



Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Greenville
Christ Lutheran Church, Sharon
Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Hermitage

The Epiphany of Our Lord

January 6, 2021

Significance of 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.

Gathering

Prelude

Variations on *The First Noel*

(Keene et al)

Greeting and Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

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

Most merciful God,

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.

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.

Amen.

The Gathering Song

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.

Kyrie

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let
us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

Amen, amen.

Apostolic 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

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.

Amen.

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 on 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.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14

- 1 Give the king your jus- | tice, 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 a- | mong 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 wa- | ter 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 low- | ly and poor,
and preserves the lives | of the needy.
- 14 From oppression and violence he re- | deems their lives,
and precious is their blood | in his sight.

A reading from Ephesians:

1 This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles – 2 for surely you have already heard of the commission of God’s grace that was given me for you, 3 and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, 4 a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. 5 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: 6 that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

7 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. 8 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, 9 and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; 10 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. 11 This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, 12 in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia.

We have observed his star at its rising,
and have come to worship him.

Alleluia.

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

(The reading of the Gospel.)

1 In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, 2 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." 3 When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; 4 and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. 5 They told him, "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.' "

7 Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. 8 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." 9 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. 10 When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. 11 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. 12 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.

The Proclamation of the Date of Easter on Epiphany

Hymn of the Day

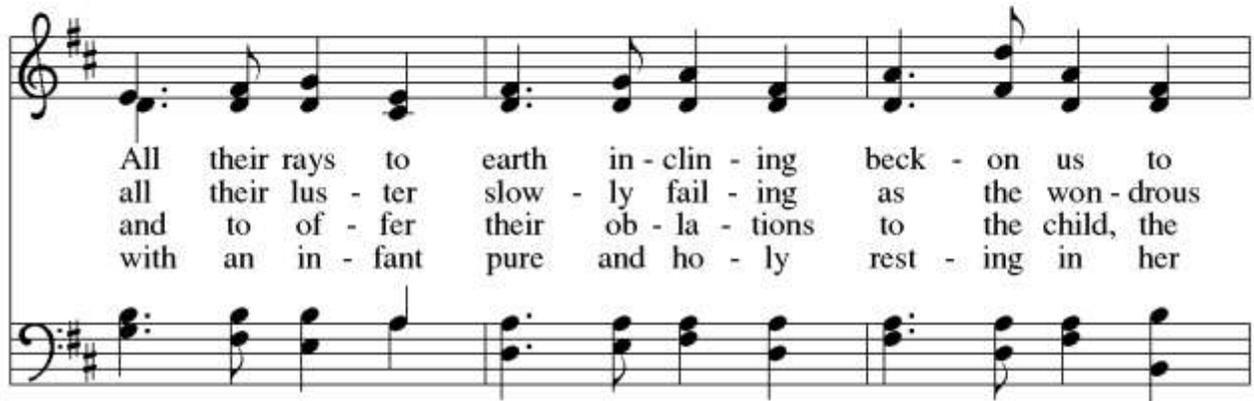
Bright and Glorious Is the Sky



1 Bright and glo - rious is the sky, ra - diant are the
 2 On that ho - ly Christ - mas night through the dark - ness
 3 Sa - ges from the east a - far, when they saw this
 4 Him they found in Beth - le - hem, yet he wore no



heav - ens high where the gold - en stars are shin - ing.
 beamed a light; all the stars a - bove were pal - ing,
 won - drous star, went to find the king of na - tions
 di - a - dem; there they saw a maid - en low - ly



All their rays to earth in - clin - ing beck - on us to
 all their lus - ter slow - ly fail - ing as the won - drous
 and to of - fer their ob - la - tions to the child, the
 with an in - fant pure and ho - ly rest - ing in her



heav'n a - bove, beck - on us to heav'n a - bove,
 star drew nigh, as the won - drous star drew nigh,
 new - born king, to the child, the new - born king,
 lov - ing arms, rest - ing in her lov - ing arms.

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.

Nicene Creed

**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,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.
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,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who 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

A: Gathered with all who seek the Christ child, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need, saying, “Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.”

(Brief silence)

A: Faithful God, continue to provide dedicated leaders and passionate people for your church, so that wisdom and compassion in all its rich variety may be made known throughout the world. We pray for our bishops, Elizabeth and Michael, our pastors and other leaders. Lord in your mercy,

C: **hear our prayer.**

A: Creating God, your glory shines around us in every star, creature, and person. Liberate us from the ways we destroy your creation. Free us to care for the earth so that all experience your bountiful goodness. Lord in your mercy,

C: **hear our prayer.**

A: Give your justice to the leaders of the world, O God. Endow them with humble courage to defend the cause of the poor and give deliverance to those in need, so that peace abounds in all countries. Lord in your mercy,

C: **hear our prayer.**

A: By the guidance of a star, you led the magi to pay homage to the Christ child. Protect new families, those who live alone, travelers, those who suffer loss, and all others in need. Lord, in your mercy,

C: **hear our prayer.**

A: Ever-present One, in Christ Jesus we boldly come before you in worship. Nurture and encourage all who gather for worship, those who serve in worship leadership roles, and all who participate in the work of this faith community. Lord in your mercy,

C: **hear our prayer.**

A: Generous God, throughout time you have given us people who have shown us the gift of your grace. Inspire us by their faithfulness to serve you and all your people, Bob, Donald, Evelyn, Sally, Irene, Elsie, and Jayna. Lord in your mercy,

C: **hear our prayer.**

A: Are there others for whom we should pray?

P: Into your gracious hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your steadfast mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: **Amen.**

Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

Lord's Prayer

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

**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.**

Our Prayer for These Times

O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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.

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

Postlude Finale on *Morning Star* (Shields)

Serving Today

Presiding Ministers Pastor Dennis Blauser, Christ Lutheran, Sharon
Ron Tomko, Holy Trinity, Hermitage
Pastor Brenda Martin, Holy Trinity, Greenville
Organist Maidene Hackett
Cantor Lauren Faber

The flowers on the Altar have been given to the Glory of God and in memory of Pam Heil by Henry, Ruth, and Hank Heil.

Acknowledgments

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Pastors in residence:

The Rev. Julia Fraser, chaplain at St. Paul Homes
The Rev. Brian Riddle, Thiel College Campus Pastor
The Rev. Martin Roth, retired pastor, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
The Rev. Dr. Curtis Thompson, retired, Thiel College

Announcement of the Church Year, 2021

Dear brothers and sisters: the glory of the Lord has shown upon us, and shall ever manifest itself among us, until the day of his return. Through the rhythms and changes of time, let us call to mind and live the mysteries of salvation.

The center of the whole liturgical year is the paschal triduum of the Lord, crucified and risen, which will culminate in the solemn Vigil of Easter, during the holy night that will end with the dawn of the twelfth day of April. Every Sunday, as in a weekly Easter, holy church makes present that great and saving deed by which Christ has forever conquered sin and death.

From Easter there comes forth and are reckoned all the days we keep holy. Ash Wednesday, the beginning of the Lenten season, the seventeenth day of February, Palm Sunday, the twenty-eighth day of February; Good Friday, the second day of April; the Ascension of our Lord, the thirteenth day of May; Pentecost, the twenty-third day of May; the feast of Christ the King, the twenty-first day of November; and the first Sunday in Advent, the twenty-eighth day of November.

Likewise in the feasts of the holy mother of God, of the apostles and saints, and in the commemoration of the faithful departed, the pilgrim church on earth proclaims the resurrection of Jesus Christ our Lord.

To Christ who was, who is, and who is to come, the Lord of time and history, be endless praise forever and ever. Amen!

This Week at Holy Trinity

Thursday, January 7, 2021

NO Weekday Communion

7:00 p.m. Happy Hour (Zoom)

Saturday, January 9, 2021

NO Liturgy

Upcoming Events

Sunday, January 10, 2021, *Baptism of Our Lord*

9:30 a.m. Virtual Liturgy of the Word
10:45 a.m. Sunday Church School/Confirmation
1:00 p.m. Virtual Council Meeting
7:00 p.m. AA Big Book meeting

Tuesday, January 12, 2021

10:30 a.m. Staff Meeting
5:15 p.m. Worship and Music
7:00 p.m. Parish Education Committee (Zoom)
7:00 p.m. AA and AA Women's Discussion
Council reports due today

Wednesday, January 13, 2021

NO Weekday Communion

10:00 a.m. Stewardship Committee

Thursday, January 14, 2021

NO Weekday Communion

5:00 p.m. Officers' Planning Meeting
6:30 p.m. Finance Committee
8:00 p.m. Happy Hour (Zoom)

Saturday, January 16, 2021

NO Liturgy

Noted This Week

The Baptism of Our Lord: Sunday, January 10, the First Sunday after the Epiphany, is the day in the life of the Church Year when we commemorate the Baptism of Our Lord. The service will be **live-streamed**. Worship will focus on Holy Baptism through hymns, lessons, sermon, and prayers, and we will include the opportunity to Affirm our Baptisms. Be a part, as our community of Jesus' disciples observes the Baptism of Our Lord, and probes its meaning for our lives and our part in God's saving mission.

New Members: Pastor Brenda will be talking with a number of our frequent visitors about whether they would like to become members of Holy Trinity. If you have an interest in membership, please speak with Pastor Brenda.

Good Shepherd January Request

The Good Shepherd Center is our church community social service agency that supports the needs of many in the area. The Good Shepherd Center's request for Holy Trinity for **January is soups and stews**. Donations may be dropped off at the church office or directly at the Food Pantry.

Stewardship

“The Generosity Project: Growing in God’s Grace Generation to Generation” is the theme of our 2020/2021 financial stewardship emphasis.

If you have not done so yet, please return your Commitment Card in the next couple of weeks.

Extra Commitment Cards are available. If you need one please contact the church office.

Please Pray For

Permission is necessary to add a person to the prayer list. Please ask before your call the office. Thanks.

Health and Healing:

Kelly (friend of Jill Murrin)	Jim
Earl and Carol (friends of Bonnie Long)	Nancy (friend of Linda Armstrong)
Ronald (friend of Linda Bateman)	William J. (father of Catherine Mott)
Carl (nephew of Betty K. Junk)	Brenda (sister-in-law of Betty K. Junk)
Bill and Katie (friends of Barbara Swartz)	Lori
Tammy (friend of Jill Murrin)	Carl
Betty K.	Paul
Hank (son of Henry and Ruth Heil)	Dillon (friend of Ed Pitcher and Beth Harpst)
Kate (friend of Paul and Sue Bittler)	Belle (granddaughter of Linda Bateman)

Christ's comfort for those who grieve the death of:

The Rev. Donald Hake
Cynthia Richardson (mom of Ray and Cathy Richardson)
Evelyn Ramming
Sally Werner (friend of the congregation)
Bob Dorfeld
Jayna Spigelmeyer
Rick (friend of Betty K. Junk)

In Military Service

Specialist (SPC) Andrew McCall, Fort Carson, Colorado Springs, Colorado (son of Mark and Jane McCall, grandson of Karen McKay and the late Jim McKay)
Sgt. First Class Nicholas Carman, US Army, Frederiksberg, Virginia (grandson of Nancy Ullstrom)
Admiral Richard Childs, Assistant Surgeon General of the USA (nephew of Harvey Childs)
CDR Ryan Leary, USN, Operation Officer, 7th Fleet, Yokosuka, Japan (son of David and Judy Leary)
Tim Ross, Navy Special Forces, (grandson of Rae Johnson, nephew of Lori McEwen)
Ian McQuiston, US Air Force, Kuwait (friend of Betty K. Junk)