
THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD

January 6, 2019

THEME: Today we will hear about the time God made Himself known to the Gentiles—the Magi. The gift of Jesus means that God came not just for a few but for all—Jew and Gentile. We gather to give thanks that God shows no partiality but has provided salvation for all through Jesus.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING BLESSING

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

C: Amen.

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires are known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

~Silence for reflection~

P: Most merciful God,

C: We confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. 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. 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: God, our heavenly Creator, hears the prayers of all people and answers those prayers. Our prayer for forgiveness is answered in the person and work of Jesus Christ, who died for our sin that we might have new life. By the command of Jesus, I forgive you all of your sins—in the name of the Father, and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

KYRIE

LBW pg. 78-79

P: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C: Amen

THE HYMN OF PRAISE

LBW pg. 81-82

P: This is the feast of victory for our God Alleluia.

C: **Worthy is Chris, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God. Power and riches and wisdom and strength, and honor and blessing and glory are his.**

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.

Sing with all the people of God and join in the hymn of all creation: Blessing and honor and glory and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.

This is the feast of victory for our God, for the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign. Alleluia. Alleluia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray. O God, by the leading of a star You made known Your only-begotten Son to the nations.

C: **Lead us, who follow Your Son by faith, to rejoice in the brightness of Your eternal kingdom; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON: Epistle: [Ephesians 3:1-12](#)

The mystery long hidden has been revealed in Jesus Christ.

For this reason, I, Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles— assuming that you have heard of the stewardship of God's grace that was given to me for you, how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I have written briefly. When you read this, you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ, 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. 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.

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. 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, and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God, who created all things, so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in him.

CHOIR ANTHEM:

Bell Carol of the Kings

Arranged by Philip Kern

We three kings of orient are, bearing gifts we traverse afar.
Field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.
Hark to the bells, merrily ring, tell all the world Jesus is King!
Born a King on Bethlehem's plain. Gold I bring to crown him again.
King forever ceasing never, over all to reign!

Oh! Star of wonder, star of night, Star of royal beauty bright.
Westward leading, still proceeding, Guide us to thy perfect light.
Hark! How the bells; sweet silver bells all seem to say,
"Throw cares away."

Christmas is here, bringing good cheer to young and old, meek and the bold, ding,
dong, ding, dong that is their song;

With joyful ring, all caroling, One seems to hear words of good cheer from
ev'rywhere filling the air.

O! How they pound, raising the sound, o'er hill and dale, telling their tale!
Gaily they ring, while people sing songs of good cheer;
Christmas is here.

Hark! to the bells, merrily ring, tell all the world Jesus is King!
Merry, merry, merry, merry Christmas! Alleluia!
Earth to heav'n replies!

O! Star of wonder, star of night!
Star of royal beauty bright!
Westward leading, still proceeding, Guide us to thy perfect light!
Guide us to thy perfect light!

On, on they send, on without end, their joyful tone to ev'ry home.
Ding! Dong! Ding! Dong!

The Wise Men follow the star and come to worship Jesus.

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, 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.” When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet:

“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.”

Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. 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.” 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. When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. 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. And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

SERMON HYMN

“We Three Kings”

We three kings of Orient are: Bearing gifts we traverse a-far—
Field and fountain, moor and mountain—Following yonder star.
O star of wonder, star of night, Star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding, Guide us to thy perfect light.

Born a King on Bethlehem’s plain: Gold I bring to crown Him again,
King forever, ceasing never Over us all to reign.
O star of wonder, star of night, Star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding, Guide us to thy perfect light.

Frankincense to offer have I: Incense owns a Deity nigh;
Prayer and praising, all men raising, Worship Him, God on high.
O star of wonder, star of night, Star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding, Guide us to thy perfect light.

Myrrh is mine: its bitter perfume Breathes a life of gathering gloom—
Sorr' wing, sighing, bleeding, dying, Sealed in the stone-cold tomb.
O star of wonder, star of night, Star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding, Guide us to thy perfect light.

Glorious now behold Him arise: King and God and Sacrifice;
Alleluia, Alleluia! Earth to heav'n replies.
O star of wonder, star of night, Star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding, Guide us to thy perfect light.

SERMON

“No Partiality”

Pastor Jeremy Lucke

CONFESSING OUR FAITH

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He 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 to the dead.

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 Christian Church,

The communion of saints,

The forgiveness of sins,

The resurrection of the body

And the life everlasting. Amen.

OFFERINGS GATHERED

We give our offerings as a sign of our lives given to the Lord in humble service.

PRAYERS OF GOD'S PEOPLE

P: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

P: O blessed Lord, we give You thanks that the mystery once hidden has now been revealed. We thank You for the clear message that Jesus has come for all people. Grant us boldness so that we may proclaim with confidence this saving Gospel and prepare the hearts of those who hear so that they may believe in Jesus. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Gracious Father, we pray for our partner in ministry—Zion Lutheran School. We pray that the children take delight in learning about Your creation and Your love found in Jesus. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Blessed Savior, You have made Your Church to be the home of all people and bid us welcome the stranger in Your name. Bless our life together around Your Word and Table and bless those who serve us with this ministry on Your behalf. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Loving God, Your Son came to grant us healing, comfort, and peace sufficient for all our needs. We cry to You on behalf of (names...and) those we name before You in our hearts (moment of silence). We pray that their suffering be relieved, their sorrows find comfort, and their hearts know the fullness of Your peace. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Grant to us all things needful and keep from us all things harmful, O Lord, for we trust in Your goodness and in Your mercy, through Jesus, our Lord.

C: Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

LBW pg. 88

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

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.

PREFACE

LBW pg. 88

P: It is indeed right and salutary...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS

LBW pg. 89

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

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

DISTRIBUTION

DISTRIBUTION HYMN: While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks

While shepherds watched their flocks by night, All seated on the ground,
The angel of the Lord came down, And glory shone around,
And glory shone around.

“Fear not!” said he; for mighty dread Had seized their troubled mind,
“Glad tidings of great joy I bring To you and all mankind,
To you and all mankind.

“To you, in David’s town this day, Is born of David’s line,
The Savior who is Christ the Lord, And this shall be the sign:

And this shall be the sign:

“The heavenly Babe you there shall find To human view displayed,
All meanly wrapped in swathing bands, And in a manger laid;
And in a manger laid.

“All glory be to God on high, And to the earth be peace:
Good will henceforth from heav’n to men, Begin and never cease,
Begin and never cease.”

Let Us Break Bread Together

Let us break bread together on our knees; (on our knees;)
Let us break bread together on our knees; (on our knees;)
When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me. (on me.)

Let us drink the cup together on our knees; (on our knees;)
Let us drink the cup together on our knees; (on our knees;)
When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me. (on me.)

Let us praise God together on our knees; (on our knees;)
Let us praise God together on our knees; (on our knees;)
When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me. (on me.)

BENEDICTION

P: Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

CLOSING SONG: “Angels From the Realm of Glory”

LBW 50

1 Angels, from the realms of glory,
Wing your flight o'er all the earth;
Once you sang creation's story;
Now proclaim Messiah's birth:
Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the new-born King.

2 Shepherds, in the fields abiding,
Watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing,
Yonder shines the infant Light.
Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the new-born King.

3 Sages, leave your contemplations,
Brighter visions beam afar;
Seek the great desire of nations,
You have seen his natal star.
Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the new-born King.

4 All creation, join in praising
God, the Father, Spirit, Son,
Evermore your voices raising
To the eternal Three in One.
Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the new-born King.

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace! Serve the Lord!

C: Thanks be to God!