

The Epiphany of Our Lord

Saturday, 6 January 2024

5:30 PM



Our Saviour Lutheran Church

www.oslc-warrenton.org

GREETING

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, the Word made flesh, our life and our salvation.

C Amen.

The presiding minister may comment briefly on the service and make other announcements for the good of the community.

GATHERING SONG

Bright and Glorious Is the Sky (st. 1, 3, 5-6) ELW 301

- 1 Bright and glorious is the sky,
radiant are the heavens high
where the golden stars are
shining.
All their rays to earth inclining
beckon us to heav'n above,
beckon us to heav'n above.
- 3 Sages from the East afar,
when they saw this wondrous
star,
went to find the king of nations
and to offer their oblations
to the child, the newborn king,
to the child, the newborn king.
- 5 Guided by the star, they found
him whose praise the ages sound.
We too have a star to guide us,
which forever will provide us
with the light to find our Lord,
with the light to find our Lord.
- 6 And this star, as bright as day,
that will never lead astray
with its message so appealing,
is the word of God, revealing
Christ, the way, the truth, the life,
Christ, the way, the truth, the life.

Text: Nikolai F. S. Grundtvig, 1783-1872; tr. Jens Christian Aaberg, 1877-1970, alt.
Text © 1958 *Service Book and Hymnal*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Trusting the goodness and lovingkindness of God our Savior, let us confess our sin. God of life,

C **you promise good news of great joy for all people, and call us to be messengers of your peace.**

We confess that too often we hoard our joy, our resources, and our security. We nurture conflict and build barriers. We neglect the needs of our neighbors and ignore the groaning of creation. Have mercy on us.

Where we are self-centered, open our hearts. Where we are reluctant, give us courage. Where we are cynical, restore our trust. Renew us with your grace and give us again the hope of eternal life in you. Amen.

P Hear the good news: We are children of God and heirs of God's promises through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. In + Jesus we are forgiven and redeemed. Sing with joy, for all the ends of the earth shall know the salvation of God.

C **Amen.**

THE SHARING OF THE PEACE

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

The people may offer each other a sign of God's peace.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L Let us pray. O God, on this day you revealed your Son to the nations by the leading of a star. Lead us now by faith to know your presence in our lives, and bring us at last to the full vision of your glory, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

FIRST READING: ISAIAH 60:1-6

L A reading from Isaiah.

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.

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

⁴Lift 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.

⁵Then 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.

⁶A 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.

L The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING: EPHESIANS 3:1-12

L A reading from Ephesians.

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.

L The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL: MATTHEW 2:1-12

P The holy gospel according to Saint Matthew.

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

MATTHEW: In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ²asking,

MAGI: “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.”

MATTHEW: 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,

MAGI: “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.' ”

MATTHEW: Then 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,

HEROD: “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.”

MATTHEW: 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.

P The gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

AS WITH GLADNESS MEN OF OLD (ST. 1-4)

ELW 302

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| <p>1 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 by thee.</p> <p>2 As with joyful steps they sped,
Savior, to thy lowly bed,
there to bend the knee before
thee, whom heav'n and earth
adore;
so may we with willing feet
ever seek thy mercy seat.</p> | <p>3 As they offered gifts most rare
at thy 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 heav'nly king.</p> <p>4 Holy Jesus, ev'ry 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 thy glory hide.</p> |
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Text: William C. Dix, 1837-1898, alt.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P Trusting in God's good news of great joy for all people, we offer our prayers for ourselves, our neighbors, and the world God loves.

The assembly may call out the names of those persons, places and purposes that are on their hearts. The presiding minister concludes the prayers:

P Abide with us, O God of mercy, and receive our prayers according to your abundant grace.

C **Amen.**

OFFERING

An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need. As the offering is brought forward, the assembly stands.

OFFERTORY SONG

As with Gladness Men of Old (st. 5)

ELW 302

In the heav'nly 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.

OFFERING PRAYER

L Let us pray. Good and loving God, we rejoice in the birth of Jesus, who came among the poor to bring the riches of your grace. As you have blessed us with your gifts, let them be blessing for others. With the trees of the field, with all earth and heaven, we shout for joy at the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C **Amen.**

DIALOGUE

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 our thanks and praise.**

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

On behalf of the assembly, the presiding minister offers a sacrifice of praise and thanks.

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:

Blessed are you for the birth of creation. Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light. Blessed are you for your promise to your people. Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams. Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will. Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

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.

With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming.

Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth.

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

P Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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.

COMMUNION

You may eat the Body and drink the Blood from the cup, or dip the Body into the Blood before consuming them together. Or you may cross your arms in front of your chest to ask for a blessing instead of either or both elements.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

L Let us pray. Radiant God, with our eyes we have seen your salvation, and in this meal we have feasted on your grace. May your Word take flesh in us, that we may be your holy people, revealing your glory made known to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

BLESSING

P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

C Amen.

SENDING SONG

Shall We Gather at the River **ELW 423**

1 Shall we gather at the river,
where bright angel feet have trod,
with its crystal tide forever
flowing by the throne of God?

Refrain

Yes, we'll gather at the river,
the beautiful, the beautiful river;
gather with the saints at the river
that flows by the throne of God.

2 On the margin of the river,
washing up its silver spray,

we will walk and worship ever,
all the happy golden day. *Refrain*

3 Ere we reach the shining river,
lay we ev'ry burden down;
grace our spirits will deliver,
and provide a robe and crown.
Refrain

4 Soon we'll reach the shining river,
soon our pilgrimage will cease;
soon our happy hearts will quiver
with the melody of peace. *Refrain*

Text: Robert Lowry, 1826-1899

DISMISSAL

L Go in peace. Share the good news.

C **Thanks be to God.**

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