

THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD & THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

Saturday, January 9, 2021 – 5:30 p.m.

St. Matthew Lutheran Church
4101 Washington Street NE
Columbia Heights, MN 55421

+ CONNECT +

INVOCATION:

L: Our worship begins the way our lives in Christ begin in baptism: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE DAY:

L: Epiphany means “to show” or “to make known”. Today, we celebrate the beginning of Christ’s epiphany as He is made known to the Gentile wise men. That epiphany continues as Jesus is baptized by John, and declared to be God’s beloved Son. Like the far-away wise men, we rejoice in being called into God’s kingdom. Witnessing the events along the shores of the Jordan River, we rejoice that our servant King Jesus is being anointed to do battle on our behalf.

OPENING MEDLEY:

“As With Gladness Men of Old”

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

HOLY GOSPEL, Part 1:

L: The Holy Gospel for the Epiphany of Our Lord according to St. Matthew, chapter two.

C: Glory to You, O Lord!

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him."

"We Three Kings"

**We three kings of Orient are; bearing gifts we traverse afar,
Field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.**

**Refrain: Oh, star of wonder, star of night, Star with royal beauty bright;
Westward leading, still proceeding, Guide us to thy perfect light!**

When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written: "But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel." Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him." After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

**Born a king on Bethlehem's plain, gold I bring to crown him again;
King forever, ceasing never, over us all to reign. Refrain:**

**Frankincense to offer have I; Incense owns a diety nigh;
Prayer and praising, gladly raising, worshiping God Most High. Refrain:**

**Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume breathes a life of gathering gloom;
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying, sealed in the stone-cold tomb. Refrain:**

And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

**Glorious now behold him arise, King and God and Sacrifice;
Alleluia, alleluia! Earth to heav'n replies. Refrain:**

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

L: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

L: Let us pray. O God, by the leading of a star You made known Your only-begotten Son to the Wise Men of old.

C: **Guide us also to Him, the Light of the world, and lead us to respond with lives of worship, praise, and sharing You in our daily interactions. Give us faith to move always in the direction of Jesus, in whose name we pray, Amen.**

GREETING TIME

+ NURTURE +

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Isaiah 60:1-6

L: Arise, shine, for your light has come,

C: **And the glory of the LORD rises upon you.**

L: See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples,

C: **But the LORD rises upon you and his glory appears over you.**

L: Nations will come to your light,

C: **And kings to the brightness of your dawn.**

L: Lift up your eyes and look about you:

C: **All assemble and come to you; your sons come from afar, and your daughters are carried on the hip.**

L: Then you will look and be radiant, your heart will throb and swell with joy;

C: **The wealth on the seas will be brought to you, to you the riches of the nations will come.**

L: Herds of camels will cover your land, young camels of Midian and Ephah.

C: **Bearing gold and incense and proclaiming the praise of the LORD.**

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

SONG OF THE DAY: “When Christ’s Appearing Was Made Known”

**When Christ’s appearing was made known, King Herod trembled for his throne;
But he who offers heav’nly birth Seeks not the kingdoms of this earth.**

**The eastern sages saw from far And followed on his guiding star;
By light their way to light they trod, And by their gifts confessed their God.**

**Within the Jordan’s sacred flood The heav’nly Lamb in meekness stood
That he, of whom no sin was known, Might cleanse his people from their own.**

**And oh, what miracle divine, When water reddened into wine!
He spoke the word, and forth it flowed. In streams that nature ne’er bestowed.**

**For this his glad epiphany All glory unto Jesus be,
Whom with the Father we adore, And Holy Ghost forevermore.**

(“When Christ’s Appearing Was Made Known”, setting from the Cowley Carol Book, by permission of A.R. Mowbray & Co, Oxford, England, used with permission, Lutheran Service Book License, #100014518.)

SERMON: “In the Direction of Jesus” – Pastor Bill Hugo

EPISTLE LESSON: Romans 6:1-11

What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? By no means! We are those who have died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? Or don’t you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly also be united with him in a resurrection like his. For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body ruled by sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin—because anyone who has died has been set free from sin. Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him. The

death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.

CONFESSION OF OUR SINS:

L: Let us confess our sins together.

C: **Heavenly Father, for all the times we live as if our baptism doesn't matter, forgive us. For all the times we act more like the dead in sin than the alive in Christ, forgive us. For all the times we have chosen darkness over light, forgive us. For all the times we unite ourselves with the ways of the world rather than the ways of Christ, forgive us. Move us again, Lord, from death to life. In the name of Jesus. Amen.**

FORGIVENESS IS ANNOUNCED

HOLY GOSPEL, Part 2:

L: The Holy Gospel for the Baptism of Our Lord is according to St. Mark, chapter one.

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

And so John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River. John wore clothing made of camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. And this was his message: "After me comes the one more powerful than I, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I baptize you with^[a] water, but he will baptize you with^[b] the Holy Spirit." At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. Just as Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased."

L: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

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

SONG OF PRAISE: "You Are My Own"



1. The splash of the wa - ter! The pow'r of the
2. To Him you be - long now: His grace be a -
3. Your faith is a gra - cious Mi - rac - u - lous



Word! The Spir - it now binds you to Je - sus your
dored! His grace which sus - tains as you grow in the
gift: A mir - a - cle just like His ris - ing from



Lord! And won - der of won - ders! Though by sin de -
Word! And grace of all grac - es! The vic - t'ry He
death. Both mir - a - cles yours now in Bap - tis - m's

filed_ The Fa - ther in heav - en Now makes_ you His child!
 won_ is your_ vic - t'ry now_ through your faith_ in the Son!
 flood_ Se - cured_ by the cov - e - nant sealed_ with His blood.

CHORUS

A child of the prom - ise His death has ful -

filled! An heir of the cov - e - nant sure as His

throne! His prom - ise is "I_ shall be al - ways with

you."_ His cov - e - nant, "You_ are my own."_

("You Are My Own" by Gerald Patrick Coleman, copyright 1989 Concordia Publishing House, used with permission, Lutheran Service Book Hymn License, #100014518.)

CONFESSION OF FAITH: Apostles' Creed

L: Just as the Apostles' Creed was confessed when each of us was baptized, we now make declaration of our faith using the same words:

ALL: I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

+ EMPOWER +

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH:

(Prayer response – P: Lord, in your mercy, C: Hear our prayer.)

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND BENEDICTION

CLOSING SONG: "God's Own Child, I Gladly Say It"

**God's own child, I gladly say it: I am baptized into Christ!
He, because I could not pay it, Gave me full redemption price.
Do I need earth's treasures many? I have one worth more than any
That brought me salvation free Lasting to eternity!**

**Sin, disturb my soul no longer: I am baptized into Christ!
I have comfort even stronger: Jesus' cleansing sacrifice.
Should a guilty conscience seize me Since my Baptism did release me
In a dear forgiving flood, Sprinkling me with Jesus' blood?**

**Satan, hear this proclamation: I am baptized into Christ!
Drop your ugly accusation, I am not so soon enticed.
Now that to the font I've traveled, All your might has come unraveled,
And, against your tyranny, God, my Lord, unites with me!**

**Death, you cannot end my gladness: I am baptized into Christ!
When I die, I leave all sadness To inherit paradise!
Though I lie in dust and ashes Faith's assurance brightly flashes:
Bapt'sm has the strength divine To make life immortal mine.**

**There is nothing worth comparing To this lifelong comfort sure!
Open-eyed my grave is staring: Even there I'll sleep secure.
Though my flesh awaits its raising, Still my soul continues praising:
I am baptized into Christ; I'm a child of paradise!**

*("God's Own Child, I'll Gladly Say It" by Neumeister; tr. by Robert Voelker, copyright 1991 Robert E. Voelker, used with permission
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Lay Minister: Larry Betzold