

# *Epiphany of Our Lord*

*Sunday, January 3, 2021*

St. Paul's Lutheran Church  
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## GATHERING

### PRELUDE

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
who was in the beginning,  
who makes a dwelling among us,  
who covers us with justice and mercy.

**Amen.**

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God of goodness and lovingkindness,  
**we confess that we have sinned against you  
and our neighbors.**

**We have turned away from your invitation to new life.  
We have turned away from the lowly and downtrodden.  
In your abundant mercy, forgive us our sins,  
those we know and those known only to you,  
for the sake of the one who came to live among us,  
Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.**

Hear the good news of peace and salvation!  
Through Jesus Christ, made known to all people, your sins have been forgiven.  
Let us rejoice in this amazing gift of grace,  
with all who come to the manger.

**Amen.**

# PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

## GATHERING HYMN

### “We Three Kings”

1 We three kings of O - ri - ent are; bear - ing gifts we tra - verse a - far,  
2 Born a king on Beth - le - hem's plain, gold I bring to crown him a - gain;  
3 Frank - in - cense to of - fer have I; in - cense owns a de - i - ty nigh;  
4 Myrrh is mine; its bit - ter per - fume breathes a life of gath - er - ing gloom;  
5 Glo - rious now be - hold him a - rise, King and God and Sac - ri - fice;

field and foun - tain, moor and moun - tain, fol - low - ing yon - der star.  
king for - ev - er, ceas - ing nev - er, o - ver us all to reign.  
prayer and prais - ing, glad - ly rais - ing, wor - ship - ing God Most High.  
sor - rowing, sigh - ing, bleed - ing, dy - ing, sealed in the stone - cold tomb.  
heav'n sings al - le - lu - ia: al - le - lu - ia the earth re - plies.

#### *Refrain*

Oh, star of won - der, star of night, star with roy - al beau - ty bright;

west - ward lead - ing, still pro - ceed - ing, guide us to thy per - fect light!

## **GREETING**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

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.

**Amen.**

## **WORD**

### **A Reading from Isaiah**

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

<sup>2</sup>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.

<sup>3</sup>Nations shall come to your light,  
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

<sup>4</sup>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 on their nurses' arms.

<sup>5</sup>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.

<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 proclaim the praise of the LORD.

(Isaiah 60:1-6)

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **PSALM 72:1-7, 10-14**

- <sup>1</sup>Give the king your justice, O God,  
and your righteousness to a king's son.
- <sup>2</sup>**May he judge your people with righteousness,  
and your poor with justice.**
- <sup>3</sup>May the mountains yield prosperity for the people,  
and the hills, in righteousness.
- <sup>4</sup>**May he defend the cause of the poor of the people,  
give deliverance to the needy, and crush the oppressor.**
- <sup>5</sup>May he live while the sun endures,  
and as long as the moon, throughout all generations.
- <sup>6</sup>**May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass,  
like showers that water the earth.**
- <sup>7</sup>In his days may righteousness flourish  
and peace abound, until the moon is no more.
- <sup>10</sup>**May the kings of Tarshish and of the isles render him tribute,  
may the kings of Sheba and Seba bring gifts.**
- <sup>11</sup>May all kings fall down before him,  
all nations give him service.
- <sup>12</sup>**For he delivers the needy when they call,  
the poor and those who have no helper.**
- <sup>13</sup>He has pity on the weak and the needy,  
and saves the lives of the needy.
- <sup>14</sup>**From oppression and violence he redeems their life;  
and precious is their blood in his sight.**

## **A Reading from Ephesians**

<sup>1</sup>This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles—<sup>2</sup>for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you, <sup>3</sup>and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, <sup>4</sup>a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. <sup>5</sup>In 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: <sup>6</sup>that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. <sup>7</sup>Of 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. <sup>8</sup>Although 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, <sup>9</sup>and to make everyone see 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 wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. <sup>11</sup>This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him. (Ephesians 3:1–12)

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.

## GOSPEL

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

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

<sup>6</sup>‘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.’”

<sup>7</sup>Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup>Then 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.” <sup>9</sup>When 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. <sup>10</sup>When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. <sup>11</sup>On 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

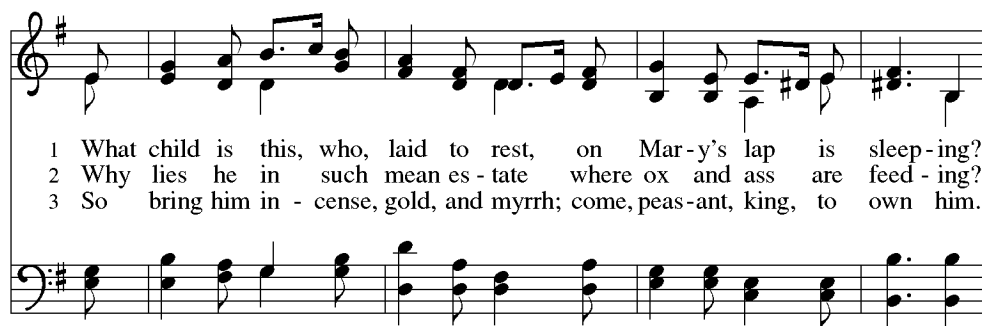
myrrh. <sup>12</sup>And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to You, O Christ.**

## HYMN OF THE DAY

All Verses

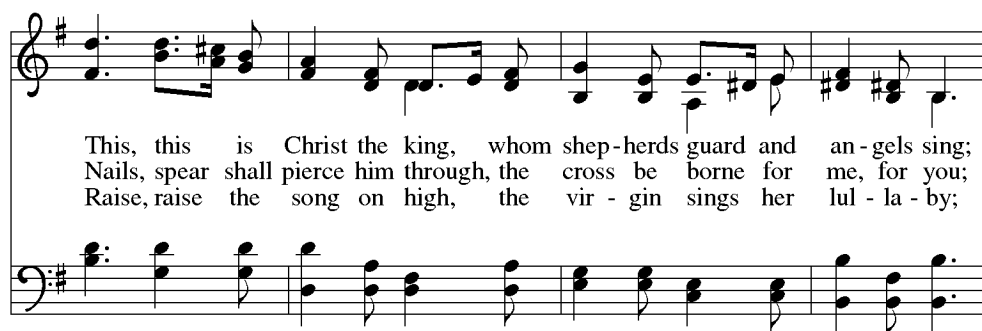
### What Child Is This



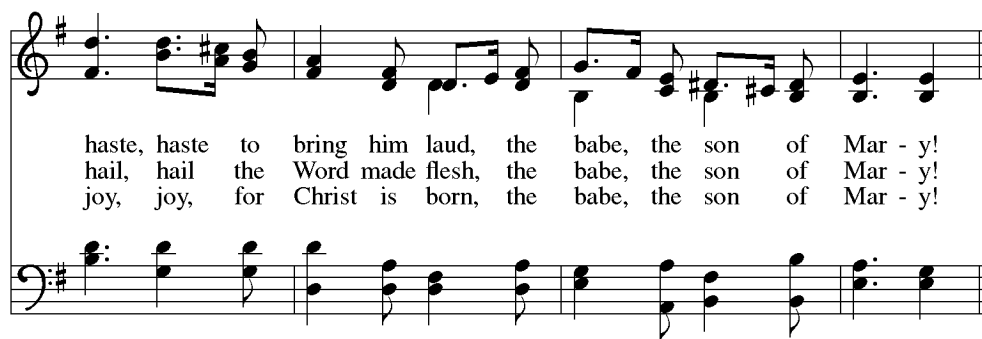
1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar-y's lap is sleep-ing?  
2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate where ox and ass are feed - ing?  
3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, peas-ant, king, to own him.



Whom an - gels greet with an-thems sweet while shep-herds watch are keep - ing?  
Good Chris-tian, fear; for sin-ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.  
The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; let lov - ing hearts en-throne him.



This, this is Christ the king, whom shep-herds guard and an - gels sing;  
Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;  
Raise, raise the song on high, the vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;



haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar - y!  
hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mar - y!  
joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar - y!

## SERMON

### THE NICENE CREED (Read in Unison)

We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father.  
Through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven;  
by the power of the Holy Spirit  
he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.  
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified,  
He has spoken through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. 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.*

O Holy One, we praise you for everything that you have given your church. Open our hearts that we might work together to share your good news in Christ Jesus. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Praise to you, Great Creator, for you have given to us a rich diversity of nature and creatures. Sustain all that you made and keep us faithful in our care for creation. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We bless you, Eternal Ruler, for the communities and nations of this world. Grant wisdom, humility, and mercy to our leaders, so that all your children may find blessing and peace. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Almighty God, give courage to all who are afraid and comfort to all who suffer in any way (*especially...*). Bless those who provide care with the gifts of patience and compassion. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Nurturing God, help us to minister to children who need love and protection, to parents who seek knowledge and guidance, and to all who seek safety and security. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Light of this world, you claim us as yours forever. We praise you for those who have gone before us in the faith, serving as witnesses to your presence. 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.**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER (Read in Unison)

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.

## **SENDING**

### **BLESSING**

Almighty God,  
who sent the Holy Spirit to Mary,  
proclaimed joy through the angels,  
sent the shepherds with good news,  
and led the magi by a star,  
bless you this day † through the Word made flesh.  
**Amen.**

### **SENDING HYMN**

[See back of bulletin]

All Verses

### **THE DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus.  
**Thanks be to God.**

### **POSTLUDE**

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**Introduction to the Day:** The feast of Epiphany (“manifestation”) concludes the Christmas season with a celebration of God’s glory revealed in the person of Jesus Christ. In Isaiah and Ephesians, that glory is proclaimed for all nations and people. Like the light of the star that guided the magi to Jesus, the light of Christ reveals who we are: children of God who are claimed and washed in the waters of baptism. We are sent out to be beacons of the light of Christ, sharing the good news of God’s love to all people.

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**THIS WEEK AT ST. PAUL'S**

Sunday, January 3	8:00 AM	No worship scheduled
	10:30 AM	No worship scheduled
Saturday, January 9	5:30 AM	Worship with Holy Communion
Sunday, January 10	8:00 AM	Worship with Holy Communion
	10:30 AM	Worship with Holy Communion

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**IN-PERSON WORSHIP SUSPENDED**

Because of our need for greater caution due to COVID-19, our Council has decided to temporarily suspend in-person worship following our Christmas Eve worship services. There will not be in-person worship on December 26, and 27, 2020, or January 2, and 3, 2021. In-person worship with Holy Communion will return on Saturday, January 9, and Sunday, January 10, 2021.

In-person worship planning is week to week process right now. Please call the church office, check our Facebook page, or see our website -- before you come for worship!

## The First Noel

1 The first No - el the an - gel did say was to  
 2 They look - ed up and saw . . . a star shin - ing  
 3 And by the light of that . . . same star three . . .  
 4 This star drew near to the . . . north - west, o'er . . .  
 5 Then en - tered in those wise . . . men three, full . . .

cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay; in fields where  
 in . . . the east . . . be - yond . . . them far; and to the  
 wise . . . men came . . . from coun - try far; to seek for a  
 Beth - le - hem . . . it took . . . its rest; and there it  
 rev - 'rent - ly . . . up - on . . . their knee, and of - fered

they lay, keep - ing their sheep, on a cold win - ter's  
 earth it gave . . . great light, and . . . so it con -  
 king was their . . . in - tent, and to fol - low the  
 did both stop . . . and stay right . . . o - ver the  
 there in his . . . pres - ence their . . . gold, . . . and

*Refrain*

night that was so deep.  
 tin - ued both day and night.  
 star wher - ev - er it went. No - el, No - el, No -  
 place where Je - sus lay.  
 myrrh, and frank - in - cense.

el, No - el! Born is the King of Is - ra - el.