



Faith for All Nations

The Festival of Epiphany

January 8, 2023

KING OF GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH | *Golden Valley, Minnesota*

Welcome to God's divine service among his saints in his house this morning. If you experience any kind of barrier to worship, please speak with an usher. There is a hearing assistance system available, there are activity bags for children, and the service is streamed live in the Fireside Room down the hall for small children.

Service of Preparation

PRESERVICE MUSIC

Use this time in quiet preparation for worship by looking ahead at today's Bible readings and hymn texts, and in prayer.

OPENING PRAYER

P: O Lord, our Maker, Redeemer, and Comforter, we are assembled in your presence to hear your holy Word. Please open our hearts by your Holy Spirit. Through the preaching of your Word teach us to repent of our sins, to believe in Jesus in life and death, and to grow day by day in grace and holiness. Hear us for Christ's sake.
Amen.

HYMN

Bright and Glorious | #120

CONFESSION OF SIN

P: Let us bow before the Lord and confess our sins: Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess to you both that we are by nature sinful and unclean, and also that we have each sinned against you in our thoughts, words, and actions. Therefore we flee for refuge toward your infinite mercy, pleading for your grace on the basis of the work of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C: O most merciful God, you have given your only-begotten Son to die for us; have mercy upon us, and for his sake grant us remission of all our sins. And by your Holy Spirit, increase in us a true knowledge of you and of your will, and true

obedience to your Word; to the end that — by your grace — we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

HYMN

Kyrie

O God the Fa - ther in heav - en, have mer-cy up-on us.

O God the Son, Re - deem-er of the world, have mer-cy up-on us.

O God the Ho-ly Ghost, true Com-fort-er, have mer-cy up-on us.

ABSOLUTION

P: Lift up your hearts to God! Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us. He has given his only-begotten Son to die for us, and on the basis of Jesus' work forgives us all our sins. To all who believe in his name he gives the power to become the children of God, and has promised them his Holy Spirit. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved. Grant this, Lord, to us all. Amen.

HYMN

Gloria

All glo - ry be to God on high, Who hath our race be -

friend-ed! To us no harm shall now come nigh, The strife at last is

end - ed; God show - eth his good will to men, And
 peace shall dwell on earth a - gain; O thank him for his good - ness!

Service of the Word

While the Jewish shepherds found Jesus at Christmas, the Gentile wise men found Jesus at Epiphany. God continues to lead people who were once far off to find their King in his Word and Sacraments.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray that people of all nations come to faith in Christ: Eternal God, you led the wise men by the shining of a star to adore your Son. Guide the nations by his light, so that the whole world sees your glory. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
 Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 60:1-6

This particular prophecy reaches out far further than the return of God's people to Jerusalem from their captivity in Babylon. It predicts a world-wide flow of converts into the church.

Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord is dawning upon you.

²Look, darkness covers the earth, and deep darkness covers the peoples, but the Lord will dawn upon you, and his glory will be seen over you.

³Nations will walk to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

⁴Look up. Look all around and see! All of them have been gathered. They are coming to you.

Your sons will come from far away, and people will carry your daughters on their side.
⁵Then you will look and be radiant. Your heart will race with excitement and burst with joy.

For great riches from the sea will be delivered to you. The wealth of the nations will come to you.

⁶Caravans of camels will cover your land, young camels from Midian and Ephah. All those from Sheba will come. They will carry gold and incense, and they will announce the good news of the praise of the Lord.

HYMN

The People That in Darkness Sat | #153

EPISTLE READING

Ephesians 3:2–12

St. Paul says God's kingdom really is extending to the ends of the earth—overcoming all ethnic, social, and religious boundaries, of which the greatest was the Gentile/Jewish divide.

Surely you have heard of the administration of God's grace given to me for you, ³namely, that the mystery was made known to me by revelation (as I have already written briefly). ⁴When you read this, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ. ⁵This mystery was not made known to people in past generations as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to his holy apostles and prophets. ⁶This mystery is that in Christ Jesus the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and people who also share in the promise through the gospel.

⁷I became a servant of this gospel, in keeping with the gift of God's grace that was given to me by the working of his power. ⁸To me—even though I am the very least of all the saints—was given this grace: to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ ⁹and to enlighten everyone about the administration of this mystery. In past ages this mystery remained hidden in God, who created all things. ¹⁰He did this so that, through the church, the multifaceted wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. ¹¹This was done according to the eternal purpose that he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. ¹²In him we can freely approach God with confidence through faith in him.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON

Matthew 2:1–12

The Magi were perhaps the least likely people to worship the Christ Child, yet they were guided by the promises of Holy Scripture to be the first Gentiles to find Jesus.

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, when Herod was king, Wise Men from the east came to Jerusalem. They asked, ²“Where is he who has been born King of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.” ³When King Herod heard this, he was alarmed, and all Jerusalem with him. ⁴He gathered together all the people’s chief priests and experts in the law. He asked them where the Christ was to be born. ⁵They said to him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, because this was written through the prophet:

⁶You, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are certainly not least among the rulers of Judah: because out of you will come a ruler, who will shepherd my people, Israel.”

⁷Then Herod secretly summoned the Wise Men and found out from them exactly when the star had appeared. ⁸He sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the child. When you find him, report to me, so that I may also go and worship him.”

⁹After listening to the king, they went on their way. Then the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them, until it stood still over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw the star, they rejoiced with overwhelming joy. ¹¹After they went into the house and saw the child with Mary, his mother, they bowed down and worshipped him. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹²Since they had been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they went back to their own country by another route.

STATEMENT OF FAITH

P: Let us confess our holy faith in the words of the Apostles' Creed:

C: 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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from there he shall 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.**

OFFERING AND PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

HYMN

O Word of God Incarnate | #171

PRAYER

P: Let us give thanks and pray: We thank you, Almighty God, that you have built your church upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief Cornerstone. Grant that we may be joined together in unity of spirit by their doctrine, that we may be made a holy temple acceptable to you. We pray through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one true God, now and forever. Amen.

BENEDICTION

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.



C: A - men, a - men, a - men.

CLOSING PRAYER

P: O Lord, we give you our heartfelt thanks that you have taught us what you want us to believe and to do. Help us, O God, by your Holy Spirit, on the basis of Jesus' work, to keep your Word in pure hearts, so that by that means we may be strengthened in faith, perfected in holiness, and comforted in life and death. Amen.

Preacher.....Pastor Aaron Ferkenstad | **Liturgist**..... Vicar Max Kerr
Organist (Sunday).....Karen Merseth | **Pianist (Monday)**..... Jenny Merseth



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