

Our Saviour

Lutheran Church



Saturday Worship + 5:30pm + 4 January 2025
The Epiphany of Our Lord + Year C

6194 Dumfries Rd. Warrenton, VA 20187 + 540.347.3224. +
www.oslc-warrenton.org

❧ GATHERING ❧

Gathering Song *Angels from the Realms of Glory* ELW 275

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:

Refrain: Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king.

Sages, leave your contemplations,
brighter visions beam afar;
seek the great desire of nations,
you have seen his natal star.

(Refrain)

All creation, join in praising
God, the Father, Spirit, Son,
evermore your voices raising
to the eternal Three in One.

(Refrain)

Welcome and Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

P Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P Most merciful God,

C we confess that we are captive 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 In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Sharing the Peace

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

L 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.

WORD

Children's Message

Children come forward as we sing "This Little Light of Mine".

FIRST READING: Isaiah 60:1-6

A reading from Isaiah.

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 in 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.

L The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Psalm: 72:1-7, 10-14

¹ Give the king your justice, O God,
and your righteousness to the king's son;

² **that he may rule your people righteously
and the poor with justice;**

³ that the mountains may bring prosperity to the people,
and the hills, in righteousness.

⁴ **Let him defend the needy among the people,
rescue the poor, and crush the oppressor.**

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

⁶ **Let him come down like rain upon the mown field,
like showers that water the earth.**

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

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

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

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

¹³ He has compassion on the lowly and poor,
and preserves the lives of the needy.

¹⁴ **From oppression and violence he redeems their lives,
and precious is their blood in his sight.**

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 in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

C Thanks be to God.

Gospel: MATTHEW 2:1-12

P The holy gospel according to Saint Matthew.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

Narrator: Jesus was born in the town of Bethlehem, in the province of Judea, at the time when King Herod reigned. *Not long after Jesus*

was born, magi, wise men or seers from the East, made their way from the East to Jerusalem. These wise men made inquiries.

Wise Men: ² Where is this newborn, who is the King of the Jews? When we were far away in the East we saw His star, and we have followed its glisten and gleam all this way to worship Him.

Narrator: ³ King Herod began to hear rumors of the wise men's quest, and he, and all of his followers in Jerusalem, were worried. ⁴ So Herod called all of the leading Jewish teachers, the chief priests and head scribes, and he asked them where *Hebrew tradition claimed* the long-awaited Anointed One would be born.

Scribes and Priests: ⁵ *An ancient Hebrew prophet, Micah*, said this:

⁶ But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are no poor relation—
For from your people will come a Ruler
who will be the shepherd of My people Israel.

Narrator: ⁷ Herod called the wise men to him, demanding to know the exact time the special star had appeared to them. ⁸ Then Herod sent them to Bethlehem.

Herod: *Go to Bethlehem* and search high and low for this *Savior* child; and as soon as you know where He is, report it to me so that I may go and worship Him.

Narrator: ⁹⁻¹⁰ The wise men left Herod's *chambers* and went on their way. The star they had first seen in the East reappeared—a *miracle that, of course*, overjoyed and enraptured the wise men. The star led them to the house where Jesus lay; ¹¹ and as soon as the wise men arrived, they saw Him with His mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped Him. They unpacked their satchels and gave Jesus gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

¹² And then, *just as Joseph did a few months before*, the wise men had a dream warning them not to go back to Herod. *The*

Prayers of the People

P Beloved, let us lift prayers to our friend, Jesus, either out loud or in silence. Before and after we pray, we sing together.

Prayer Song

Silent Night

Verse 4

Silent night, holy night;
Wondrous star, lend thy light.
With the angels let us sing,
Alleluia to our King;
Christ, the Savior, is born!
Christ, the Savior, is born!

The prayers conclude with:

P Accompany us on our journey, God of grace, and receive the prayers of our hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

C Amen.

The Prayer Song is repeated at the conclusion of our prayers.

Silent night, holy night;
Wondrous star, lend thy light.
With the angels let us sing,
Alleluia to our King;
Christ, the Savior, is born!
Christ, the Savior, is born!

❧ MEAL ❧

Sharing Our Gifts

L Let us offer back to God what God has first given us: ourselves, our time and our possessions, signs of his gracious love.

Our offerings support the work of the church here and around the world. Please pass the baskets from front to back. You may also make an offering online at www.oslc-warrenton.org by clicking the "DONATE" tab on the homepage. Thank you!

What light of truth is offered here,
 what covenant from heaven?
 What hope of everlasting life,
 what wondrous word is given?
 This, this is Christ the king,
 the sun come down from heaven.
 Oh, see and hear and sing!
 The Word of God is given!

Offering Prayer

L Let us pray together.

C God of all nations, you accepted the gifts of the wise men.
 Accept now the gifts we offer, returned from your bounty, and
 consecrate them for your work. Through Jesus Christ our Lord.
 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

P 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 your 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 your Son.

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

C Amen.

Lord's Prayer

P Let us pray as our Savior 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.

Sharing Holy Communion

All baptized Christians are invited to share Christ's Body. If you wish to receive Holy Communion, please come forward and stand or kneel around the altar.

Communion Hymn

Wexford Carol

There were three wise men from afar
Directed by a glorious star,
And on they wandered night and day
Until they came where Jesus lay.
And when they came unto that place
Where our beloved Jesus was,
They humbly cast them at his feet,
With gifts of gold and incense sweet.

Prayer After Communion

L Let us pray.

Merciful God, we thank you for Jesus, who is our heavenly food. Strengthened by this goodness, send us forth to announce your peace, comfort the afflicted, and share the good news of great joy.

C Amen.

✎ SENDING ✎

Blessing

L God all mighty, God most merciful bless you, keep you, and give you peace.

C Amen.

Sending Song

Love Has Come

ELW292

Love has come - a light in the darkness!
Love shines forth in the Bethlehem skies.
See, all heaven has come to proclaim it;
Hear how their song of joy arises:
Love! Love! Born unto you, a Savior!
Love! Love! Glory to God on high.

Love is born! Come, share in the wonder.
Love is God now asleep in the hay.
See the glow in the eyes of his mother;
What is the name her heart is saying?
Love! Love! Love is the name she whispers;
Love! Love! Jesus, Immanuel.

Love has come and never will leave us!
Love is life everlasting and free.
Love is Jesus within and among us.
Love is the peace our hearts are seeking.
Love! Love! Love is the gift of Christmas.
Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

Dismissal

L Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
C Thanks be to God.

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Thanksgiving at the Table: *With One Voice*

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