vid's son,  
Our Lord and mas-ter, You have won  
Our hearts to serve You on-ly!  
Low-ly, ho-ly! Great and glo-rious,  
All vic-to-rious, Rich in blessing!  
Rule and might o'er all pos-sess-ing!***

*Verse 4*

***Al-might-y Fa-ther, in Your Son  
You loved us when not yet be-gun  
Was this old earth's foun-da-tion!  
Your Son has ran-somed us in love  
To live in Him here and a-bove:  
This is Your great sal-va-tion.  
Al-le-lu-ia! Christ the liv-ing,  
To us giv-ing Life for-ev-er,  
Keeps us Yours and fails us nev-er!***

Text and Tune: Philipp Nicolai, 1556-1608; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*, 1978, alt.; setting: *Choralbuch zum Evangelischen Kirchengesangbuch*, Berlin, 1955; LSB License # 10004135

**CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

P: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **C: Amen.**

P: Let us now confess our sins to God our Father.

**C: Most merciful God, we confess that we are sinners who have sinned against you by thought, word, and deed; by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with all our heart, nor have we loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve your wrath and**

**punishment. Yet for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, we ask you to have mercy on us; to forgive us, renew us, and lead us, 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. In the stead and by the command of our Lord Jesus Christ I therefore convey to you God's full forgiveness of all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **C: Amen.**

***JESUS NAME ABOVE ALL NAMES***

*Je-sus, name a-bove all names, beautiful Sav-ior, glo-ri-ous Lord.*

*Em-man-u-el, God is with us, bless-ed Re-deem-er, liv-ing Word.*

*Je-sus, name a-bove all names, beautiful Sav-ior, glo-ri-ous Lord.*

*Em-man-u-el, God is with us, bless-ed Re-deem-er, liv-ing Word.*

Text and music: Naida Hearn, b. 1944; Text and music: © 1974 Scripture in Song; LSBhymnlicense.net #100014135

P: Holy is the Lord, the Almighty.

**C: He was, he is, and he is to come.**

P: He is worthy of glory and honor and power.

**C: He created all things. By his will they came to be.**

P: Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain;

**C: worthy to take the scroll and break its seals.**

P: By his blood he purchased for God

**C: people of every race and tongue, of every folk and nation.**

P: Christ made of them a kingdom

**C: and priests to serve our God.**

P: And they reign on earth forever.

**C: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was**

**crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**FIRST READING:**

**ISAIAH 60:1-6**

<sup>1</sup>Arise, shine, for your light has come,  
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.  
<sup>2</sup>For behold, darkness shall cover the earth,  
and thick darkness the peoples;  
but the Lord will arise upon you,  
and his glory will be seen upon you.  
<sup>3</sup>And nations shall come to your light,  
and kings to the brightness of your rising.  
<sup>4</sup>Lift up your eyes all around, and see;  
they all gather together, they come to you;  
your sons shall come from afar,  
and your daughters shall be carried on the hip.  
<sup>5</sup>Then you shall see and be radiant;  
your heart shall thrill and exult,  
because the abundance of the sea shall be turned to you,  
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.  
<sup>6</sup>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 bring good news, the praises of the Lord.

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

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**EPISTLE:****EPHESIANS 3:1–12**

<sup>1</sup>For this reason I, Paul, a prisoner for Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles— <sup>2</sup>assuming that you have heard of the stewardship of God’s grace that was given to me for you, <sup>3</sup>how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I have written briefly. <sup>4</sup>When you read this, you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ, <sup>5</sup>which was not made known to the sons of men in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit. <sup>6</sup>This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

<sup>7</sup>Of this gospel I was made a minister according to the gift of God’s grace, which was given me by the working of his power. <sup>8</sup>To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, <sup>9</sup>and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things, <sup>10</sup>so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. <sup>11</sup>This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord, <sup>12</sup>in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in him.

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

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**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.**

<sup>1</sup>Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup>saying, “Where is he who has been born king of the

Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.”<sup>3</sup>When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; <sup>4</sup>and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. <sup>5</sup>They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet:

<sup>6</sup>“And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.”

<sup>7</sup>Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup>And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him.” <sup>9</sup>After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup>When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. <sup>11</sup>And going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. <sup>12</sup>And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

**P: The Gospel of the Lord.**

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

***I WANT TO WALK AS A CHILD OF THE LIGHT LSB 411***

*Verse 1*

***I want to walk as a child of the light.***

***I want to fol-low Je-sus.***

***God set the stars to give light to the world.***

*The star of my life is Je-sus.*

*Refrain*

*In Him there is no dark-ness at all.  
The night and the day are both a-like.  
The Lamb is the light of the cit-y of God.  
Shine in my heart, Lord Je-sus.*

*Verse 2*

*I want to see the bright-ness of God.  
I want to look at Je-sus.  
Clear Sun of Righ-teous-ness, shine on my path,  
And show me the way to the Fa-ther. [Refrain]*

*Verse 3*

*I'm look-ing for the com-ing of Christ.  
I want to be with Je-sus.  
When we have run with pa-tience the race,  
We shall know the joy of Je-sus. [Refrain]*

Text and music: Kathleen Thomerson, b. 1934; Text and music: © 1970, 1975 Celebration; LSB  
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## **SERMON**

### **The Prayer of the Church**

P: ...Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

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

**C: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, they 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: 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.**

## **SONGS OF THANKFULNESS AND PRAISE**

**LSB 394**

### *Verse 1*

*Songs of thank-ful-ness and praise, Je-sus, Lord, to Thee we raise,  
Man-i-fest-ed by the star To the sa-ges from a-far,  
Branch of roy-al Da-vid's stem In Thy birth at Beth-le-hem:  
An-thems be to Thee ad-dressed, God in man made man-i-fest.*

### *Verse 2*

*Man-i-fest at Jor-dan's stream, Proph-et, Priest, and King su-preme;  
And at Ca-na wed-ding guest In Thy God-head man-i-fest;  
Man-i-fest in pow'r di-vine, Chang-ing wa-ter in-to wine;  
An-thems be to Thee ad-dressed, God in man made man-i-fest.*

### *Verse 3*

*Man-i-fest in mak-ing whole Pal-sied limbs and faint-ing soul;  
Man-i-fest in val-iant fight, Quell-ing all the dev-il's might;  
Man-i-fest in gra-cious will, Ev-er bring-ing good from ill;  
An-thems be to Thee ad-dressed, God in man made man-i-fest.*

### *Verse 5*

*Grant us grace to see Thee, Lord, Pres-ent in Thy ho-ly Word---  
Grace to im-i-tate Thee now And be pure, as pure art Thou;  
That we might be-come like Thee At Thy great e-piph-a-ny  
And may praise Thee, ev-er blest, God in man made man-i-fest.*

*Text: Christopher Wordsworth, 1807-85, alt.; Tune: George J. Elvey, 1816-93; setting: The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941;*

*Text and music: Public domain*

**P:** Go forth to spread near and far the love of Christ our Lord!  
**C: Amen! We go forth in the name of the Lord. Amen!**