



THE EPIPHANY/BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

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AS WE GATHER

We reflect today on what it means to belong. We may often feel out of place at school, at work, or perhaps even in our congregation. Perhaps the Wise Men felt like they were out of place in Jerusalem. Yet, regardless of feelings, God invites all people from all nations to be heirs of His kingdom. In Christ, we all belong, and we always will.

WELCOME

HYMN “As with Gladness Men of Old” *LSB 397*

- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 5 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.

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INVOCATION

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

OPENING SENTENCES

P: Arise, shine, for your light has come!
C: Jesus Christ is the Light of the world.

P: All the nations shall come to the light of Christ.
C: Kings shall bring Him gifts.

P: For Christ reveals the mystery hidden through the ages,
C: **that all nations are partakers of the promise in Jesus Christ.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P: Through the Gospel, all people are fellow heirs of salvation and members of the same Body. Yet there have been times when we have failed to live in unity, when we have failed to treat our brothers and sisters in Christ with respect and honor. Our heavenly Father invites us to return to Him and ask for His forgiveness.

Silence for reflection.

P: Heavenly Father,
C: **we confess that we have not loved You with our whole heart. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have created division and discord. We have hidden the light of Christ from others. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us with the light of Christ, that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways. Amen.**

P: Almighty God in His mercy sent His Son, Jesus, into our world to shine as a light for all people, including You. Jesus has died for your sins and is risen for your righteousness. Therefore, as a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen. We are partakers of the promise. We are forgiven in Christ.**

HYMN OF PRAISE “Songs of Thankfulness and Praise” *LSB 394, verses 1, 2, and 5*

- 1 **Songs of thankfulness and praise, Jesus, Lord, to Thee we raise,
Manifested by the star To the sages from afar,
Branch of royal David’s stem In Thy birth at Bethlehem:
Anthems be to Thee addressed, God in man made manifest.**
- 2 **Manifest at Jordan’s stream, Prophet, Priest, and King supreme;
And at Cana wedding guest In Thy Godhead manifest;
Manifest in pow’r divine, Changing water into wine;
Anthems be to Thee addressed, God in man made manifest.**
- 5 **Grant us grace to see Thee, Lord, Present in Thy holy Word—
Grace to imitate Thee now And be pure, as pure art Thou;
That we might become like Thee At Thy great epiphany
And may praise Thee, ever blest, God in man made manifest.**

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SALUTATION

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray. Lord Jesus Christ, in Your incarnation, You dwelt among us in light and love. Help us to be light to those who do not know You and to share Your love with those who are in darkness, for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Isaiah 60:1–6* (The nations shall come to Your light.)

60 Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. ²For 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. ³And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising. ⁴Lift 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. ⁵Then 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. 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 bring good news, the praises of the LORD.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE *Ephesians 3:1–12* (The mystery hidden for ages)

3 For this reason I, Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles—² assuming that you have heard of the stewardship of God's grace that was given to me for you, ³ how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I have written briefly. ⁴ When you read this, you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ, ⁵ 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. ⁶ 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. ⁷ 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. ⁸ 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, ⁹ and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God, who created all things, ¹⁰ so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. ¹¹ This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord, ¹² in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in him.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

HOLY GOSPEL*Matthew 2:1–12*

(The Magi visit Jesus.)

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the second chapter.

C: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

2 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, ² 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.” ³ When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴ and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. ⁵ They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet: ⁶ “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.” ⁷ Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. ⁸ 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.” ⁹ 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. ¹⁰ When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. ¹¹ 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. ¹² And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

HYMN OF THE DAY “The People That in Darkness Sat” *LSB 412*

- 1 **The people that in darkness sat A glorious light have seen;
The light has shined on them who long In shades of death have been,
In shades of death have been.**
 - 2 **To hail Thee, Sun of Righteousness, The gath’ring nations come;
They joy as when the reapers bear Their harvest treasures home,
Their harvest treasures home.**
 - 3 **To us a Child of hope is born, To us a Son is giv’n,
And on His shoulder ever rests All pow’r in earth and heav’n,
All pow’r in earth and heav’n.**
 - 4 **His name shall be the Prince of Peace, The Everlasting Lord,
The Wonderful, the Counselor, The God by all adored,
The God by all adored.**
 - 5 **His righteous government and pow’r Shall over all extend;
On judgment and on justice based, His reign shall have no end,
His reign shall have no end.**
- (stand)*
- 6 **Lord Jesus, reign in us, we pray, And make us Thine alone,
Who with the Father ever art And Holy Spirit, one,
And Holy Spirit, one.**

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SERMON “Donkeys, and Camels, and Sheep-Oh My!” *Matthew 2:1-12 Rev. Gregory Prauner*

NICENE CREED

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end. And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life \texttimes of the world to come. Amen.

OFFERING and CONNECTION CARDS

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

PREFACE

P: The Lord be with you. *2 Timothy 4:22*

C: **And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts. *[Colossians 3:1]*

C: **We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. *[Psalm 136]*

C: **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

PROPER PREFACE

P: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who became flesh and dwelt among us on earth, so that we might dwell with Him in everlasting life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

HYMN “O Holy, Holy, Holy Lord” Tune only: *LSB 395*

**O holy, holy, holy Lord,
You draw the nations ever toward
The joy of Your pure reigning.
For You rule all in heav'n and earth
With love and light, with might and mirth,
Your care the world sustaining.
So we beg Thee,
Save us, Jesus!
Come and free us
From sin's wages,
Blessed King of endless ages.**

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PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

P: Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross. Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24; Luke 22:19–20; 1

Corinthians 11:23–25

PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST

P: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

1 Corinthians 11:26

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

Revelation 22:20

P: O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood in this Sacrament, You lead us to remember all that You have done for us before we were born, to realize that You are with us today, and to await Your promised return one day to receive us into Your eternal kingdom. So remember us in Your kingdom now and teach us to pray:

LORD'S PRAYER *Matthew 6:9–13*

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.

PAX DOMINI

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: Amen.

HYMN “O Lamb of God, You Take Away” Tune only: *LSB 395*

**O Lamb of God, You take away
The sin and guilt and shame that weigh
So heavy on our hearts, Lord.
Grant us Your mercy, hear our plea!
Without Your grace, Lord, we would be
Beyond all hope and wayward.
Still You come to
Share the myst’ry
Masked through hist’ry
That salvation
Is for ev’ry tribe and nation.**

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DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

“Now, My Tongue, the Mystery Telling” *LSB 630*, verses 1-4; tune only – *LSB 621*

- 1 **Now, my tongue, the myst’ry telling Of the glorious body sing,
And the blood, all price excelling, Which the Gentiles’ Lord and King,
Once on earth among us dwelling, Shed for this world’s ransoming.**
- 2 **Giv’n for us, and condescending To be born for us below,
He with us in converse blending Dwelt, the seed of truth to sow,
Till He closed with wondrous ending His most patient life of woe.**
- 3 **That last night at supper lying Mid the Twelve, His chosen band,
Jesus, with the Law complying, Keeps the feast its rites demand;
Then, more precious food supplying, Gives Himself with His own hand.**
- 4 **Word made flesh, the bread He taketh, By His word His flesh to be;
Wine His sacred blood He maketh, Though the senses fail to see;
Faith alone the true heart waketh To behold the mystery.**

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“Hail, O Source of Every Blessing” *LSB 409*

- 1 **Hail, O Source of ev’ry blessing, Father of our human race!
Gentiles now, Your grace possessing, In Your courts obtain a place.
Grateful now, we fall before You, In Your Church rejoice to live,
See Your glory and adore You, Thankful for the grace You give.**
- 2 **Once far off but now invited, We approach Your sacred throne,
In Your covenant united, Reconciled, redeemed, made one.
Now revealed to eastern sages, See the Star of Mercy shine,
Myst’ry hid in former ages, Myst’ry great of love divine.**

**3 Hail, O all-inviting Savior! Gentiles now their off' rings bring,
In Your temples seek Your favor, Jesus Christ, our Lord and King.
May we, body, soul, and spirit, Live devoted to Your praise,
Glorious realms of bliss inherit, Grateful anthems ever raise.**

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DISMISSAL

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

P: Let us pray. We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have welcomed us into the Body of Christ and have given us Your Church as a home for all nations. Strengthen us through this Sacrament, that we may love others as Christ first loved us; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

BENEDICTION

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.

Numbers 6:24–26

C: **Amen.**

HYMN “I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light”[LSB 411]

- 1 I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to follow Jesus.
God set the stars to give light to the world. The star of my life is Jesus.
In Him there is no darkness at all. The night and the day are both alike.
The Lamb is the light of the city of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.**
- 2 I want to see the brightness of God. I want to look at Jesus.
Clear Sun of Righteousness, shine on my path, And show me the way to the Father.
In Him there is no darkness at all. The night and the day are both alike.
The Lamb is the light of the city of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.**
- 3 I'm looking for the coming of Christ. I want to be with Jesus.
When we have run with patience the race, We shall know the joy of Jesus.
In Him there is no darkness at all. The night and the day are both alike.
The Lamb is the light of the city of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.**

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POSTLUDE

Organ – Kris Pudwell Vocal – Allen Piepenbrink

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